

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

An index to questions appears at the end of Part II.

Numerical references are to Question Paper page numbers.

An asterisk preceding an entry in the index indicates that an answer has not yet been received.

Leave Legislation

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

When does the government intend to introduce legislation based on the recommendations of Mr Justice Taylor?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Nhulunbuy is referring to the report by former Commissioner Taylor in relation to the matter of long service leave and leave of absence. My recollection is that Cabinet approved the preparation of legislation either earlier this year or late last year. I would expect that the legislation would probably be ready by about mid-year. I would like to be able to give the honourable member an accurate statement of the position. Perhaps I can advise him later.

Plant Variety Rights Scheme

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

In a press release dated 10 February 1981, the Minister for Primary Production and Tourism said that the Northern Territory has asked for special dispensation under federal government draft legislation on the Plant Variety Rights Scheme. I would like to know what he means by that.

ANSWER

The Northern Territory has maintained its attitude of accepting the concept of plant variety rights while withholding its final support until federal legislation is available for the Northern Territory public. The introduction of plant variety rights into Australia is unlikely to inhibit the development of agriculture in northern Australia. Most of the varieties currently used or likely to be developed in the near future are based on genetic material sources or countries without plant variety rights protection. If the inception of plant variety rights resulted in the development of new varieties specifically suited to Northern Territory conditions, the higher cost of seed would be outweighed by increased production efficiency. If new varieties were developed in the Northern Territory, the interests of local developers would be protected.

At the February 1981 Australian Agricultural Council meeting, it was agreed that plant variety rights be restricted to ornamental and horticultural plants and other selected pasture and fodder species. The Northern Territory requested that any legislation should not inhibit the importation of crop genetic material from overseas countries with a plant variety rights scheme where this would be desirable for northern Australian use.

Concessions for Interstate Pensioners

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Does the government intend to extend pensioner transport concessions to pensioners visiting from interstate and will he raise the matter of reciprocal rights for pensioners with other state minister?

ANSWER

At present, the government does not propose to extend pensioner concessions to interstate pensioners visiting the Northern Territory. There are quite a lot of problems inherent in this system which are somewhat detailed. I do not have the details before me at present. At a conference I will be attending shortly, I will raise the matter with other state ministers to ascertain the attitude of their respective states on the subject.

Alcohol Detoxification and Rehabilitation Unit

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the minister able to provide me with up-to-date information concerning the government's program to upgrade and strengthen the alcohol detoxification and rehabilitation unit at the old Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

Most people are aware that, in August last year, the Department of Health set up in the old Darwin Hospital - I think it is in Ward 9 or 10 - a rehabilitation and detoxification unit that had been operated on a 40-hour-a-week basis. The original move was made with the intention of reviewing its activities in the first 6 months to see how it would develop and what requirements would be needed in the ensuing period. I am happy to report that the department's review which took place earlier this month has indicated that there is a need for the detoxification and rehabilitation centre to be put onto a 7-day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day basis to cater for the people who have need of the service. I might add that this service will ultimately be an integral part of the drug and alcohol authority's activities. Although the decision as to where the 2 will lie administratively has not been determined, the 2 organisations must work very closely together. I hope that I will be able to present to the Assembly later next week or early in the next sittings, legislation that will enable the creation of a drug and alcohol authority.

Rezoning of Open Space in Malak

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has he received representations from residents of Malak, a northern suburb of Darwin, protesting about the rezoning of open space to residential use and, if so, has he considered the representations and what action does he propose to take?

ANSWER

I have received such representations and I am studying the matter at the moment. The honourable member will be the first person to be advised as to any subsequent decision or options which may be available to me having regard to the act under which I too must work.

Camping Areas for Aborigines

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What progress, if any, has been made for the establishment of adequate town camping areas for Aborigines in Darwin?

ANSWER

The Department of Community Development, in consultation with a number of other departments involved, has currently under way an inquiry into the problems dealing with various sites that have been proposed for additional Aboriginal camping areas in Darwin. When this was first proposed late last year, the government was anxious that some decisions be taken on this matter as the situation that prevails in parks in various places around Darwin is quite unacceptable and we were anxious to have the matter resolved. However, a very good case was presented that we should not act prematurely in this matter and that careful selection of sites, having regard to all sorts of views, should be made. About 3 months was sought to do this exercise and, reluctantly, this was agreed to. The 3 months have grown to 4 months now. Hopefully, the government will soon have a report before it on the subject of additional Aboriginal camping

areas in Darwin. I am sure the government will be keen to act swiftly on that report.

Cattle Duffing

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the increased cattle duffing and associated activities in the Top End, what success can the police claim in investigation and apprehension?

ANSWER

I am told by the Commissioner of Police that, over the last 12 months, there have been 20 separate offences of cattle duffing reported. These involved a total of 63 head of stock. Of the 20 offences reported, 9 have been cleared up resulting in 16 arrests and 2 people have been charged on summons. It would seem that resources are proving sufficient to handle the complaints.

Carpentaria College

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise on the present state and future plans for Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

I cannot answer the honourable member's question. I was involved in the subject as Minister for Lands and Housing last year but, since that time, I do not recall having very much to do with the subject. However, I will undertake to get some information during these sittings and provide it to the honourable member.

Staffing of Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are all schools in the Northern Territory properly staffed for the 1981 school year?

ANSWER

I would ask that the question be placed on notice. There are about 122 schools. I cannot keep them all in my head.

Mindil Beach Casino

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Is progress on the Mindil Beach Casino proceeding according to the revised time schedule?

ANSWER

With the exception of about 5 days - and under the terms of contract and the agreement with the casino, developers are allowed to have some building delays accrue as a result of weather and like circumstances - the construction of the hotel casino complex is on time. For some time, the company has been very anxious to have the building proceed to completion as soon as possible.

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he inform the Assembly of the attitude adopted by himself and the

Deputy Chief Minister to the Australian government in relation to Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act?

ANSWER

I do not really know that I would be objective judge of my attitude to the Australian government and I am not sure that I could undertake to answer that question. If the Leader of the Opposition is asking what the nature of the proposal by the Northern Territory government to the federal government in relation to possible amendments to the land rights act is, then I can advise him that copies of the proposal have been circulated to the land councils and it has been agreed between the federal minister and the Territory government that, if the land councils are agreeable, a joint and several meeting will be held in Darwin as soon as may be conveniently possible. I understand that the federal minister will contact the land councils to arrange that meeting and to set out an agenda.

Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak in NZ

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What help did the Northern Territory government recently extend to the New Zealand government on the recent occasion of a suspected outbreak of foot and mouth disease in pigs in New Zealand?

ANSWER

There was a scare at Timaru in the South Island of New Zealand. We certainly made offers immediately through the Commonwealth, which is our practice in regard to an outbreak of this nature. Fortunately, the tests made in England indicated a negative reading and there is no likelihood of any foot and mouth disease in New Zealand. This is standard practice as far as the offer is concerned. We have made offers on many occasions and sent people to Malaysia, Indonesia and England. If there are any other outbreaks that are of concern to the Northern Territory, and they would be of particular concern to the Northern Territory, we would offer the same sort of resources again.

Tropical Fruits, Nuts and Vegetables

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Could he inform the Assembly what research is being done with regard to the adaptability of tropical fruits, nuts and vegetables in the Northern Territory, and are there any plans to develop a plant nursery?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will obtain the information the honourable member requires and let him know later this sittings.

Northumberland Insurance Company

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Following the closing date for submissions regarding Northumberland Insurance Company which he advised us was 21 January 1981, can he now indicate whether all claims for assistance as a result of the collapse of Northumberland Insurance Company can be met?

ANSWER

I cannot guarantee that all claims will be met. However, I have some information for the member. The claims received to date following advertisements total about \$150,000 which is a bit less than had been anticipated. The estimate of how much was outstanding from Northumberland was a bit of a guess.

The assessment of claims is that there are court awards amounting to \$50,000 and amounts claimed but subject to settlement of \$100,000. The Commonwealth has agreed in principle to make ex gratia payments in relation to amounts that are the result of outstanding court awards and the Northern Territory government has undertaken that it will see paid at least 50% of claims that are subject to settlement. The Department of Treasury is currently continuing to work on this basis and is approaching the Commonwealth to see if it can get it to contribute towards the claims that are still the subject of settlement. We believe the Commonwealth has a continuing responsibility in this field and we will keep in touch with those people who have made applications for funds and process them as quickly as we possibly can with the emphasis on obtaining as much money as we can for them.

Performing Arts Centre

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Has agreement been reached between the Corporation of the City of Darwin and the Northern Territory government on the level of funding for the performing arts centre and, if so, is he able to indicate what that level will be?

ANSWER

Agreement on the respective governments' levels of funding has not been reached yet. An interesting development has occurred in regard to the development of a performing arts centre in Darwin. The government and the city council have been approached by a private developer who is proposing a business arrangement to assist the respective governments by building a performing arts centre in Darwin in association with another development. At this stage, we have sought further details from the prospective developer. Both levels of government expressed very keen interest in the proposal. I hope that announcements will be made as quickly as possible. This matter has gone on for some considerable time. However, we are talking about quite a substantial sum of money, particularly when one considers the size of Darwin and the population of the Northern Territory. Any contract must be entered into very carefully.

Rehabilitation of Rum Jungle

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Could he advise the Assembly of the progress of plans to carry out further rehabilitation of Rum Jungle? Could he also advise the Assembly of what plans there are to rehabilitate and make safe the tailings dumps at the other uranium mine sites in the Territory?

ANSWER

I am happy to inform the member for Arnhem of what is going on with the rehabilitation of Rum Jungle. I will have to obtain further information for him. To that end, I will ask that the question be placed on notice. The reason is that, only last week, officers of our government and from the Commonwealth, who are involved in negotiating the cost, have concluded an agreement at officer level and I have not had an opportunity to see it. As soon as I can, I will pass the information on to the member.

Motor Vehicle Licence Plates and Registration Stickers

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the Motor Vehicle Registry taken any action upon the suggestion by the Auditor-General that control of the issue of motor vehicle licence plates and registration stickers be improved and, if so, what is that action?

ANSWER

A paper is being prepared for Cabinet consideration regarding those matters.

Old Timers Home in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Are there any current plans to establish an old timers home in the rural area outside Darwin?

ANSWER

Traditionally, the government has not in its own right established homes for old people. Those that do exist in the Northern Territory are run by other organisations, either church or private. In all circumstances, the government has either contributed to their capital cost or to their annual recurrent funding. At this stage, I know of no plans by any organisation to establish an old timers home in rural Darwin. However, the government would be receptive to such an application from a responsible body which could demonstrate that it has the capacity and interest to look after such a centre. I point out to the honourable member that there is quite a move these days to assist the aged to stay at home. It is felt that institutionalisation is not always the most ideal situation until such time as a person is beyond caring for himself. The honourable member might care to think about that if she has particular problems in her electorate.

Water Rates in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the Department of Transport and Works conducted an inquiry into water rates in Nhulunbuy and, if so, what are its recommendations?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer the honourable member at this moment. I will make some inquiries and let him know later in the sittings.

Residential Development of Arafura Hostel Land

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will residential development of the former Arafura Hostel land proceed? This has been vacant for 3 years and planning approval was received a year ago.

ANSWER

There were many places knocked down by the cyclone; I am unable to keep up with them. That is one which I should be familiar with, but I think it would probably be wise if I did up-to-date research on the matter and advise the honourable member later.

Failure of Emergency Power Supply at Casuarina Hospital

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

I believe there was a failure in the emergency power supply at Casuarina Hospital recently when the town supply was shut down because of damage to the Snell Street substation. Will he advise the Assembly what action has been taken to ensure that this potentially dangerous occurrence does not happen again?

ANSWER

The Casuarina Hospital has 2 emergency sources of power. One is a battery-operated system that normally supplies power as soon as the mains power drops off. The other one is a system that is activated to run the air-conditioning and the lifts etc throughout the hospital. The battery system was quite all right on this particular occasion but the fault that occurred with the generators in the basement was caused by a failure in the computer that switches on the diesoline for the generators. The department has consulted with the manufacturers to ensure that this problem is eliminated and does not cause such a failure again.

Failure of Emergency Power Supply at Casuarina Hospital

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it true that the power failed at Casuarina Hospital after the emergency generator was switched on because it ran out of fuel?

ANSWER

The honourable member is asking whether the power failed after the auxiliary engine was switched on. Perhaps I did not put it clearly or perhaps the member misunderstood me. I thought I said the failure was caused by a fault in the computer that started the pumps that provided the diesoline for the generator. The emergency generator cut in. There was a fault. The diesoline did not run to the generator and the emergency generator stopped.

Mr B. Collins: That's not true.

Mr TUXWORTH: The member has said: 'That's not true'. That is my understanding of the situation. If he wants to take it up further with me, I am more than happy to discuss it with him.

Palm Beetle Infestation

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

As he would be aware, the palm beetle is on the rounds of Darwin once again. What is the government doing to make sure that this beetle is contained, and is he able to give any indication as to whether total eradication is possible?

ANSWER

It is a pretty sad story. After the fine efforts to eradicate the beetle by the officers concerned and the various agencies, the Conservation Commission, the city council and of course the people involved in quarantine through the department, it appears that the beetle was transported to the northern suburbs in a palm and the only avenue available to the department now is to control the spread of the insect rather than to eradicate it. Education programs will have to be undertaken, including the description of the various types of insecticides that might be used to control the beetle. Those plans are proceeding now. For the interest of members with palms in their gardens, 1.25 grams of carbaryl per litre of water is recommended for spray application right down into the palm sheath. The treatment has to be repeated on week later.

Local Farms at Douglas-Daly Project Farms

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

In the report of the Cropping Development Committee for 1978-79, it has been suggested that 'increasing the experience and expertise of local farms in the growing of grain crops is one way of encouraging agriculture in the Northern

Territory'. Considering this suggestion, will the 3 project farms on the Douglas-Daly be attended by local farmers to advise the new farmers who come in or can the local farmers attend to learn new techniques which may be introduced with the new farming project?

ANSWER

I do not think that question has been addressed at this stage but, certainly, we will have a look at the value of such a suggestion and see if it can be implemented.

Casuarina Hospital Computer

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it true that the computer at Casuarina Hospital, which controls all of the safety systems of the hospital, has never been fully operational since its installation because of problems of training staff to use it?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

Purchase of Connair

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did the Northern Territory government intervene to prevent TAA proceeding with the purchase of Connair for \$1.8m under an agreement between those 2 companies signed in September 1979 and, if so, why?

ANSWER

The honourable Leader of the Opposition will realise that this relates to a situation that occurred quite some time ago. In all fairness, he should place his question on notice, and I would ask him to do that. I have no recollection that the Northern Territory government intervened to preclude the sale of Connair to TAA. Indeed, I can remember one day receiving 3 separate telexes: one from the then Chairman of Connair saying that he had sold to TAA, one from TAA denying that it had bought Connair - apparently the press had got hold of the story - and a further communication which I cannot recall. All 3 of them related to the alleged sale of Connair to TAA. The fact is that, had TAA or Ansett or any company or any individual in Australia wished to purchase Connair, the sale could have occurred for whatever the then proprietors of Connair were prepared to sell it and the Northern Territory government could not have stopped it.

Douglas Station Selling Price

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is it true that the partners who own Douglas Station are demanding \$1m to release to the government land for agricultural development purposes?

ANSWER

Negotiations have taken place between the Douglas Station partnership and government officials, including the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority. An unrealistic price is being demanded by the partnership and this is placing the 1981 agricultural development plans in jeopardy. If agreed to, that price would prevent agricultural development because the final cost of land after development would make farming uneconomical. The land in question is about 50,000 acres. It was selected because of its access to the Department of Primary Production's experiment farm, soil suitability and reasonable access, particularly in this early stage of government's plans. The Valuer-General's Department placed a value on the land in the order of \$75,000. That was his bottom line. Even with the most generous of negotiations, the government would not have been able to go beyond \$150,000 for the land when other extras are taken into account. Failure to acquire this area of land because of the unrealistic asking price will result in the authorities plans being set back for at least 1 year. Substantial soil survey and farm planning works have already been carried out. Farmer selection is proceeding together with advanced town planning and construction of homestead and machinery sheds. It is not possible to relocate the authority's project in an alternative area without losing the current year's program.

It may not now be possible to proceed without compulsory acquisition. The area in question represents around 10% of the pastoral property's holding. I understand that the pastoral property changed hands on 5 December 1979 for a price of \$280,000 plus interest. It was obviously a bargain purchase at the time and no doubt the value would be in excess of that figure. I am advised that the partners have spent \$0.5m on the property since that time, and that takes us to about \$800,000. Ten per cent of \$800,000 is \$80,000. Thus, one would be looking at the Valuer-General's figure on that rough formula. The survey costs alone for the land that the government requires total around the \$57,000 mark. It is believed that there is no other purchaser in the offing.

The government is the only purchaser around the corner for this particular area.

We have looked at these pastoral properties in the far north over the last 70 years. To my memory, Sir, there is only one place that has made money between Mataranka and Darwin. It made money out of cattle; it certainly did not make money out of agricultural development. That property was Tipperary when it was run by the Burns Brothers. I believe the Douglas partners' attitude is completely unrealistic. The government will now have to study very closely which direction it may choose to take.

Detoxification Unit

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he give an assurance that no community health workers will be compulsorily transferred to the detoxification unit? This issue is causing extreme concern in the Community Health Centres.

ANSWER

I indicated my concern yesterday over the matter the member for Tiwi raised concerning the possible press-ganging of community health workers into the detoxification unit. Probably, this is a matter for the secretary of the department. I have yet to have an opportunity to raise the matter with him. On those grounds, I would not be prepared to give an assurance but I am prepared to raise the matter and give the acting secretary my views on the principle of press-ganging these people from one place to another, particularly in such a sensitive area. I believe that people should be working because of a commitment and not because they are made to go there.

Prisoner Work Release Scheme

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Prisoner Work Release Scheme was suspended over the Christmas period. Is he able to inform me whether or not that scheme is now in operation?

ANSWER

The scheme is not in operation at present. When Berrimah Prison was constructed, a special facility was placed outside the front of the prison for the operation of the Prisoner Work Release Scheme. As a result of overcrowding in Northern Territory jails - I understand that every state in Australia has overcrowded jails - the government decided to use the facility outside the main jail at Berrimah for a female prison. At present, that facility is being used as a female prison. Therefore, the Prisoner Work Release Scheme cannot continue until alternative arrangements are made. We are considering the use of other premises for the scheme but no decision has been made on that as yet.

At the time of self-government, Berrimah Prison was already being constructed. Therefore, we inherited a situation of having a modern jail but one which would really only replace the Fannie Bay establishment. I think the Fannie Bay Gaol was capable of accommodating 100 prisoners and Berrimah Prison - which cost \$6m - accommodates 110 prisoners. Really, we did not improve our capacity very much at all. As has been announced, additional accommodation is to be constructed at Berrimah Prison: two 20-man cells are due for completion in October this year. We do have a situation of overcrowding which is a cause for concern. We are addressing it as best we can and will start the Prisoner Work Release Program as soon as it is practical to do so.

Agreement Between NT Government and AFAP

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What are the details of the agreement between the Northern Territory government and the Australian Federation of Air Pilots which enabled the bans on Northern Airlines by the AFAP to be lifted? What was the agreement signed on behalf of the Northern Territory government by the Acting Secretary of the Department of Transport and Works and will the minister table the document in the Assembly?

ANSWER

I ask the Leader of the Opposition to place the question on notice.

Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority Acquisition of Land

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

In view of the statement he made in the Assembly this morning, is Cabinet considering compulsory acquisition as a viable option in getting the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority scheme off the ground?

ANSWER

The government will at least examine the appropriate laws if negotiations are not successful.

Police Station at 19-Mile

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Why has work ceased on the building of the 19-mile police station? I received a written assurance from the Commissioner of Police that work would be completed by the end of January 1981.

ANSWER

I understand that there is not much left to take in the rural area anymore because they have cleaned the residents right out. There have been problems with the contract and the contractor who is building this police station. The Department of Transport and Works may have to re-let the contract and that is the reason for the delay.

Coastal Surveillance and Aerial Medical Contract

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How many Northern Airlines pilots will be employed on a temporary basis by Transcutive to carry out both the coastal surveillance contract and the aerial medical contract during the interim licence period?

ANSWER

I believe the figure is approximately between 47 and 51.

Amateur Fishing Licences

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is it the intention of the Northern Territory government to introduce licensing procedures in season for amateur fishermen?

ANSWER

No.

Employment for Northern Airlines Pilots

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What action has been taken to provide alternative employment for former Northern Airlines pilots who were offered only temporary employment with Transecutive?

ANSWER

It is very difficult to answer that question until we know what the propositions of Ansett and TAA will be. We will not know that until after 28 February. We hope that either of those airlines will take over some of the pilots who are now being retrained and have been trained for the aerial medical contract and also the surveillance contract. I would ask the member to place her question on notice.

Employment for Northern Airlines Pilots

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Which former Northern Airlines pilots will get permanent positions with Transecutive if that company is granted a long-term licence to operate both contracts? Is it a fact that former senior pilots with Northern Airlines are likely to get these posts, that they will require retraining to fly Nomads and that the government has agreed to meet the costs of this retraining?

ANSWER

It is very difficult to answer the honourable member's question. In negotiations with Transecutive, it has been indicated that the Northern Territory government hopes that anybody who takes over the aerial medical contract and the air surveillance contract will give Northern Airlines pilots the first opportunity for the job. Until such time as the 60-day limit is over - that is the period of the Transecutive contract - I am unable to answer the question.

Purchase of Connair

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the 3-man committee established by the government to examine the Connair takeover offers first recommend acceptance of other offers before recommending East West Airlines?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place that question on notice.

Centrepoint Library

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will the new public library situated on the first floor of Centrepoint be opened to the public?

ANSWER

I am advised that the new library in the central business district will open in Centrepoint within a week. The library will have about 25,000 books on its shelves when it opens. It will eventually have 35,000 books available to the people working in the central business district in Darwin.

Purchase of Connair

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who were the potential buyers put forward to the government by Connair for the airline and what were the reasons for the government rejecting those buyers?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Primary School for Fred's Pass Reserve Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the current thinking on the establishment of a primary school in the Fred's Pass Reserve area at the 19-mile? I would like to make the distinction between that area and the area where the Humpty Doo School is on Fred's Pass Road.

ANSWER

I thought I had the answer until it was confused by the clarification. I assume that the member means the Fred's Pass Reserve area itself rather than Fred's Pass Road. Of course, the area around Fred's Pass Reserve is one of the more rapidly growing Darwin rural areas. The thinking in relation to the provision of schools, particularly primary schools, in that area would be the same as that for any other growing area. The department is monitoring it in the normal planning sense. The current figures seem to indicate that we will probably need a pre-school and primary school by about 1986. Nonetheless, the trend in population growth in that area is being monitored and the government will respond accordingly.

Back-to-Back Guarantee to East West Airlines

Mr ISAACS to the CHIEF MINISTER

When did the Northern Territory government first raise with East West Airlines the back-to-back requirements of the guarantee arrangements? Was the advice in writing?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer that question with any certitude because it is one that obviously involves looking at files and extracting exact dates. I can answer it in a general sense. The back-to-back guarantee - as I was informed by the Department of Law - was requested of East West Airlines in the first instance when negotiations commenced. East West Airlines declined to consider such a proposal at that time. Yesterday, I quoted from a telex from Hill Samuel, our merchant bank advisers. They had asked East West Airlines for financial information regarding a back-to-back guarantee several months before the date of that telex, which was November last year. Obviously, the back-to-back guarantee was raised with East West Airlines well before I personally raised it with the chairman of East West when we met in November with directors of East West and of Northern Airlines to discuss the whole position of the government's guarantee for Northern Airlines' aircraft purchases.

Commonwealth Teaching Service

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is peer assessment a condition of service of the Commonwealth Teaching Service?

ANSWER

I would not consider that peer assessment is a condition of service. It may be a perceived condition of service by some teachers but I certainly would not describe it as being a condition of service in the normal context of that word as it relates to conditions of service carried over by members of the Australian Public Service to the Northern Territory Public Service any more than it would apply as a condition of service to teachers of the Commonwealth Teaching Service coming across to the Northern Territory Teaching Service. There are many teachers who have very little faith in peer assessment as it presently operates. The whole question of peer assessment will be one for the new commissioner upon his arrival in the Northern Territory. No doubt there will be discussions between him, the Department of Education, the federation and myself.

Model of Marina

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Recently a model of a marina was delivered to the minister's office. Will that model be put on public display and, if so, is he able to indicate where?

ANSWER

The model is of the proposed marina at Vestey's Beach. I would like to indicate to members of the Assembly that it is only a proposal. The model has arisen from an engineering study that has just been completed. There were 2 which have been circulated to members of the corporation and other interested parties. We are trying to obtain some additional copies for members of the Assembly. However, I am sure that the honourable member for Fannie Bay already has a copy. To answer the member's question, the display will be presented to the public. Hopefully, it will be displayed at the Casuarina Shopping Centre, Centrepoint and other venues.

Transecutive Pilots

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who will meet the wage costs of the pilots taken on by Transecutive who are surplus to the number of pilots actually required to operate the contracts during the interim period and, if it is the government, why?

ANSWER

Since that question relates to negotiations with Transecutive, I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice. However, whatever the cost might be - and I have been given an indication that it could vary between \$50,000 and \$150,000 - I believe that it will be cheap because part of the deal is to ensure that we have the interim service operating. As I said yesterday, not only was the tourist industry of the Northern Territory put on the map but also the tourist industry of Australia.

Transecutive Pilots

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he now confirm that, whatever the amount - be it \$50,000 or \$150,000 - it is to be paid by the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

No, I cannot confirm that.

Bagot Road Flyover

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the construction of the Bagot Road flyover proceeding on time and, if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

ANSWER

To my knowledge, the construction of the Bagot Road flyover is going according to schedule.

NTEC After-Hours Service in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he advise us if there is any truth in the public statements of recent days that the after-hours service provided by NTEC in Alice Springs is to be reduced?

ANSWER

The understanding that I have from NTEC is that a circular was put out yesterday or the day before suggesting that after-hours callouts would not be made in future. It seems to have had the spirit but not the specifications. The facts are that a request was made by the Electrical Trades Union that NTEC answer all callouts after 6 pm as a matter of course. NTEC has always taken the view that callouts that were necessary for people's safety or because property was in danger should be attended to immediately. That has been its practice and it will continue to be its practice. Callouts that are not urgent, such as a street light that has gone out, would be left until the next morning. The circular was attempting to spell out that there would be no attempt to provide after-hours services for frivolous callouts. However, it is still the intention of the commission that it will attend any callout where people's lives or property are under threat.

Legislation to Control Antibiotics in Stockfeed

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Can he indicate when he will be introducing legislation to control the use of antibiotics in stockfeed? This is the tenth time in as many years that I have asked this question.

ANSWER

I cannot be held responsible for all the answers the member has received. Certainly, the last answer I gave to the honourable member was that legislation would be introduced early this year. I have no updated brief from the department but I am hopeful that it will be early this year.

New Special School in Darwin

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he confirm that the new special school in Darwin to replace the inadequate Coconut Grove facilities, which has been under construction for several years, will not be completed until the end of this year at least? Will he take all necessary steps to ensure that this project receives top priority in this International Year of the Disabled Person?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for the question. I will certainly look into

it and see what can be done, particularly having regard to this year being the International Year of the Disabled Person.

Toxic Shock Syndrome

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

As there has been considerable publicity recently about the subject of the toxic shock syndrome and its possible effect on women who use tampons, will the minister give his assurance that the matter will be investigated and that any necessary action will be taken to reduce the possibility of the syndrome being a danger to women in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I understand the issue of the toxic shock syndrome was raised formally with the state governments by the National Health and Medical Research Council as far back as November in a press release that accompanied correspondence. I have a copy of the press release for all members of the Assembly. I believe the issue is getting out of proportion and that there is a need for people to understand the issues. I must confess that I am not terribly well informed on the matter and I rely on organisations such as the National Health and Medical Research Council to give advice to me. This government will cooperate wherever possible with the council in its investigations. It is not our role to investigate it, but it is our role to provide information to the council to enable it to come to conclusions. I would ask that this particular press release be circulated to members of the Assembly. It will clarify in their minds any problems they may have.

East West Airlines

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Did the government receive from East West Airlines in May 1980 details of that company's borrowing capacity, including current East West's borrowing capacity, borrowing requirements for operations outside the Territory, equity levels to support borrowing and capacity to support borrowing by the NT airlines? If so, why was this information not made available to the merchant banker, Hill Samuel?

ANSWER

I cannot recall having received any such communication from East West Airlines but that does not mean that the government did not receive it. It could have been sent to the Department of Transport and Works, the Department of Law or indeed to my own department. I can check that out. I think this is more properly a question that the honourable member should place on notice. Indeed, I look forward to hearing from the honourable member as to whether he wants the Ansett jets taken away from Nhulunbuy to be replaced by TAA Fokker Friendships as soon as he would like to tell me.

Leave of Absence Legislation

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Yesterday, the Chief Minister indicated that legislation would be introduced on leave of absence. Is he able to indicate what form that legislation will take?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have looked into this matter further. It was raised yesterday by the honourable member for Nhulunbuy who asked me whether the government

was proposing to introduce legislation. My answer then was somewhat conditional because I could not recall with any certainty whether Cabinet had approved legislation. I now understand that legislation should be introduced in the next sittings or the sittings after that. The legislation will take the form of 3 separate bills.

Child Welfare Bill

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will the Child Welfare Bill, which has been under preparation for some time, be introduced into the Assembly?

ANSWER

I cannot give the honourable member a specific date. The department is putting a great deal of effort into the Child Welfare Bill. The bill is complex and sensitive and is being discussed by various people within the government. I believe the department is also consulting with people outside government on the subject. I will be putting the matter before Cabinet as soon as practical. There is certainly no intention whatsoever of delay in this regard by the government.

NTEC Report on Power-station

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it true, as reported recently in the popular press, that a recent report received by the minister from NTEC recommending options for the Darwin power-station states that a nuclear power-station for Darwin is not a viable economic option at this time?

ANSWER

The matter that the honourable member raises is a part of a paper that is before Cabinet. I would not care to comment on it until after it has been disposed of by Cabinet.

Breathalyser Blood Alcohol Levels

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the intention of the government to reduce the allowable level of alcohol in the blood of a driver of a motor vehicle from just under 0.08 to just under 0.05?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has not considered the matter of reducing the arbitrary level set in the traffic legislation relating to breathalysers. As far as I know, the police have not considered it. To the best of my knowledge, the Department of Law and the Department of Health have not looked at the matter either. No decision has been made. Certainly, at this stage, no initiative is in the mind of the government in relation to this matter. I would not like to give any final answer at this time which might preclude a decision later. I believe that steps have only been taken recently to reduce the level from 0.08 to 0.05 in other states. I think that we should watch the effects elsewhere before we make any moves here in the Territory if indeed we do make moves.

Draft Criminal Code

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it still the government's intention to introduce the draft criminal code during these sittings?

ANSWER

I believe the Leader of the Opposition has misconstrued my earlier remarks. I am quite sure that I said last year that I proposed to table at this sittings for discussion a substantial portion of the draft criminal code and I propose to do that. I believe that there is need for considerable public discussion which will assist the government in putting together a bill for presentation to the Assembly in due course. Because of the importance of the legislation to everyone in the community, we should take this course rather than introduce a bill at the outset.

Back-to-Back Guarantee to East West Airlines

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the government's insistence that the guarantee to East West Airlines was always intended to be of a back-to-back nature, why was such provision not made clear in either the Memorandum of Understanding or the deed and what documented evidence can the government produce to support its claim that a guarantee must be back to back?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Shortwave Radio Service to the Outback

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

My question is asked on behalf of the honourable member for Eusey. Can he advise what action is being taken to provide outback Territorians with a short-wave radio service comprising national and local news, weather forecasts and general information?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am sure you would rule that the purview of this question is beyond the competence of this Assembly and certainly it is well beyond my jurisdiction as Chief Minister. But to provide you with information that is well-known publicly, I think I should refer my questioner to the columns of the local press of the last few months from which I understand reconstruction of the shortwave transmitter at Cox Peninsula is well under way. I believe that that service is expected to be beamed to Territorians as well as to people overseas.

Allegations of Breaches by Charter Operators

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Was he informed by the Deputy Secretary of his department of the receipt of letters from Northern Airlines alleging breaches of RPT routes by charter operators, letters dated 23 and 30 September, 8 and 27 October, 21 November and 3 December?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Horses as Travelling Stock on Roads

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

If horses are considered as stock for the purposes of travelling stock on roads and if permits are necessary for travel of stock on the roads, can the minister assure me that these provisions are adequately policed by the inspectors under the act?

ANSWER

For the purpose of the act, horses are considered as stock. In general, vehicles are supposed to carry permits for the movement of horses. There is an exemption in the regulations that provides that horses may travel to local shows, race meetings and things of that nature without permits. The whole permit system needs to be reviewed. We have had many complaints about the permit system. Over the last couple of years, people have made allegations

that stock have been stolen etc. It is very difficult to police all the movements of stock but we are certainly looking at alternatives to the existing system.

Guarantees to East West Airlines

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the government advise East West Airlines in September of last year that the company's request for guarantees on behalf of Northern Airlines had been approved in principle subject only to documentation?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Future Use of the Old Darwin Hospital

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

A recent media report highlighted the apparent inability of the government to make a decision on the future use of the old Darwin Hospital as a private hospital. In view of this, could he advise the present situation concerning the proposal for a private hospital for Darwin and give some indication as to when a decision will be announced?

ANSWER

Members will recall that the government decided last year to call tenders for the use of Darwin Hospital as a private facility. It also arranged for some of the facilities at the old Darwin Hospital, such as the accommodation units, to be put to use for the general benefit of the community. Tender documents were drawn up and ultimately placed in the press. The tenders were received and the applicant who is currently applying for the use of the hospital will have his application considered in the next few weeks. Some interesting developments have occurred in the interim period. Firstly, members will be aware of the Jamison Report and the subsequent recommendations by Jamison concerning funding of hospitals and health services right throughout Australia. The recommendations, in some cases, are very broad and ambiguous. All governments are waiting to see what the Commonwealth will do in this regard. The Jamison Report has had the effect of discouraging people from putting in tenders for the old Darwin Hospital. There is uncertainty about how hospitals will be funded in the 1980s and whether there will be a continuation of the Commonwealth-state, cost-sharing arrangements that have existed for some 7 years. That point is important: we did not get a tremendous response.

Another point is that we are still not sure what the Commonwealth will do in relation to its funding of hospitals in the Northern Territory. Our government has taken a stance of advising the Commonwealth what it feels is reasonable. If the Commonwealth goes to a block-funding arrangement, there would be a very real need to open the old Darwin Hospital as a private hospital if that were possible. It would take the pressure off the exchequer for maintaining hospital beds, and every little helps.

The other thing that will come from the block funding is that there will also be a determination by the government to save as much money as it can in the block-funding vote if that is possible. Another consideration is that, if we maintain the cost-sharing arrangement that we have at the moment with the Commonwealth for hospital beds, it could well be that it would not be in the government's interests to have a private hospital. The Commonwealth could well say, 'If we are cost-sharing all your beds and you open another unit of hospital accommodation, you will affect the economics of the cost-sharing of the hospitals as they already exist and we will take account of that when we are making our cost-sharing arrangements'.

The issue of the private hospital for Darwin is not a dead one at all; it is very much alive and kicking and it will be very dependent upon the attitudes and the formulae that are developed in the next few months by the Commonwealth and the states for future hospital funding throughout Australia as a whole. In the second week of March, there will be a 3-day meeting in Perth of all state and federal ministers relating to cost-sharing and future funding of hospitals. Two days of this have been set aside purely for the bunfight of how it will happen. There is a great deal of disturbance among the states about the Commonwealth's approach and we feel that, whatever happens, there must be an equitable arrangement if there is to be a change. I can assure the honourable member that we will be looking for our share of the cake.

East West Airlines

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Apart from the back-to-back feature of the Northern Territory government's offer, what other conditions of the guarantee offered by the government to East West Airlines did the company find unsatisfactory?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

Holcroft Report on Air Fares

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

The Holcroft Report on domestic air fares has now been released and has stirred up considerable comment. It apparently recommends a new fare setting arrangement which would mean lower air fares for travellers on the long distance routes in Australia. This sounds like good news for Territorians. Can the Chief Minister give any indication of what these recommendations would mean to the cost of air fares from the Territory to southern capital cities and will the Territory government be taking any action to press the federal government to accept the recommendations?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Alice Springs has asked a very interesting question. You will recall that the Northern Territory government put quite a substantial submission to the Holcroft committee of inquiry on the question of air fares and, in the submission, a copy of which I tabled only the other day with other documents, the Northern Territory government continued its attack on the 2-airline policy. From this side of the Assembly, Mr Speaker, the government has requested both CLP federal representatives to oppose in Canberra the prolongation of the 2-airline agreement. I think that I should pay tribute to the work of the officers who prepared the Northern Territory submission which I was complimented on by the committee of inquiry. I should place it on the public record that the officers of the Department of Transport and Works and of the Policy and Planning Unit of the Chief Minister's Department, who put together this submission, did a fine job. The committee regarded it as the best submission it received from any source.

The member's question raises some other interesting points. We have been telling the federal government for a very long time that Territorians were being ripped off by the air fare system. Our submission to the Holcroft inquiry went into the matter in great detail and we urged the inquiry to look closely at the fares charged on the long distance routes in Australia. We argued that the fares out of the Territory to southern capitals were far too high and that Territorians were subsidising travellers in the southern parts of this country.

The results of this inquiry have proved that we were right. I understand that the report indicates that, over the course of the year, Darwin-Sydney and Darwin-Melbourne passengers pay a total of \$2.5m more than they should. Territory travellers are subsidising people on Sydney-Canberra and Sydney-Melbourne routes. Imagine that: we are subsidising the fat cats to fly in and out of Canberra. Sydney-Canberra passengers are receiving a subsidy of \$8.8m a year under the present air fare system. Sydney-Melbourne passengers are receiving \$11m. This is the proof of what we have been arguing for so long. I believe that it is monstrously unfair that the federal government allows this to continue and it must make drastic changes to the air fare system along the lines recommended by the Holcroft Report. On the figures provided in the report, travellers from Darwin to Sydney or Melbourne could expect a reduction in the economy fare of about \$140 for the round trip. I would hope that we can look forward to seeing this reduction come through.

Submission from TAA

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the government receive a submission from TAA outlining a possible operation to overcome the crisis facing the aviation industry? If so, on what date was that submission received and on what date did the government respond to TAA's proposal?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

ITC Responsibility for Apprentices' Accommodation in Brisbane

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are officers of the Industries Training Commission responsible for obtaining suitable accommodation for Northern Territory apprentices in Brisbane when they study there in the course of their apprenticeship? If so, what checks are made on the standard of this accommodation?

ANSWER

The arrangement for apprentice accommodation across state borders is traditionally the responsibility of the governing or the regulating body in each state. In Queensland, the accommodation arrangements for apprentices within that state are set up by the Industries and Commerce Training Commission in conjunction, in this case, with ourselves. The accommodation used by Northern Territory apprentices who travel to Queensland for their training is regularly inspected by that commission. At the moment the apprentices from the Northern Territory are housed in Yungabba Hostel and a number of flats in the Kangaroo Point area. I am informed that they are well supervised and quite suitable.

Ansett Proposal for Interim Service

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the government receive a written submission from Ansett Transport Industries outlining that company's proposals for an interim service and, if so, on what date was the submission received by the government?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place her question on notice.

Water Pressure - Racecourse Area, Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise the reason for the reduction of water pressure to residents of the old racecourse area of Alice Springs and whether any action will be taken to alleviate this problem?

ANSWER

I am not aware that there has been a drop in the water pressure in that area. However, I believe that there is a project to put another pipeline into the area and, until such time as that happens, I would ask the honourable member to advise his constituents to get in touch with the department in that area.

East West Airlines

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When did the Northern Territory government inform East West Airlines that it would not guarantee loans required by that company and, further, which department forwarded that advice to the company?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

NTEC Services

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Are the NTEC services available to the people of Alice Springs any different to those provided in other Territory centres?

ANSWER

This matter was covered yesterday in an answer I gave to a question relating to a circular put out by NTEC in Alice Springs inferring that the standard of service in Alice Springs was less than elsewhere in the Territory. I would like to reiterate for the honourable member's benefit that the Alice Springs people will receive the same standard of callout services from NTEC that other centres do.

Report of Cropping Development Committee

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

When might we expect the 1979-80 report of the Cropping Development Committee, which has had nearly 8 months now, be produced?

ANSWER

I am not too sure about who 'we' are. I do not know that it is an obligation of mine to present that particular internal report to the Assembly. As a gracious gesture, being a fair-minded man, I would be quite happy to examine the report to see what implications there are in it for the government and forward a copy to the honourable member.

TV Reception in Outback

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the Chief Minister doing in his role as chief liaison minister with the federal government to ensure the people in outback areas have

adequate TV reception in view of the fact that TV is accepted as an ordinary amenity available to everyone in cities?

ANSWER

For my part, I would tip TV out of our house if I could, but I know that many people in the outback, who are not cursed with it, desire it. The government has been agitating for quite a long time and the honourable member for Tiwi is aware of many of the actions we have taken. For instance, a year or 2 ago, we brought Tony Staley, the then Minister for Post and Telecommunications, to the Territory and took him to the most God-forsaken places that we could find and turned him around blindfolded and brought him back. We did that with another minister and I suppose that we will now have to do it to Ian Sinclair as well. Probably it would be harder to convince Mr Sinclair that things are so bad out in the bush because he has been working for quite a long time to improve conditions for people who live in the bush. We know that the federal government has a program for upgrading TV in areas along the track. Recently, TV was put into Bathurst Island and it will be available in Pine Creek in August or November. The satellite in which the government is buying an interest will be providing a multi-channel TV service to remote areas by 1984.

Sale of Housing Commission Homes in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can the minister yet say when commission housing in Nhulunbuy will be available for sale to interested tenants?

ANSWER

The answer is no. I very much regret having to give that answer. I have recently had discussions with members of Nalbalco as to how they see the problem. We all know what it is: land tenure. The problem at this stage is not insurmountable but very close to it. To try to come up with a system of mortgage over a house which no one has any guarantee of owning beyond the year 2014 is an extremely nebulous task to say the least. We really do not know how to cope with the problem at all. I am afraid that the people of Nhulunbuy are stuck with the nature of the arrangements that gave birth to that town and there is very little that this government can do about it. It is tied up with agreements between the Commonwealth and the company, and between the Commonwealth, the company and the Aboriginal traditional owners of the area. The Northern Territory per se does not own the dirt and, therefore, is in no position to provide security of tenure to people who make what is probably the biggest investment that any of us normally make: a home purchase. The government is still concerned to find a solution to this problem but I am afraid we are not really getting very close.

Lights in Bus Shelters

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Are lights in bus shelters checked on a regular basis to see whether they are working or does the department wait for someone to report they are out of order before action is taken?

ANSWER

Inspectors regularly check the bus shelters and report any damage to the maintenance department for repair. We have a period contractor who keeps an eye on the traffic lights and he repairs those where needed.

Introduction of Bill Relating to Rape

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it his intention to introduce a bill relating to the crime of rape during this sittings?

ANSWER

This question follows on from his question the other day regarding the criminal code. That is what it is: a code. We hope that it will embody as much of the criminal law as possible in one document. For simplicity, the bulk of it will be available in one place in this code and that includes the offence of rape which, in fact, is proposed to be abolished. The provisions of different degrees of assault will be introduced based on the Iowa or the Michigan Criminal Code of the United States. I would propose that this code be tabled as a draft for consideration at this stage because it is a very important matter; it is a very complex matter. I think that we should hasten a little bit slowly. We can debate it as a draft at the next sittings and then come back with the final bill later in the year.

Responsibility for Additional Street Lighting

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is the installation of additional street lighting the responsibility of the Corporation of the City of Darwin or the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

The responsibility for street lighting belongs to the corporation. The government has the responsibility for lighting on major highways and that work is carried out by NTEC. The corporation has a responsibility for all the other street lighting in Darwin. It is its responsibility because it pays for it. As I understand the situation, NTEC does the design work, has it approved by the corporation and then carries out the work when the corporation provides the funding.

Fannie Bay Gaol

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will he advise on progress and development of the Fannie Bay Gaol as an historical tourist facility?

ANSWER

As a result of overcrowded jails, the government may even contemplate opening it again. I would hope that it does not come to that. The government commissioned, through the National Trust (Northern Territory Division), a report on the future of the Fannie Bay Gaol, on exactly what was there, its historical significance, a proposal for management in the future and by whom and for what purpose. I have not received the report as yet. I understand the National Trust has largely completed the report and exhibited some of the proposals in Lyons Cottage. However, the report has not been forwarded to me as yet. The government is anxious to resolve the future of the Fannie Bay Gaol because it is obviously not much good to anyone at the moment. It is in all our interests to decide its future.

One of the controversial decisions that will have to be made when the report is tabled is on the future of the fence around Fannie Bay Gaol. Some experts claim that it should go so that people can see and have reasonable access to the buildings inside which are the areas of particular interest. Other people claim the fence should stay as a barrier, entry through which will be allowed on the

payment of a charge. This follows the assumption that the prison will have to return some money from tourists. One argument is that the fence is one of the ugliest sights in Darwin. The government will be faced with that decision shortly.

Government Approach to TAA

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When did the government first approach TAA regarding the possibility of that company providing an interim service following the closure of Northern Airlines?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Licences for Hunting Ducks and Geese

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the intention of the Northern Territory government to introduce licensing procedures in season for duck and geese shooters?

ANSWER

No.

Detoxification Unit at Darwin Hospital

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it still intended to open the detoxification unit at Darwin Hospital for 24 hours a day from tomorrow and, if so, where will the 8 nursing staff required be drawn from?

ANSWER

I indicated yesterday that I will be taking this matter up with the department. I am having a meeting tomorrow morning. If it is planned to open it tomorrow, then I am sure that the department has catered for it. If there is any need for the department to vary its approach, I am sure it will be able to do that.

Report to Assembly on Overseas Trip

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

In view of his fair-mindedness, does he propose to report to this Assembly on his recent overseas trip for the purpose of garnering tourists for the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I would probably make the distinction between being fair-minded and a little boastful. The answer is yes.

Lack of a Surgeon in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that there is no surgeon in the town of Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

No.

Bituminising of Access Road at Berrimah

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the fact that the Minister for Lands and Housing told me that the eastern end of section 110 in Berrimah is planned for a cemetery and as it is the usual practice to bituminise access roads to these places, when is it planned to bituminise these roads in the Berrimah area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I believe that the cemetery out in the Berrimah area is a part of a long-term plan. To my knowledge, there has been no design for roads in that area. However, I will endeavour to provide the information to the honourable member at a later date.

Issue of Pensioner Card by Minister

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will the minister confirm that he personally authorised the issue of an NT pensioner concession card to a person not eligible under that scheme approved by Cabinet?

ANSWER

There was an application to me from the department relating to a person in particular circumstances which did not fit quite within the guidelines of the government's pensioner concession scheme. If my recollection serves me correctly, I decided to admit that person and allow him to have a pensioner concession card. The situation has only happened once. Obviously, such applications should be able to be presented to me from time to time and be judged on their merits.

Sales Tax Component on Freight

Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

When does he expect to implement the scheme, announced during the last Territory election campaign, to provide a rebate on the sales tax component on freight?

ANSWER

The government's initiative in providing a rebate on the freight component of sales taxes levied by the federal government is already in operation. There have only been a few payments made to date. The scheme is in an evolutionary phase. There have been announcements in the press and advertisements calling for the registration of interests by persons in the Northern Territory who import goods and indeed pay sales tax on freight. The scheme is being administered by the Treasury and it is working fairly well. Payments have already been made under the scheme and, as small problems are ironed out, we expect that it will operate on a much faster and more efficient basis than at present.

Coastal Plains Research Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What are the current plans of the government for the Coastal Plains Research Station?

ANSWER

Because of the serious pasture degeneration on the station, a complete pasture re-establishment program will be undertaken over the next 5 years. Some private companies have shown interest in using some of the area in conjunction with the department. However, following inspection, these proposals were not followed up by the companies. The long-term future of the station still lies in pasture and buffalo research, horticultural experiments and, possibly, prospects for rice research.

Carpentaria College

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he advise on the present status and future development of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

I understand that the Greek Orthodox community, which has been made a conditional offer by the government, has put to the Darwin Planning Authority a development proposal. The future of the land is totally dependent upon the acceptance of the development proposal by the authority and whether that approval by the authority is acceptable to the government.

Jabiru Hospital

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

When the new Jabiru Hospital is opened later this year, how many beds will there be and what medical, nursing and administrative staff will be employed? Will new positions be created or will staff be redeployed from other sections within the Health Department?

ANSWER

Tenders for the construction of a hospital will be called in April. Initially, it will be an 8-bed hospital. It will have a health staff of some 41 personnel. There are currently 4 people at Jabiru providing services to the community and, when the hospital is built, this number will be expanded to accommodate the need. There is a planned figure of 41 and a final determination will be made closer to the opening date. So far as financing and the creation of the positions is concerned, I understand that we have an arrangement with the Commonwealth for the provision of services in this area and we have to negotiate with the Commonwealth in relation to staff and salary from existing personnel to man the project. These will be additional staff.

Sale of Housing Commission Homes in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

After a weekend of consideration and deliberation, does he yet know when Housing Commission houses in Nhulunbuy will be available for sale to interested tenants?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it would seem that the honourable gentleman listens to the program After Eight. I recall that Mr Pretty, the correspondent from Nhulunbuy for that program, gave some gratuitous advice to the government this morning. If the gentleman reflects the view of Nhulunbuy people, we have no problem. He outlined quite well the difficulties as the government sees them. He made the same mistake as I in that the date on which the current agreement expires is 2011 not 2014.

Cabinet has addressed itself to this problem. I still believe there are difficulties with it. The best way to find out just how people feel is to give it a try. Cabinet has decided to approve the introduction of a Northern Territory Public Service Staff Homes Sales Scheme to Nhulunbuy with repayment of loans over a period less than the remaining time of the special purpose lease. We need somehow to arrive at a yardstick to determine the price of public sector homes in that community, having regard to the lack of security of tenure beyond the year 2011. I have indicated in this place that I believe those difficulties will be overcome and that long-term security of tenure will be achieved. I am quite sure that the Aboriginal traditional owners of that area will not insist on resuming ownership of the land and thereby the houses at the expiry of that agreement if there is another purpose of the town of Nhulunbuy to continue at that time and, please God, there will be. The government has approved the Housing Commission proceeding to offer at public auction, three 3-bedroom homes for general public housing, the resulting sale prices to form the basis of assessing future sale prices in the town. Once we offer those homes on auction, thereupon we will find out just how the people feel about buying homes, having regard to the rule quicquid plantatur solo, solo credit, what is attached to the land belongs to the land. We will continue negotiations with Nabalco for further releases of land for the purpose of public housing should the public indicate that that is what it wants.

Carpentaria College

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Would he indicate during this sittings if and when the development plan for the Carpentaria College site will be put on public display for public comment? There is intense community concern and interest in this matter.

ANSWER

I will speak to the Chairman of the Planning Authority on that matter.

Electricity Reticulation to Donkey Camp

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

This question is on behalf of the member for Elsey. Will electricity to be reticulated to the new water supply at Donkey Camp near Katherine be extended to cater for consumers in future subdivisions on the Gorge Road and to Katherine Gorge?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes. Members might be pleased to know that the provision of power to Donkey Camp for the reticulation of water for the town of Katherine is currently under way. NTEC is also negotiating with the Conservation Commission for the powerline to be extended to the gorge so that there is reticulated power to the gorge. I might add that, when this comes about, there will be a very large saving in oil costs to the government as the electricity at the gorge is currently generated by separate generators to the Katherine supply.

Dollar-for-Dollar Subsidy Scheme

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he confirm that the dollar-for-dollar subsidy scheme for schools announced last year has in fact been changed to a 50¢ in the dollar scheme; that is, school councils will receive 50¢ for each dollar raised?

ANSWER

The member's assertion is absolutely untrue.

Damming of Katherine River

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he received a consultant's report on the damming of Katherine River and, if so, will he submit that report to this Assembly?

ANSWER

To date, I have not received a consultant's report regarding the damming of the Katherine River. When I have, I will make a decision at that time on whether I will release it to the Assembly or not.

Reconstruction of Old Naval Headquarters on the Esplanade

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The old naval headquarters situated on the Esplanade is still in a state of ruin. Can he inform me when work will begin on the reconstruction of this building?

ANSWER

The old naval headquarters is to be used as a reception area and office for the Administrator of the Northern Territory. Indeed, the new Administrator endorsed the proposal. The government has been unsuccessful with a couple of advertisements in trying to attract a suitable builder to undertake reconstruction of the old naval headquarters. Members will be aware that some expertise is required to reconstruct that building out of the remnants. As a result of

not being able to attract a suitable builder, the government has decided to proceed with the project on a project management basis. Hopefully, the building should be completed by December this year.

Rates in Berrimah Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Under what legislation are rates in the Berrimah rural area declared and levied and by whom, and what criteria are adopted to arrive at a figure for this rate?

ANSWER

The rates in the area just outside the municipal boundaries of Darwin are declared under the Darwin Rates Act. The act covers that area within the boundaries of the 1945 acquisition in Darwin, excluding the boundaries of the municipality of Darwin. The authority for declaring the rates is myself, as minister, and the basis for the rates, as has been determined to date, is to equate the rates with those charged by the municipality of Darwin. I think that answers the question. I do appreciate that there is concern for the level of services in the area, having regard to the level of rates that has been determined, and I have undertaken to have a look at the matter again and perhaps to review the decision.

Reference Library in Cavenagh Street

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it the intention of the government to continue to maintain the state reference library in Cavenagh Street and, if so, when will it be properly staffed so that its \$0.5m worth of books can be properly utilised?

ANSWER

It is certainly the government's intention to continue to staff the embryo state reference library in Cavenagh Street. Normally one would not classify oneself as having a state reference library until one had something like 200,000 books on the shelves to make it a facility that could accommodate a broad spectrum of inquiry. However, in assembling 200,000 volumes over a period of some years and having regard to the library services in the Territory of which we have some very fine ones, it has been decided that we should open the facility even though it only has 25,000 volumes in it and allow at least some minimal activity and reference work to be undertaken. It would be foolish of us to openly promote it as a fully-fledged state reference library because it simply is not one. As a result, there are 2 staff at the present time who assist people who come to the embryo state reference library. A full library, when we have 200,000 volumes, will have a staff of at least 6 people. It will build up to that over a period of years. If anything, the government should be commended for opening such a facility at all rather than leaving it there until such time as we build up a sufficient stock. I think that criticism levelled at the government for having this facility hidden away from the public was quite unwarranted.

Arts Advisory Council

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will the minister announce the appointment of members to the Arts Advisory Council?

ANSWER

I propose to make an announcement in relation to the Arts Advisory Council during these sittings.

Nhulunbuy Library

Mr LEO TO MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Which department will have authority over Nhulunbuy's new community library?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Library Service will have authority over the library at Nhulunbuy. The library is being included in the new Nhulunbuy High School as part of a new government concept to maintain maximum utilisation of public facilities. The library was certainly stocked by the Northern Territory Library Service. It is also possible that there may be an arrangement with the Department of Education for teachers to provide some of the library staff.

Dollar-for-Dollar Subsidy Scheme

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is the dollar-for-dollar subsidy scheme to schools operating successfully?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, 13 schools in the northern directorate have successfully applied for assistance under the dollar-for-dollar subsidy scheme. I am not sure how many schools in the southern directorate have applied successfully. There are a number in the pipeline at the moment. I suppose 'successful' is the wrong word. If they raise the money legitimately, they are automatically entitled to the dollar-for-dollar subsidy scheme. It is not a matter of being successful or otherwise. Total grants to date are \$45,897 which is comprised of \$32,285 in the northern directorate and \$13,612 in the southern directorate. To answer the question specifically, the scheme is working very well.

Marketing of Shark

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What departmental infrastructure is being undertaken in readiness for potential interstate marketing of shark if, as is believed, shark fishing proves a viable fishing proposition for the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The question of marketing shark interstate does not solely relate to infrastructure. It certainly relates to other technical processes. The program that was undertaken a bit earlier on will be fully analysed by the middle of the year to ascertain the mercury content to see whether we can market the product. At that time, I guess there will be suitable infrastructure for the marketing of shark.

Single-Officer Accommodation in Gap Road

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will construction of the proposed single-officer accommodation in Gap Road, Alice Springs, be started?

ANSWER

As soon as there is a successful tender.

Budget Cuts by Department of Education

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it true that the Department of Education has instituted across-the-board budget cuts of \$140,000 a month and, if so, why?

ANSWER

The answer to the first part of the question, to the best of my knowledge, is no and, therefore, the second part is not applicable.

Department of Transport and Works Contractors

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What mechanisms have recently been devised within the Department of Transport and Works by which the management can be informed of the performance of contractors?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide the member with that information. However, I will give an undertaking to provide her with that information during these sittings.

Langton Road, Howard Springs

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that damage has recently occurred in Langton Road in the Howard Springs area which is preventing a local resident access to her driveway? Would he indicate whether his department is rectifying the situation?

ANSWER

I am aware that a large haulage truck was bogged in Langton Road a couple of weeks ago and a particular resident's driveway has been made inaccessible. The department has only just found out about it and will be making attempts to repair the road in that area. At the same time, if possible, it will repair the lady's driveway.

Ports in NT

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise if a section of his department has been established to control and manage ports other than the Port of Darwin subsequent upon the passing of the bill before the Assembly and, if so, what level of expertise exists within that section?

ANSWER

The short answer is no.

Cryptostegia Grandiflora and Calitropis Procera

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Could he provide the Assembly with details of the proposed plantations of cryptostegia grandiflora and calitropis procera that received some publicity recently?

ANSWER

I do not have the information in front of me at this stage. Certainly, we are very interested in this embryo suggestion by the company Bio-Energy. I will let him have the information during these sittings.

Fishing Incentives

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What plans does he have to ensure that incentives for fishing in northern waters benefits Darwin and the Northern Territory rather than southern interests?

ANSWER

Every opportunity is being given to fishermen to diversify away from traditional fishing such as barramundi fishing. That is the reason for the projects that have been undertaken by the government in relation to mackerel fishing and shark fishing. I believe that it is a reasonable incentive in the short term to try to divert some of the fishing efforts in that direction.

Alice Springs Bus Service

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he undertake to resurvey the people of Alice Springs on the need for a town bus service in the near future? If so, will he undertake to seek advice from interested local Assembly members on the methods of the survey?

ANSWER

The last survey on the need for a bus service in the Alice Springs area was carried out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Apparently, the timing of the survey was not a good one. I give the honourable member an undertaking that I will review the matter and, if another survey is to be carried out shortly, I will try to involve members of the Assembly as much as possible in that survey.

Vesteys Beach Marina

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he give an undertaking that public comment will be obtained, particularly from nearby residents, before the proposals of the Vesteys Beach marina study are implemented?

ANSWER

I understand the model will be placed on display. After a couple of weeks, I intend to attempt to obtain Cabinet approval at least to put the application for a marina on display. I believe that members of the public will be invited to make comment on the proposal.

Appeals against Disciplinary Actions in CTS

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many disciplinary actions in the Commonwealth Teaching Service relating to Territory-based officers have been heard by Appeals Boards since the inception of the CTS in 1974?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, 2.

Collia Tin Mine

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Could he advise the Assembly if there has been a satisfactory resolution of the dispute over the ownership and operation of the Collia Tin Mine and, if so, what was it?

ANSWER

I think it might be prudent if I take that question on notice and provide the member with an answer in writing. There have been some recent developments about which I wrote to the Leader of the Opposition in the last fortnight. I do not know if any further action has taken place that would enlighten the member but I will find out and let him know in a letter.

Telecom Services to Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is he doing in his role as chief liaison minister with the federal government to ensure that Telecom make available adequate services to private people and small businesses in the rural area as I understand that somebody put in an application to have a telephone installed in 1974 and he is still waiting?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government maintains continual pressure on the federal government for the upgrading of communications, including telephone services in the Northern Territory. I am extremely disappointed to hear that someone in the rural area has been waiting since before the cyclone for the connection of a telephone service. If the member will let me have details of the matter in writing, I will certainly undertake to take the matter up with the federal Minister for Communications.

Attendance at Kormilda College by Former Dhupuma College Students

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does he have any idea of the number of children attending Kormila College who would have formerly attended Dhupuma College?

ANSWER

I could probably find the information. I will certainly be happy to provide it to him at a later date.

Scoliosis Problem with Schoolchildren

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware of the recent publicity given to the problem of schoolchildren regularly carrying handheld school cases and suffering the spinal problem known as scoliosis? As the publicity is supported by the AMA could he investigate this and, if true, warn schools of the danger?

ANSWER

I thank the member for the question. I undertake to take this matter up with my colleague, the Minister for Health, and have the matter properly investigated.

Former Community Health Clinic in Peel Street

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will the decision as to the use of the former Community Health Clinic in Peel Street be announced?

ANSWER

I cannot answer the question and I am not sure that the allocation of such a building is within the realm of my responsibility. I think that most government assets that are vacated normally are the province of the Department of Transport and Works to reallocate.

Hybrid Solar-Generating Unit from WA

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Could he advise the Assembly where the hybrid solar-generating unit from Western Australia is at the moment and how it is being used? Could he also provide the Assembly with some details of the solar ponds project at Alice Springs which is being conducted by Australia Solar Ponds Pty Ltd?

ANSWER

In all fairness, these are questions that I think the member could either give me a little more notice of or perhaps ask me on notice. On this occasion, I would ask him to place it on notice.

Former Community Health Clinic in Peel Street

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I redirect my question to the Minister for Transport and Works. When will the decision as to the future use of the former Community Health Clinic in Peel Street be announced?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer the question fully. At the moment, the Corporation of the City of Darwin has a proposal to erect a carpark and other accommodation on adjoining blocks and the application to the Department of Transport and Works includes the development of the Peel Street Clinic. The council has indicated that, if it was successful in obtaining that land, it would make sure that facilities were available for a creche or other particular amenities that the public might require. Its particular application is under consideration at the moment and, until such time as negotiations have been carried out, I am unable to provide the member with that answer.

Adoption of Children in NT

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Association of Adoptive Parents for the Territory has been active in lobbying members of this Assembly. Is he considering introducing amendments to the Adoption of Children Act to enable the establishment of private agencies which will be able to arrange and facilitate adoptions?

ANSWER

The question of inter-country adoption is quite topical at the present time - which is commendable - as a result of the activities of a number of people who formed an association and are pressing the point that governments all over Australia should be better equipped to handle applications for inter-country

adoptions. The Department of Community Development is looking into the question fairly closely. Next week, I will be discussing the subject with South Australian officials - and South Australia is regarded as the foremost state in Australia on the question of inter-country adoptions - to determine exactly the procedures and learn of the trials and tribulations and mistakes they may have made. At present, I cannot confirm that legislative changes are necessary to establish private adoption agencies in the Territory. However, if this is seen to be a course of action that is required, the government would certainly have no objection at all and would move to facilitate that situation. We have the matter under review at present and will take the action necessary to ensure that inter-country adoptions can be arranged by people within the Territory.

Demountables from Darwin Hospital

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Following the allocation of demountables from the old Darwin Hospital site, can he indicate when it is likely that these demountables will be moved from the site?

ANSWER

The organisations that have been allocated these demountables have not moved them because of the heavy rains. The walkway has been given to the Handicapped Persons Association and, until this is removed, the other organisations cannot take the demountables away. However, I will follow this matter up. I know that they must be moved pretty soon.

Private Hospital for Darwin

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it true, as was claimed recently, that the minister failed to acknowledge Mr Pellerman's submission on the establishment of a private hospital in Darwin?

ANSWER

The submission by Mr Pellerman was lodged under another name with the department and subsequently placed before the Tender Board. I will have to investigate the sequence of correspondence relating to that particular lodgement and acknowledgement. Until the matter has been disposed of, there will be probably very little correspondence over the issue.

Demountables from Darwin Hospital

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that the demountables cannot be moved until the walkway is moved and the walkway cannot be moved because it is attached to the fire alarm system? Every time an attempt is made to move it, the alarms go off. Would he undertake to see that these small things are rectified so that the whole matter can be rationalised?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will give the honourable member that undertaking. Next week, I will certainly be pushing to ensure that work is started on removing those demountables.

Taxis for Handicapped Children

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the government's position on the use of taxis for transporting handicapped children?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will seek the information for the honourable member.

Government Printing Office Assets Register

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the compilation of a register of all the assets of the Government Printing Office been completed?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place that question on notice.

BA Degree at Darwin Community College

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could the minister provide the Assembly with some authoritative details of the problems relating to the accreditation of the BA degree of the Darwin Community College? Is it true, as the students have claimed, that the accreditation was not granted to the college because of the impending Northern Territory university?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I certainly attach absolutely no credence whatsoever to the story that accreditation was denied because of the impending university. The panel set up by the Territory's accreditation committee is an independent body; it has its own mind and I certainly cannot speak for that. I would be extremely annoyed if such consideration ever entered into the thinking of an accreditation committee. Its task is to assess the ability of an institution other than the university to run degree level courses. I would have assumed, and I still assume, that that is the sole criterion upon which the judgment was made.

The contents of the report would be known to the member who asked the question. They were based principally upon the breadth and depth of the course. The committee indicated that it was not satisfied with the vocational strength of the course rather than any dissatisfaction with the academic strength of the course. I think that in the philosophy aspects of the BA course, there was considerable satisfaction. However, it occurred to the independent committee that I have just referred to that there ought to be a very strong vocational stream included. The other references were to the number of lecturers and the standard and experience of those lecturers. No disparaging comments were made in respect to the ability of the lecturers. I do not think it was being critical of the standard of lecturers in the advanced sector of the Darwin Community College, only the experience in conducting BA-type courses.

If the member wishes, I could make a statement on that matter, but that would probably muddy the water more than it would achieve anything. For my part, I am very anxious to see a Bachelor of Arts course commence at the Darwin Community College. That has nothing to do with the imminent university. The course can be transferred. I think it is very useful that colleges for advanced education are placed under this sort of scrutiny. I do not really know what else I can add to the matter. I am quite anxious to see the course commenced. I am aware, as the member for Arnhem is aware, that the Tertiary Education Commission had indicated that it would not make out-of-training funding available for a Bachelor of Education course at the Darwin Community College. It is possible that, too, was in the mind of the panel which made the assessment. I will certainly be seeking from the Tertiary Education Commission funding for the Bachelor of Arts course for the Darwin Community College in the next triennium.

Applications for Buildings at Dhupuma College

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Department of Education received any applications for buildings at Dhupuma College from community organisations and, if so, what has been its reaction?

ANSWER

The present position so far as facilities go is that 3 houses and 2 accommodation demountables are planned to be removed to Nhulunbuy and 4 classrooms to Yirkkala. The Department of Transport and Works has that matter in hand. I understand there are a number of applications for some remaining buildings. I am not sure as to what the status of those applications are. That would be a matter normally between the applicant and the department. Certainly, I can have the matter investigated and inform the member later.

Exploration Licences for Arnhem Land

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

How many applications for exploration licences are there for the area normally known as Arnhem Land and how does the minister intend to have the applications processed?

ANSWER

There are 273 mining tenements, including exploration licences, involved in the area that covers Arnhem Land and some areas of the national park on this side of Arnhem Land. Some of these titles and their applications go back to 1969 and have not been processed for a variety of reasons. The department has set up a committee to reopen all of these files and I believe that it has approached all applicants and asked them whether they wish to continue with their application. The department, in consultation with the Northern Land Council, who we hope will consult with the traditional owners, will provide a mechanism for the applications to be processed in due course. I think it is fair to say that what we are trying to do is break new ground. The process will evolve rather than be devolved. As developments occur in this area, I will be pleased to advise the member who has an electoral interest in the progress that is made.

Housing Development Near Ludmilla Creek

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he confirm that a proposal for canal housing development near Ludmilla Creek is being examined by his department?

ANSWER

I am unable to make any such confirmation. I know nothing of it. I will have the matter investigated.

Recreation Lake in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the current position regarding negotiations with the Central Land Council on the proposed recreation lake above the telegraph station in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The state of the negotiations with the Central Land Council are, I understand, still as they were when this question was last asked of me at the last sittings last year. The Central Land Council is opposed to the construction of the lake at Alice Springs on the site above the telegraph station in the Todd River catchment area on the basis that there is a sacred site in the area. Negotiations are continuing.

Morgan Gallup Poll - Department of Mines and Energy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will he make available the results of those parts of the recent Morgan Gallup poll for which the people of the Northern Territory paid?

ANSWER

At this stage, the short answer is no.

Age of Consent

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

On Wednesday 25 February, the Australian had a report on its front page stating that the age of consent in the Northern Territory is 13 years. What is the age of consent?

ANSWER

The member for Alice Springs is quite right to draw attention to that article because, like many other things that appear in the media, it is inaccurate. Indeed, I can remember a headline only this week which said, 'Fresh doubt on rail link'. If that is not a misleading headline, I do not know what constitutes a misleading headline. A most unreasonable article sought to draw the federal Minister for Transport on what passenger services will be provided 8 years hence. This is incredible journalism. The age of consent in the Northern Territory is 17 and not 13 as reported. That is laid down by section 3 of the Children's Protection Act. The inaccurate reporting probably arose as a result of confusing the age of consent with the different penalties and offences prescribed for the offence of unlawful carnal knowledge depending on the age of the girl. Section 63 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act creates an absolute offence of having carnal knowledge of a girl under 12 and imposes a penalty of life imprisonment. Section 65 creates a similar offence with respect to girls about 12 but under 13 and imposes a maximum penalty of 7 years. Section 4 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Amendment Act deals with cases where the girl is over 13 and under 17 for which the penalty is now 2 years. This subject will be dealt with at length in the draft Criminal Code which I hope to table later today.

Education Regulations

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will the regulations to the Education Act be promulgated?

ANSWER

The regulations will be promulgated immediately the incoming Commissioner of the Teaching Service has a chance to cast an eye over them. I realise that schools and the public generally should have been entitled to an earlier promulgation. Nonetheless, as I previously indicated, there will be no hiatus or disruptive effect by not promulgating regulations under the Northern Territory Education Act for the simple reason that savings clauses were inserted in that act to continue those of the Commonwealth Teaching Service. Of course, as we have had a Commonwealth Teaching Service, those regulations would be consistent with it.

Fire Station in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has land at the 19-mile adjacent to the 19-mile pumping station, the police station block and Fred's Pass Reserve actually been set aside for the building of the fire station and, if not, why not, in view of the continued urgent need in the rural area for fire services actually stationed in the area?

ANSWER

There are 2 lots in that area set aside for public purposes. Block 1727 Hundred of Strangways has been set aside on the public plan as a police station and the lot adjoining, 19726, has been set aside for the purpose of a future fire station. I might point out that I would not want the member for Tiwi to assume automatically that that means that a fire station and police station will

be built on those locations. Nonetheless, for planning purposes, land has been set aside for that function. As members would be aware, the actual construction of the police station and fire station in those locations is subject to normal Cabinet consideration of capital works and to future studies as to the need for such facilities.

Land-brokers in NT

Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the government decided to introduce a system of land-broking in the Northern Territory similar to the one existing in South Australia?

ANSWER

The government has the transferring of interests in real property actively under review. As Attorney-General, I obviously have responsibility under the Real Property Act for any potential amendment which could permit land-brokers to carry on business in the Northern Territory. There are problems which at first may not occur to members. Could I indicate at the outset that, philosophically, I have no objection to land-brokers carrying on conveyancing work at all. In fact, in Queensland, until fairly recently, there was a professional designation, conveyancer, which approximates that of land-broker. Conveyancers did about half of the law course and practised simply as people who handled transfers of land, leases and or other commercial documents of that nature. I believe it is a very useful occupation. If benefits can be won for people in that way and by way of the reduction of costs of transfer of land, the government should do all it can to see that these benefits are received by people.

The problem is that, once we agree that land-brokers can commence to practise in the Northern Territory, there is an implied responsibility on the government to establish a course for land-brokers to be trained, and obviously set up the machinery to administer the system to see that the land-brokers who commence to carry on business in the Northern Territory are reputable, take out insurance and all the rest of it. At present, it appears to me that the costs of doing all that, which would approximate \$0.25m per year to the taxpayer, would outweigh the advantages gained by those people saving costs in transferring land. You would have to do a lot of cheaper transfers to save \$0.25m per year.

I have had a meeting with members of the Law Society and told it that I believe that it should especially look at its scale of fees in relation to transfers between people who are buying their first home and also generally at the domestic transaction market. I believe that the Law Society will look at the question seriously and I would hope that we can look to some announcements from the Law Society in the course of the next month or so. I might indicate, in all fairness to the Law Society, that it believes that its costs are justified. I referred the matter to a chartered accountant last year who went into the matter in great detail and gestated upon the problems for about 4 months and finally delivered a report which said that the level of costs are in fact justified due to the level of work and responsibility involved. Nevertheless, the fact is that the people believe that conveyancing costs are a rip-off. I believe that, because the Law Society has a monopoly on the area, the government must scrutinise the activities of the legal profession and must put to the lawyers what people believe whether it is right or wrong. If lawyers want to keep their monopoly of the area, they have to take into account what people believe.

Offensive Cooking Odours from Alice Springs Abattoir

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

My question concerns the Alice Springs Abattoir and the offensive cooking odours arising from that operation. Can the minister advise what advice he has

received from his department concerning the problem and what action, if any, will be taken by the owners of the abattoir to alleviate the problem?

ANSWER

The Alice Springs abattoir is not solely a matter for the Department of Primary Production. My department is party to an inter-departmental working committee which met in November last year. I understand that it has made recommendations to my colleague, the Minister for Lands and Housing, that he endorse a policy of relocating the abattoir to a noxious industry area in the long term. In the short term, the abattoir should be offered short-term tenure over additional land for effluent, paunch and carcase disposal management provided that detailed stringent conditions for overcoming the problems were met.

It seems to me that we have sung this song before. I recall, when I first worked for the Animal Industry Branch in Alice Springs, that there was an abattoir down at the Gap. With succeeding town planners, the abattoir was then moved further out of town where it was supposed that the urban sprawl would never catch up. If we have another change of town planners over the next 5 years, the population will have overcrowded this abattoir and be half-way onto the next one. I think it is something that should be dealt with in another way. The cost of relocation of an abattoir would seem to be in the order of some \$15m. I do not know whether this government will come to grips with that sort of a financial problem.

My department tells me that the problem of odour can be largely overcome by the installation of condensers and incinerators for non-condensable gases. We should note at this stage that there is no legislation to force the abattoir to carry out procedures to overcome the odours which both the Department of Health and my department have identified. It has been identified as cooking smells associated with the treatment of tallow and meat-meal which do not represent a health hazard.

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Northern Territory government recently asked the Australian government to amend the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act to prevent any further applications for conversion of pastoral leases in the Northern Territory to Aboriginal land?

ANSWER

The statement by the Leader of the Opposition is absolutely correct. The Northern Territory government has recently, amongst other matters, raised with the federal government the possibility of an amendment to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act to preclude further conversion of pastoral tenure, or tenure of that nature - Crown leasehold tenure - to unalienable Aboriginal freehold. This application for amendment is entirely consistent with the policies that the government has maintained during the past 3 years; that is, of opposition to the conversion of leases to unalienable freehold. We believe the administration of the pastoral industry is dependent upon the land on which pastoralists operate continuing to remain Crown leasehold. I understand my colleague, the Minister for Lands and Housing, will be tabling today, with a few short remarks, the report of the Martin Committee of Inquiry on Pastoral Land Tenure. I do not think it is anticipating things very much to say that the Martin Committee recommends the continuance of Crown leasehold tenure.

Upgrading Schools in Port Darwin Electorate

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is his department considering any major additions or upgrading to the government schools which exist in my electorate? Those schools are Darwin Pre-school and Primary School and the Larrakeyah Pre-school and Primary School.

ANSWER

The best I can say in the present circumstances is that we are running a ruler over those schools as to their needs. The question has previously been raised by the member for Port Darwin, as is his right. The people of his electorate are well served by the pressure he brings to bear on the government to upgrade those schools. Nonetheless, we have to have cognizance of the population patterns in the Northern Territory and the necessity without any doubt to provide schools for children who have no schools at the moment. There is a limit to the amount of capital funds available to any government. Its primary responsibility is to provide places for children who have none and teachers for children who have no teachers. That is the fundamental responsibility. Certainly, we also have a secondary responsibility to maintain the standards of school buildings as capital funds allow.

Concession Scheme for Superannuants

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Can he indicate whether his government will be introducing a scheme, similar to the pensioner concession scheme, for superannuants?

ANSWER

It is still the government's intention to introduce such a scheme. I have mentioned before in this Assembly that the administration of such a scheme is proving very difficult because of the enormous variety and complexity of various superannuation schemes. It seems that we may have to withdraw to a system whereby an ad hoc approval of individual cases is applied on almost a means test basis because a number of superannuants are very well looked after by their superannuation schemes. There is a difficulty in assessing and checking the validity of some of the information that is provided by various applicants. The various superannuation schemes are structured in such a way that information concerning the payments and entitlements to members is quite confidential, and so it should be. In any area where the government is administering taxpayers' funds on a basis of subsidy or assistance, we must check carefully the validity of matters put before us. The scheme is still intended for implementation but it has not been implemented to date because of the difficulties in assessing the requirements for applicants.

Department of Mines and Energy - Officer's Overseas Visit

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he confirm whether an officer of the Department of Mines and Energy recently visited South Africa on departmental business and, if so, what was the reason for his visit?

ANSWER

I cannot confirm what the member asks. I know of one man who went there over Christmas on holidays. I do not have any knowledge of that gentleman carrying out departmental business. I will inquire and advise the honourable member. It is quite possible that someone has visited South Africa. I would regard South Africa as probably the area in the world today that has the most

potential for the Northern Territory to recruit officers, particularly in the mining, engineering and geological fields. If someone from the department has gone, I will let the member know in the course of time.

Education Department Staffing

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

The statement that 1,800 persons occupy office positions in the Northern Territory Education Department has never been refuted in the press. Will he undertake to inform the public, through the press, of the structure of the Department of Education and the number of officers and employees in each division?

ANSWER

The statement that the honourable member has just referred to is so absolutely absurd and stupid that one wonders if it really deserves answering in any form. Nonetheless, it has been asked here in the Assembly so I will give the information. The member refers to a February article in the Northern Territory Teachers Federation Newsletter, again by a ex-Commonwealth Teaching Service person. It seems that when we flee we can invent. His article was a complete fabrication and invention. The fact is that there are in the whole of the delivery system of education in the Northern Territory, excluding the Darwin Community College, 3,021 personnel. Of those, 1,646 are CTS staff in schools, 910 are NTPS staff in schools and TAFE institutions, that is assistant teachers and ancillary staff, giving a total of 2,556. Head office staff comprises 465, which includes 149 CTS and 316 NTPS. Many of those 149 CTS personnel listed against head office staff are in professional services and curriculum development and therefore their primary responsibility is school-based in any event. Far from the figure given by the gentleman referred to and his percentages, the fact is that, of a total of 3,021 staff, 82% are school based.

Stuart Highway Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise when the Stuart Highway between Heavitree Gap and Alice Springs will be upgraded and widened?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide the honourable member with that information. However, I will provide it to him at a later date.

Imported Fruit and Vegetables

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

I have been advised that each state and the Northern Territory has an arrangement with regard to export quality control. I know that the Northern Territory has quite a high standard in regard to health, packaging etc. Would the minister take some steps to ensure that a reciprocal courtesy is extended to the Northern Territory by other states, South Australia in particular, to ensure that residents of the Territory are not forced to buy fresh fruit and vegetables in varying stages of rot at times and virtually unfit for human consumption, as well as at exorbitant prices, and could the minister institute an investigation into the possibility of having all fresh fruit and vegetables brought to central points for inspection before distribution to the public?

ANSWER

I think the honourable member raises a reasonable proposition. I do not

know what the cost would be. The government is keen to see proper export and import quality control. Indeed, you will find that in the legislation about to be introduced dealing with eggs. It is something that the government can examine and I will let the honourable member know later.

Housing Commission Accommodation for Industry

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it consistent with Housing Commission policy that private business be allowed to rent much-needed accommodation for business purposes? This happens in Nhulunbuy.

ANSWER

People in private business have to live under a roof, the same as anyone else. There has been a long-standing policy of this government and the Commonwealth government of any persuasion when it has administered the Northern Territory Housing Commission to provide industrial housing. Industrial housing is carefully considered by a special panel of the Housing Commission which advises the minister as to the eligibility or desirability of any out-of-turn industrial housing assistance. The general philosophy is that it has to be housing for a unique or new industry of significant benefit to the Northern Territory, not simply because a firm wants a house for another manager. Because of the housing position, we would only approve about 1 in 10 applications but, occasionally, the government considers that it is essential for the development of the Northern Territory that a particular member of private industry be housed in a particular location.

Housing Commission Accommodation for Industry

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I repeat my question for the benefit of the minister. Is it consistent with Housing Commission policy that private business be allowed to rent much-needed accommodation for business purposes, not accommodation purposes, as happens in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

The member has finally decided to speak up so that we can hear his question. He ought to try and sit over here. Mr Speaker, the answer is no.

Indo-Pacific Marine

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has a decision been reached on the allocation of land for the Indo-Pacific Marine aquarium?

ANSWER

I would think the answer to that question is yes. To follow that up, really there is very little we can do to assist Indo-Pacific Marine in a new location. The government has agonised over the fate of Indo-Pacific Marine for some time. It recognises the educational, cultural and interest aspects of Indo-Pacific Marine. If we could really come to grips with the problem, then there would be no desire greater in the mind of this government. A proposition has been put to Indo-Pacific Marine to liaise with the Museums and Art Galleries Board, having regard to its new premises, as to the possibility of a joint venture. We do not want to see the display and the work done by that organisation lost. Nonetheless, it is the type of business which has a very questionable viability. We have a responsibility, particularly in terms of Territory Development

Corporation loans - and I am getting into someone else's paddock now - to ensure that the taxpayers' money is wisely spent on a viable proposition. The position at the moment is that negotiations are going on between Indo-Pacific Marine and the Museums and Art Galleries Board. Hopefully, a successful conclusion can be reached. There may be other ministers who can provide more accurate information than that.

Railway Line Through Darwin

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

There have been reports that, when the railway line eventually reaches Darwin, the route into Darwin will vary considerably from the existing railway reserve. Is the Chief Minister able to inform me if these reports are correct?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer the question. I do not believe that any answer will be able to be given on this for some time yet. I understand the planning and survey is to commence fairly soon, if it has not already commenced, as to the route of the proposed railway line. I seem to recall that the survey will be completed by 1982 or 1983. I am sure that the Commonwealth government will display the proposed route of the railway line to the citizens of the various towns along the track as indeed they have recently set up quite a reasonable display of the proposed new Darwin Airport terminal.

Handbook on Education Act

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When the regulations for the Education Act are promulgated, will he arrange for the publication of a handbook for parents on school councils detailing the relevant sections of the act and regulations and outlining their duties and responsibilities?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for the suggestion. The answer is yes.

Bylaws for Alice Springs Council

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise what stage has been reached with the provision of bylaws for the Alice Springs council?

ANSWER

I have long advocated in this Assembly and outside that the Alice Springs council has the opportunity now, and has had since its inception, of adopting bylaws. However, it seems to persist with the view that it has not and the government some time ago agreed that, on behalf of all corporations in the Territory, it would produce a set of model bylaws which corporations could adopt by resolution if they so wished. It would assist them to the extent that they would not have to engage counsellors to draft bylaws for themselves. Hopefully, the bylaws drawn up by the government would be very thoroughly researched and certainly within power.

At present, 6 model bylaws have been submitted to councils for comment. I point out that, for a model bylaw to be established by the government for use of local government, it really has to be a model bylaw that is acceptable to all councils in the Territory. Those that have been submitted to date are on the subjects of inflammable grasses and weeds, verandahs and awnings, dangerous and dilapidated buildings, swimming pools, pounds and impounding, and dead and

diseased animals. Preliminary drafts have been prepared for 2 others: the use and maintenance of premises and conduct on roads and public places. Drafting instructions are now being prepared for traffic and parking, public reserves, advertising signs and hoardings, meeting procedures in administration, public convenience and the keeping of animals. Proposals to amend the Local Government Act to provide procedures for the adoption of model bylaws for councils are now being developed and, when such provision is made and the draft is finalised, model bylaws will be placed before the Assembly.

I repeat my earlier comment that, whilst we are working with available drafting resources to complete a total set of model bylaws for local government, the option is still available at any time, in my opinion, for the Alice Springs council to follow the steps of the Darwin city council and adopt bylaws under existing procedures if it so wishes.

Public Display of Proposed Development of Carpentaria College

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he indicate whether the proposed development of Carpentaria College will be placed on public display for public comment and objections?

ANSWER

I indicated yesterday that I would check with the chairman of the authority. I did speak to the chairman of the authority yesterday but I completely forgot to raise this matter with him. I apologise to the honourable member. As I indicated yesterday, I personally have absolutely no objection to that whatsoever. It depends on what the judgment of the chairman of the authority might be having regard to the wording of the act. It is not a rezoning; it is merely a development proposal. Translating that to the proposal appropriately zoned for a multi-storey international hotel, one would think that the public has a right to see what that is all about. One would also think that it has that right in the case of the proposed Greek community development. I do apologise once again to the member. I will certainly try to get back this afternoon with an answer.

Katherine Planning Authority Membership

Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

On behalf of the member for Elsey, can he advise when a replacement for Alderman D.A. Collins will be appointed to the Katherine Planning Authority?

ANSWER

The appointment of a replacement for Alderman Collins comes under that section of the Planning Act which requires the local council to submit a panel of names to the minister, out of which the minister shall select one. I understand that I have received 3 names from the Corporation of the Municipality of Katherine. I will be making an announcement, hopefully, tomorrow morning as to which of those persons will join the authority.

Mercury Testing on Sharks

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

With regard to the present research being carried out into fisheries in the Northern Territory, will he make public the results of mercury testing on sharks?

ANSWER

Yes.

Takeover of Mount Wells Battery

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Have arrangements for the takeover of the Mount Wells Battery been finalised and, if so, what is the name of the successful firm?

ANSWER

I can advise the member that the Tender Board has considered the tender for the Mount Wells Battery and it has accepted the recommendation that the tender be proceeded with. In all honesty, I cannot tell you the name of the firm off the top of my head but I can advise members that the requirements that the government has that related to the tenderer have been met and that there are some fairly important negotiations to go on between the government and the company before the thing can be finalised. The government was asking for a security of some \$200,000 to \$300,000 that would be payable in advance before the company took over and, if that company defaulted or closed the battery within a period of 3 years, it would lose that deposit. The company has reasonably asked that consideration be given to a force majeure on that commitment. The government also requested that the company buy 1,250 tonnes per annum of ore from gougers in the area which is the current level of crushing in the battery. The company has agreed to do that.

There are some other matters to be finalised relating to the tender such as the security and the tenure over the land on which the Mount Wells Battery sits. I cannot advise the member of the details there but, when the announcement is made, those points will be covered.

Subsidy on Youth Centre Capital Works

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Can he inform the Assembly of the current position of the proposed 3 to 1 subsidy on youth centre capital works?

ANSWER

Guidelines are currently being prepared by the Department of Community Development and, when those guidelines are forwarded to me, I will make an appraisal and refer them to Cabinet for consideration.

Hot Water Sources for Geothermal Power

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has consideration been given to the possibility of using hot water sources in the NT to supply geothermal power?

ANSWER

The government has received a proposal from an Australian firm which is interested in investigating and identifying geothermal resources in Australia. It has asked the government for rights within the Northern Territory for geothermal exploration where the resource could possibly be harnessed to provide heating or power. I believe that, in places like California and New Zealand, geothermal energy is very much an accepted part of the life. It is a very economic way of providing energy and power.

The government is keen to see the development of any such resource. We do have to develop the framework where the explorer or the developer could proceed without prejudicing the rights, titles and exploration rights of other groups. It would seem pretty easy on the surface to give a person or a group a right to explore for geothermal resources but there are already large areas

in the Territory that are taken up with oil and mineral exploration rights. It is important that the holders of those rights are not prejudiced by any action of the new proponents. I would hope that, by June or July, we will have worked out a practical method of allowing the proponents to get on with their exploration in the Northern Territory if that is possible.

Translation Facilities at Casuarina Hospital

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has there been any recent expansion of the Aboriginal liaison service provided at Casuarina Hospital and what translation facilities are generally available there for all patients?

ANSWER

I presume the honourable member is referring to a statement made by the federal Minister for Health, Mr MacKellar, who announced the program of providing funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis with the Northern Territory Department of Health for the provision of 2 translators in our hospitals in Alice Springs and Darwin. A case was put to me about 12 months ago by the boards of both hospitals that there was a very urgent need, particularly in the outpatients area, to provide a translation service, particularly for Aboriginals who come to Outpatients and are in hospital and have difficulty in communicating with the medical staff. The provision of this service from within our own resources was not possible. I put it to the federal minister that if he was prepared to fund the program, we be able to contribute something towards it. The honourable member has asked which languages are catered for. I cannot honestly answer that but I am prepared to obtain information for him.

I might also add that the department is about to circulate to all members of the Assembly pamphlets for many cultures concerning the services that are provided by the Department of Health throughout the Northern Territory. This results from a suggestion by a member on the other side of the Assembly. If honourable members can see a way of improving the department's efforts in this regard, I am sure it would be happy to follow it up and provide the best possible service to the public.

Crocodile Farm

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it true that there are many more crocodiles at the Humpty Doo crocodile farm than are officially accounted for? What is the Northern Territory Conservation Commission doing to redress this situation?

ANSWER

I am indebted to the honourable member for Arnhem for this question. Regrettably, I do not want to say a great deal about the matter in the Assembly because I have instructed the Director of Conservation to refer the whole matter to the Crown Solicitor for a legal opinion as to whether prosecution action should be taken against the proprietors of the crocodile farm at Humpty Doo. On the information I have available, there are fewer crocodiles than there should be at the Humpty Doo crocodile farm. I do not want to say more about it although I will tell the member for Arnhem and anyone else who wants to listen, the whole story outside the Assembly where it will not get into the press and prejudice the case.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 18 November 1980

Collia Tin Mine

6 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

As a number of people have lost their savings in the Collia tin mine affair,

- (a) what detailed action has been taken by the Department of Mines to settle the matter;
- (b) how much money has been lost by people involved;
- (c) how much did Mr Ken Day receive for the tin he mined from Collia;
- (d) why has he not explained in the Legislative Assembly what action the government has taken;
- (e) did the Department of Law recommend that anybody be charged over the affair and, if so, why was not that recommended action proceeded with;
- (f) was the government's lack of action coloured by the fact that Mr Day was once the head of the Progress Party, whose votes had helped the Country Liberal Party;
- (g) what is now being done about the matter; and
- (h) are police trying to contact the previous leaseholder who disappeared and, if so, do they know in which state he is residing?

Public Housing - Out-of-turn Allocations

9 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

From August 1, 1979 to August 1980,

1. How many applications for out-of-turn allocation of public housing have been (a) received, (b) accepted, and (c) rejected?
2. How many applicants whose applications were (a) accepted, or (b) rejected were in receipt of (i) supporting parent's benefit, (ii) unemployment benefit, (iii) other pensions, (iv) one-income families?
3. How many applicants for out-of-turn accommodation were living in (a) caravans, (b) tents, (c) share accommodation, (d) hostels, or were (e) homeless?
4. What steps have been taken by the Housing Commission to assist those in need of accommodation who were rejected for out-of-turn accommodation?
5. If applicants were referred to other community organisations, to whom were they referred?
6. How many applicants were found accommodation directly by efforts of the Housing Commission?

Government Assistance for Tradesmen to Visit Remote Areas

44 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What assistance will the government provide to enable electrical, plumbing and building tradesmen and inspectors to visit remote centres such as Borroloola to assist home owners?

Alice Springs - Traffic and Railway

74 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How many vehicles use the level crossing daily at the Larapinta Drive-Telegraph Terrace intersection in Alice Springs?
2. Is it true that a set of traffic lights will be installed at the intersection and crossing?
3. In the matter of arrangements being made for the Alice Springs to Darwin standard gauge railway planning, what decision-making powers are held by (a) the NT government, (b) the Alice Springs municipality, and (c) the Australian National Railways Commission?
4. In the event of a dispute over the location of the railway line, is it true that the Alice Springs municipality can be overruled by the ANR?
5. Will he supply a list, including (a) dates, (b) names of participants, and (c) the agenda of meetings which have been held between the ANR and his department during the past 2 years and, if not, why not?

Operational Grant Subsidies Scheme

79 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which organisations are funded under the Operational Grant Subsidies Scheme?
2. Does he intend to increase the number of organisations able to receive funding on a 3 years basis, to allow more effective functioning?
3. How much has been allocated to the Government Concession Scheme for 1980-81, and in which financial allocation is it included?
4. Will he provide a complete itemisation of the financial allocation for 1980-81 of \$1,071,558 in the grants and subsidies section?

Sadadeen Subdivision

81 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. To what extent has the government developed Sadadeen lots to the turn-off stage?
2. Since private developers were originally invited to register an interest in Sadadeen development only 3 months ago, and since the successful tenderer was named only this month, when does the developer expect to have all lots to the turn-off stage?
3. At what price will the government buy the developed blocks?
4. Was an undertaking to use local labour and materials a factor in the successful tender by the company chosen by the government to develop Sadadeen?
5. Has the government studied the cost-effectiveness of maintaining the role of departments such as the Department of Transport and Works in developing residential subdivisions?

Department of Community Development - Advertisement in NT News

82 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to an advertisement in the November 4 edition of the NT News placed by the Department of Community Development calling for a person to carry

out a program entitled 'Survey of Aboriginal Communal Camping and Residential Facilities in Urban Areas', and ask -

1. How many people applied for the position?
2. Has the position been filled and, if so, (a) who has filled the position, (b) has the successful applicant commenced work on the program, and (c) what is the nature of the work currently being undertaken?

From 24 February 1981

NT Pensioners Concession Scheme

87 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Under the NT Pensioners Concession Scheme, how many persons received assistance in the categories of council and land rates?

Alice Springs Golf Club

97 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that the Alice Springs Golf Club is planning to develop its leased land in Alice Springs as a luxury housing and sporting estate?
2. If so, has this proposal been brought to the notice of the minister and the NT Planning Authority?
3. Does the government intend to permit development of leased land by sporting bodies, such as the Alice Springs Golf Club, as luxury housing and sporting estates?

Department of Community Development Grants-in-Aid

104 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which community groups made application to the Department of Community Development for Grants-in-Aid for the year 1980-81?
2. How much did each group request?
3. How much was granted to each of the applicants?

Minister for Mines and Energy - Air Charter Travel 1979-80

111 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many trips were undertaken by Hon. I.L. Tuxworth within the Northern Territory by way of air charter travel at government expense for the financial year 1979-80?
2. For each individual trip undertaken, what was (a) the date, (b) the cost, (c) the purpose, and (d) the name of the charter company used?

Robinson River Station

114 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware of the recent purchase of Robinson River Station by an Aboriginal organisation?
2. Is any statutory period set by either the Northern Territory or the Commonwealth government before a pastoral lease purchased by an

Aboriginal organisation may be classified as Aboriginal land?

3. Have any Aboriginal organisations applied to convert pastoral leases to Aboriginal land?

Schoolchildren - Indemnity Forms

124 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are pupils in NT schools required to obtain signed indemnity forms before engaging in school activities such as swimming lessons, excursions and sports outside school grounds?

Eley and Hodgson Downs Pastoral Leases

126 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What efforts are being made to have land excised from Eley and Hodgson Downs pastoral leases for use as community areas for Aborigines?
2. Is the government's failure to obtain such excisions frustrating provision of essential services such as septic systems, power supplies, airstrips and housing?

Hermannsburg Mission

129 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the allegation by Mr Charles Perkins that the Lutheran Church is exploiting Aborigines at Hermannsburg?
2. If so, does he know of any substance in the allegation?
3. If not, does he intend to allow such mischievous statements by a Commonwealth public servant to go uncorrected?

Katherine Water Supply

133 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will electricity to be reticulated to the new water supply at Donkey Camp near Katherine be extended to cater for consumers and future subdivisions on the Gorge road, and to Katherine Gorge?

Katherine Community Welfare Office

134 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Why did Mr Peter Ryan of his department post a notice on the door of the regional office in Katherine on 8 January 1981 advising people in need of assistance to contact Les MacFarlane?
2. Is this action likely to be repeated?

Katherine High School - Cleaning Tender

135 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that the successful tender for cleaning Katherine High School (Gazette No. G1, 9 January 1981, ETB 27/80) is in excess of \$80,000, or almost \$410 for each school day, for 1981 and, if so, will he investigate alternative means of cleaning to lighten this load on the taxpayer?

Hospitalisation of Injured Schoolchildren

136 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When school authorities call an ambulance to hospitalise an injured pupil, are parents consulted or is it automatically taken that they concur with the principals' decisions and actions?

Northern Territory Public Service

139 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the cost of (a) salaries and wages, and (b) recreation leave fares for NT public servants during 1979-80?

Hodgson Downs Station - Bores

142 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

How many dud bores have been drilled, within 2 miles of the homestead, at Hodgson Downs Station since 1952?

Snell St Gas Turbine Station

143 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What was the cost of repairing damage inflicted on the Snell Street gas turbine station on 5 January 1981?
2. Was the damage to the station the result of flying debris from the cement works next door?
3. Who will meet the cost of repairing the station?

Jabiru Water Supply Contamination

144 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is there any evidence of contamination of the water supply at Jabiru as a result of mining activity and, if so, is it anticipated that similar contamination may occur elsewhere as a result of mining activity?

Yuendumu Road

145 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Did the government make a commitment to the upgrading of the road between Alice Springs and Yuendumu in 3 stages of 90 kilometres in the financial year 1978-9 and, if so, what progress has been made to 3 February 1981 on upgrading the Alice Springs-Yuendumu road?
2. As part of the upgrading of this section of road, did the government advise the Yuendumu Mining Company that certain materials would be required?

Richard Koerner

147 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In what capacity is Mr Richard Koerner employed by the Northern Territory government?
2. What salary, allowances and other entitlements is Mr Koerner receiving?

Sales Tax Rebate Scheme

148 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

1. By what method will the percentage of sales tax attributable to freight be calculated?
2. At what point will the freight cost on goods coming to the Territory be deemed to have commenced?
3. Will the freight cost assessed for Territory wholesalers be discounted to allow for the freight cost faced by southern wholesalers to ensure equity in terms of the impact on the sales tax burden?
4. How many importers pay sales tax in the Northern Territory?
5. Do any of those importers compete directly with wholesalers selling domestically produced goods?
6. Has any assessment been made on the effect on importers of a government induced cost advantage to domestic wholesalers in direct competition?
7. If some importers are significantly disadvantaged by the introduction of the government's proposed sales tax rebate scheme will the government consider some compensation?
8. What measures will be applied to ensure that there will be no book entry inflation of freight costs?
9. Will a condition of payment under the sales tax rebate scheme be that inspectors from the NT government have access to the relevant records of claimants at any reasonable time?

From 3 March 1981

Numbulwar - Freight Costs

150 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the strain placed on the Numbulwar community by the recent rise in barge freight from 35¢ per kilo to 60¢ per kilo?
2. Is he able to state why it is cheaper to freight goods from Cairns to Numbulwar than from Darwin?

NT Planning Authority - Katherine Representative

151 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Who have been the Katherine representatives on the NT Planning Authority since Alderman D.A. Collins resigned?

Tenders for School Bus Runs

152 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Why was ETB 3/80 cancelled and recalled as ETB 14/80?

Tenders for School Bus Runs

153 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

In regard to tenders TB 1026/79A and TB 1093/79, in what respect did the tenders received from O'Hara's Roadlines Pty Ltd not conform?

Tenders for School Bus Runs

154 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. Is it a fact that the tenderer awarded TB 1026/79A and TB 1093/79 had 8 buses to service 7 runs?
2. If so, how was the tenderer awarded these runs being 2 buses short of the required 10 buses for 8 runs?

Tenders for School Bus Runs

155 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. Does tender TB 1026/79 (school bus runs) state that all buses offered in the tender must be in Darwin 14 days prior to the commencement of the tender?
2. If so, why was the tender awarded to a tenderer who did not meet this specific requirement?

Essential Services for Aboriginal Communities

156 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

1. What is being allocated in cash for essential services in 1980-81 and for which Aboriginal communities?
2. What are the proposed projects?
3. What projects have been completed?
4. How many Aborigines (a) have been, and (b) are employed with the essential services program?
5. What training are they receiving and from whom?
6. What essential services program has been decided upon for the Hodgson community?
7. What improvements are to be carried out in respect of (a) a water supply, (b) provision of toilets and showers, and (c) upgrading of and access to the airstrip?

Rehabilitation of Rum Jungle and Other Uranium Mine Sites

157 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Will he advise the Assembly on the progress of plans to rehabilitate Rum Jungle?
2. Will he also advise of any plans to rehabilitate and make safe the tailings dumps at other uranium mine sites in the NT?

TAA Bid for Connair

158 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did the NT government intervene to prevent TAA proceeding with the purchase of Connair for \$1.6 million under an agreement signed in September 1979 and, if so, why?

TAA Bid for Connair

159 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did the NT government intervene late in 1979 to prevent TAA proceeding with

a second bid of \$1.85 million for Connair and, if so, why?

East West Airlines

160 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. When did the NT government first raise with East West Airlines the back-to-back requirements of the guarantee arrangements?
2. Was the advice in writing?

Bans on Northern Airlines

161 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What are the details of the agreement between the NT government and the Australian Federation of Air Pilots which enabled the bans on Northern Airlines by the federation to be lifted?
2. Was the agreement signed on behalf of the NT government by the Acting Secretary of the Department of Transport and Works?
3. Will he table the document in the Assembly?

East West Airlines

162 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Did the government receive from East West around May 1980 details of that company's borrowing capacity, including (a) current East West borrowing capacity, (b) borrowing requirements for operations outside the Territory, (c) equity levels to support borrowing, and (d) capacity to support borrowing by the NT airline?
2. If so, why was this information not made available to the merchant banker, Hill Samuel?

East West Airlines

163 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the 3-man committee established by the government to examine the Connair takeover offers first recommend acceptance of other offers before recommending East West?

East West Airlines

164 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. In view of the government's insistence that the guarantee to Northern Airlines of East West Airlines was always intended to be of a back-to-back nature, why was such a provision not made clear in either the memorandum of understanding or the deed?
2. What documented evidence can the government produce to support its claim that a guarantee must be back-to-back?

East West Airlines

165 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the government advise East West in September 1980 that the company's request for guarantees on behalf of Northern Airlines had been approved in principle subject only to documentation?

From 4 March 1981

Transecutive Pilots

166 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Which former Northern Airline pilots will get permanent positions with Transecutive if that company is granted a long-term licence to operate both contracts?
2. Is it a fact that former senior pilots with Northern Airlines are likely to get these positions, that they will require re-training to fly Nomads, and that the government has agreed to meet the cost of this re-training?

Northern Airlines Replacement by TAA

167 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When did the government first approach TAA regarding the possibility of that company providing an interim service following the closure of Northern Airlines?

Transecutive Pilots

168 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Who will meet the wage costs of the pilots taken on by Transecutive who are surplus to the number actually required to operate the contracts during the interim period?
2. If it is the government, why?

Public Libraries in NT

169 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In regard to public libraries, (a) how many are funded by the Northern Territory government, (b) what are their names, (c) where are they located, (d) how many staff do they employ, (e) how many books does each library have, and (f) what is their usage in borrowing terms over the 12 month period ending 31 January 1981?

Department of Transport and Works Water Division Staff

170 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How many persons, both staff and industrial, are employed in the Water Division of the Department of Transport and Works?
2. What water supply schemes, both underground and surface water, are currently being investigated by the Water Division?
3. What technical and professional staff are employed on the investigation of these schemes?
4. How many vacant professional positions are there in the Water Division and what steps are being taken to fill them?
5. How many clerical and administrative positions are there in the Water Division of the Department of Transport and Works?

South Australian Symphony Orchestra Visit

171 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the NT government made, or will it be making, any contribution

towards the cost of the tour to the NT during 1980 by the SA Symphony Orchestra?

2. If so, what is the amount contributed, and from which budget allocation is it taken?

Funding for Alcohol Treatment Centre

172 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the government committed further funding for the Alcohol and Rehabilitation Centre at the Darwin Hospital so that staff numbers can be increased?

Industries Training Commission

173 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many apprentices are with the Industries Training Commission?
2. What is the number in each trade and the breakdown of males and females for each category?

Link Courses Between Sadadeen High School
and Central Australia Community College

174 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he advise on progress of the link courses between Sadadeen High School and Community College of Central Australia?

Female Field Worker with Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority

175 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority appointed a suitably qualified female field worker-anthropologist to work directly with Aboriginal women?

Teacher Shortages in Public Schools

176 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Will he advise whether any shortages of teachers exist in specific subject areas or age/grade levels in public schools in the Territory and, if so, how many additional teachers would be required to fill the vacancies as at 28 February 1981?
2. If shortages exist in particular areas, will he indicate, (a) the areas affected, and (b) the extent of shortages in each of those areas?

Dhupuma College - Government Expenditure

17 Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What was the total capital expenditure for Dhupuma College in the financial year 1979-80?
2. What (a) capital items, and (b) their individual costs were purchased for Dhupuma College in the financial year 1979-80?

ANSWER

1. Total capital expenditure on buildings and associated equipment for 1979-80 was \$36,607.

2. <u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Electrical Upgrading and Fire Booster Pump	\$ 5,768
Relocate 2 Demountable Residences from Darwin	\$ 21,780
Relocate 1 Classroom from Yirrkala	\$ 9,059

Dhupuma College - Transfer of Staff

18 Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What costs were incurred in the transfer of (a) students, (b) staff from Dhupuma College to alternative institutions?

ANSWER

- (a) The cost in transporting students from their home communities to Kormilda, rather than to Dhupuma, increased by \$370.
- (b) \$21,750.

Loans to North Australian Baptist Homes Trust

19 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What were the amounts of the 3 loans made to the North Australian Baptist Homes Trust in relation to hostels in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs?
2. How much has been repaid?
3. Under what terms were these loans 'extinguished'?

ANSWER

1. The loan amounts were:

Darwin Hostel	\$323,621.58	(consolidated loan);
Katherine Hostel	\$232,153.43	(advances only); and
Alice Springs Hostel	\$985,397.55	(advances only),
2. Repayments have been made against the loan for the Darwin Hostel only (\$44,443.24) as both the Katherine and Alice Springs Hostels ran into difficulty as soon as they became operational. The then Minister for the Northern Territory consequently approved moratoriums on repayments for both.
3. The contract provided that the Northern Territory government discharge the 3 mortgages in consideration of the trust surrendering Special Purposes Lease 361 (Katherine Hostel) and Special Purposes Lease 358 (Alice Springs Hostel). In addition, the Northern Territory government agreed to purchase the Darwin Hostel for an amount which would permit the trust to discharge outstanding debts.

Loans to Church of England Carpentaria College Inc.

20 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What were the amounts of the 3 loans made to the Church of England, Carpentaria College Inc.?
2. How much was repaid?
3. Under what terms were these loans 'extinguished'?

ANSWER

1. The consolidated loan amounts were:

Loan 1	\$173,173.76
Loan 2	\$ 35,753.16
Loan 3	\$616,555.35

TOTAL	<u>\$825,482.27</u>
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2. The following total amounts were repaid:

Loan 1	\$ 38,568.26
Loan 2	\$ 3,181.24
Loan 3	NIL

	<u>\$ 41,749.50</u>
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3. The total amount outstanding under the mortgages at the time of discharge was \$828,147.33. Carpentaria College Inc. agreed to surrender the property in consideration of the debt being extinguished and an amount of \$50,000 paid to settle other debts. This sum was made available from insurance funds held as a result of cyclone damage.

Grants-in-Aid 1980-81

21 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which community organizations applied for grants-in-aid for 1980-81?
2. Which organizations will receive grants-in-aid in 1980-81?
3. How much will each organization receive?

ANSWER

1. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

The Aboriginal Cultural Foundation
Alice Springs Amateur Cycling Club
Alice Springs Art Foundation
Alice Springs Golf Club
Alice Springs Pony Club
Alice Springs Skydivers
Alice Springs Youth Centre
Alyangula Golf Club
Arunga Park Speedway Association
Arts Council of Australia (NT Division)
Araluen Arts and Cultural Trust
The Archery Association of the NT
The Asian Australian Family Association
The Association of Community Theatres
Australian Citizens Radio Monitors
Australian Youth Performing Arts Association
Automobile Association of the NT

Bamyili Town Council
Beswick Town Council
Borrooloola Community
The Boys Brigade
Brown's Mart Community Arts Project
Cavenagh Theatre
Central Australian Aviation Museum
Central Australian Conservation Council
Central Australian Junior Soccer
Centralian Womens Hockey Association
Citizens Radio Emergency Service Teams Australia
Combined Guiding and Scouting Association of Tennant Creek
Corporation of the City of Darwin
Corporation of the Municipality of Katherine
Corporation of the Municipality of Tennant Creek
Country Women's Association of the NT
Crafts Council of the NT
Darwin Amateur Radio Club
Darwin Baseball Umpires Association
Darwin Bushwalking Club
Darwin and District Equestrian Association
Darwin District Junior Rugby League
Darwin Golf Club
Darwin Gun Club
Darwin Horse and Pony Club
Darwin Junior Baseball League
Darwin Karting Association
Darwin Motorcycle Club
Darwin Netball Association
Darwin Police and Citizens Youth Club
Darwin Regional Aboriginal Sports Committee
Darwin Rugby Football League
Darwin Rural Districts Pipe Band
Darwin Sailing Club
Darwin Tennis Association
Darwin Theatre Group
Darwin Youth Refuge
Dynamoes Sporting Club
Elsy Homestead Reconstruction Committee
Environment Council NT
Fellowship of Australian Writers
Galiwinku Community
The Gap Neighbourhood Centre
Guiding Association of Northern Australia
Gove Community Radio Group
Gove Country Golf Club
Gove Land/Sea Communication Organisation
Gove Peninsula SLSC
Gove Squash Club
Hamilton Downs Youth Camp Association
Katherine High School
Katherine Horse and Pony Club
Katherine Softball Association
Katherine Tennis Club
Lions Club of Tennant Creek
Mallapunya Springs School Parents and Citizens Association
Maningrida Literature Production Centre
Milikapiti Council
Myra Di Maria Dancing School
Nakara Primary School
National Trust of Australia (NT)

Ngukurr Township Association
Nguiu Shire Council
Nhulunbuy Area School Ladies Auxiliary
Nhulunbuy Corporation Fishing Club
Nightcliff Rugby League Football Club
Nightcliff Youth Centre
Noonamah Horse and Pony Club
North Australian Canine Association
Northern Territory Aerobatic Chapter
Northern Territory Amateur Athletics Centre
Northern Territory Amateur Cycling Association
Northern Territory Amateur Power Lifting Association
Northern Territory Amateur Swimming Association
Northern Territory Area Scout Association
NT Ballet Association
NT Baseball League
NT Council of the Australian Parachute Federation
NT Craft Association - Tennant Creek Division
NT Cricket Association
NT Darts Association
NT District Bowling Association
NT Field Naturalists Club
NT Fire Brigade Golf Team
NT Football League
NT Girls Marching Association
NT Hockey Association
NT Junior Soccer Federation
NT Model Flying Association
NT Mosquito Class Catamaran Association
NT Netball Association
NT Pistol Shooting Association
NT Primary and Secondary Schools Sports Association
NT Rachuig and Tournament Ten Pin Bowling
NT Region Girl Guides
NT Schools and Junior Rugby Union
NT Soccer Federation
NT Softball Association
NT Table Tennis Association
NT Tennis Council
NT Little Athletics Association
NT Top End Bowhunters
NT Water Ski Association
NT Womens Soccer Federation
NT Yachting Association
Orana Judo School
Palmerston Gundog Club
Papunya Tula Artists Pty Ltd
Parents Without Partners (NT)
Port Darwin Sea Scouts
Project Garden City Committee
Quota Club of Darwin
Rotary Club of Darwin North
St Mary's Football, Sporting and Social Club
Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NT)
Somerville Homes
South Darwin Rugby League Football Club
Col Stringer
Tasar Association of the NT
Tennant Creek Amateur Swimming Club
Tennant Creek Gliding Club

Tennant Creek Golf Club
Tennant Creek Saddle Horse Club
Top End Aerial Sports Academy
Top End Gun Club
Trans Territory Cycling Club
The Uniting Church in Australia - Fisherman's Hut
Waratah Sports Club
Weavers Workshop Guild
Yirrkala Arts and Crafts
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association
YMCA Youth Clubs
YMCA Darwin - Aboriginal Recreation Programmes
YMCA Youth Club - Warrabri
YMCA Youth Clubs - Central Australian Region
YMCA Central Australia - Aboriginal Recreation Programme
YWCA Darwin
Youth Forum of Tennant Creek

2. COMMUNITY WELFARE DIVISION

(i) Residential Care

St Mary's Child and Family Welfare Service
Somerville Homes

(ii) Annual Grants-in-Aid

NT Pensioners Association for Tracy Lodge
NT Association of Special Education
Palmerston Parents Association
Australian Red Cross, Darwin
Parents & Citizens Association - Coconut Grove Developmental
School, Darwin
St Vincent de Paul Society, Darwin
Jabiru Play Group
Marriage Guidance Inc., Darwin
Darwin Family Centre - Fun Bus
St Vincent de Paul Society, Alice Springs
NT Council of Social Service
Bindi Centre, Alice Springs
Alice Springs AIM Old Timers Home
Giles St Shelter - Katherine
Australian Red Cross, Katherine
Wallaces Rock Hole Community
Tennant Creek Red Cross, Noble House
Tennant Creek Community Development Council
Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association
NT Pensioners Association
Crisis Line Inc.
Austcare, NT Branch
Angurugu Community Council
Darwin Family Centre (Happynings Magazine)
National Council of Women of the NT
Northern 'Y' Women's Group
Salvation Army, Darwin
Central Australia Aboriginal Housing Forum
Aboriginal Advisory of Development Service - Katherine Project
Alice Springs Spastic Council
Apostleship of the Sea, Darwin
Corporation of the City of Darwin

(iii) The Community Welfare Worker Subsidy Scheme

YWCA, Darwin

- Catholic Church, Alice Springs (2 grants)
 Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association
 Milingimbi Community Inc.
 Canossian Sisters, Darwin
 Somerville Homes, Darwin
 Katherine Red Cross
- (iv) Family Support Services Scheme
 Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
 Alice Springs Family Service Centre
 Salvation Army, Darwin
- (v) Operational Subsidies of a Continuous Nature
 Bindi Centre
 Handicapped Persons Association
 NT Council on the Ageing
 NT Council of Social Service
 Darwin Family Centre
- (vi) States Grants (Home Care) Act
 Australian Red Cross - Darwin Home Help
 NT Council on the Ageing
 Alice Springs Emergency Home Help Association
 Bamyili Council
 Alice Springs Senior Citizens Centre
 Tennant Creek Senior Citizens Association
 NT Pensioners Association for Spillett House
- (vii) International Year of the Child
 Darwin Toy Library
 Darwin Family Centre (Fun Bus)
 Browns Mart (Kids' Convoy)
- (viii) Youth Services
 YWCA on behalf of Darwin Youth Refuge
- (ix) Children's Services Programme
 NT Council of Social Service (Children's Week)
- (x) Ethnic Children's Services Workers Scheme
 Migrant Resource and Settlement Centre

2. & 3. The following grants have been approved. Other applications are currently being assessed.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION	\$
Alice Springs Art Foundation	3,000.00
Alice Springs Youth Centre	12,000.00
Arts Council of Australia (NT Division)	72,000.00
Araluen Arts and Cultural Trust	78,800.00
The Association of Community Theatres	2,000.00
Borroloola Community	1,500.00
The Boys Brigade	500.00
Brown's Mart Community Arts Project	54,480.00
Corporation of the Municipality of Tennant Creek	12,000.00
Crafts Council of the NT	45,900.00
Darwin and District Equestrian Association	240.20
Darwin Regional Aboriginal Sports Committee	2,500.00
Darwin Rural Districts Pipe Band	2,300.00
Darwin Theatre Group	8,425.00

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Elsey Homestead Reconstruction Committee	3,000.00
Environmental Council NT	9,500.00
Galiwinku Community	1,000.00
The Gap Neighborhood Centre	12,000.00
Gliding Association of Northern Australia	1,500.00
Hamilton Downs Youth Camp Association	12,000.00
National Trust of Australia (NT)	50,000.00
Ngukurr Township Association	2,000.00
Northern Territory Aerobic Chapter	2,737.00
Northern Territory Amateur Athletics Centre	1,446.80
Northern Territory Amateur Cycling Association	886.40
Northern Territory Area Scout Association	12,000.00
NT Ballet Association	1,000.00
NT Junior Soccer Federation	2,699.10
NT Little Athletics Association	338.15
NT Netball Association	3,218.00
NT Pistol Shooting Association	1,500.00
NT Rachuig and Tournament Ten Pin Bowling	4,798.40
NT Region Girl Guides	12,000.00
NT Schools and Junior Rugby Union	3,080.00
NT Table Tennis Association	1,539.50
NT Tennis Council	1,500.00
NT Womens Soccer Federation	200.00
NT Yachting Association	274.30
Project Garden City Committee	250.00
Tasar Association of the NT	261.40
Weavers Workshop Guild	700.00
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association	9,500.00
YMCA Youth Clubs	24,000.00
YMCA Darwin - Aboriginal Recreation Program	253,441.00
YMCA Youth Clubs - Central Australian Region	12,000.00
YMCA Central Australia - Aboriginal Recreation Program	149,724.00
YWCA Darwin	24,000.00

COMMUNITY WELFARE DIVISION

Residential Care Funding Programme

St Marys Child & Family Welfare Services - Alice Springs	244,755.00
Retta Dixon Homes, Darwin (1979-80 arrears payments)	1,889.91
Somerville Homes Inc., Darwin	27,355.09

Community Welfare Worker Subsidy Scheme

Yirrkala/Dhanbul Community Association Inc.	13,635.00
YWCA, Darwin	13,635.00
Catholic Church, Alice Springs	13,635.00
Milingimbi Community Inc.	13,635.00
1979-80 Arrears of payments on Social Worker Subsidy Scheme	14,959.49

Youth Services Programme

YWCA on behalf of Darwin Youth Refuge	51,500.00
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Annual Grants-in-Aid Scheme

Bindi Centre Residential Facility	71,570.00
St Vincent de Paul, Katherine for Giles Street Shelter	14,000.00
Australian Association of Special Education NT Branch	1,152.00
YWCA on behalf of Darwin Youth Refuge	990.00
Darwin Family Centres - Fun Bus Project	700.00
Australian Red Cross Society Darwin Branch	600.00
NT Pensioners Association on behalf of Tracy Lodge	10,000.00

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Australian Red Cross Society Tennant Creek Branch for Noble House Old Timers Home	8,000.00
Australian Red Cross Society Katherine Branch for Katherine Old Timers Home	8,000.00
Australian Inland Mission - Old Timers Home, Alice Springs	8,000.00
St Vincent de Paul Society, Darwin	7,000.00
Salvation Army, Darwin	5,200.00
St Vincent de Paul Society, Alice Springs	14,000.00
<u>Family Support Services Scheme</u>	
YMCA, Darwin	15,000.00
Evaluation Project	16,000.00
Salvation Army, Darwin	11,820.00
YWCA, Darwin	4,400.00
Darwin Family Centres	15,455.00
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress	83,924.00
<u>International Year of the Child</u>	
Browns Mart	11,240.00
Darwin Toy Library	708.85
Darwin Family Centres	18,860.00
<u>Ethnic Children's Services Worker Scheme</u>	
Migrant Resource and Settlement Centre	16,000.00
<u>Children's Services Programme</u>	
NTCOSS for Children's Week	2,000.00
<u>States Grants (Home Care) Programme</u>	
Alice Springs Emergency Home Help Association	14,000.00
NT Council on the Ageing	14,000.00
Darwin Red Cross Home Help Services	17,000.00
Bamyili Community Council	13,000.00
Tennant Creek Pensioners Association (Capital Grant)	90,000.00
NT Pensioners Association (Capital Grant)	45,000.00
1979-80 Arrears payments for Home Help Services	5,386.28
<u>Operational Subsidies of a Continuous Nature</u>	
NT Council on the Ageing	8,000.00
Handicapped Persons Association of NT	10,000.00

Register of Uranium Workers

24 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is a register of uranium workers employed in the uranium province being retained by the Northern Territory government for the purpose of subsequent health checks?

ANSWER

The relevant legislation relating to health checks on uranium workers is the Uranium Mining (Environmental Control) Act which requires adherence to a code of practice on Radiation Protection in the Mining and Milling of Uranium Ores. This code of practice does not require that a register be kept of all workers employed in the uranium industry. The system requires detailed monitoring of the work place and classification of employees based on their potential exposure to radiation. In addition, personal monitoring is applied to designated employees. The records of this monitoring are received and retained by the Departments of Health and Mines and Energy.

The responsibility for medical examinations and records is a matter for

the employer, while government departments provide a supervisory role. However, upon cessation of employment the medical records are required to be forwarded to the Department of Health where they are to be retained for 50 years.

Local Government Elections

25 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it the intention of the Northern Territory government to require the local government elections during 1981 to be conducted by the Northern Territory Electoral Office?

ANSWER

The matter is currently under consideration.

Nurses Quarters at Darwin Hospital

26 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many applications have been received for the utilisation of the vacant nurses quarters at the Darwin Hospital?
2. What use is being proposed for the accommodation units there?

ANSWER

1. The matter of the disposal of buildings at the Darwin Hospital is in the hands of the Minister for Community Development to whom this question should be addressed.

Mandorah Road

27 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Can he inform me what timetable is planned for the upgrading and/or sealing of the Mandorah Road from Darwin River Dam?
2. What route is the upgraded road going to take?
3. What discussions have been held with traditional Aboriginal owners in the area regarding the siting of the road?

ANSWER

1. The present planning is to realign, upgrade drainage structures and seal the road.
 - (a) Stage 1: Pioneer Creek stage - 3.18 km currently under construction and includes the bridging and approach roadworks with slight realignment of the existing road.
 - (b) Stage 2: Blackmore River stage - this has a tender target date of December 1980 and includes a bridge over the Blackmore River with associated approach roadworks. There is some slight realignment of the road involved but, in the main, it follows the existing alignment.
 - (c) A further stage is planned which will take in the Bulldog Pass. This will occur sometime during 1982-3 but as yet it has no program status. Considerable realignment of the existing road will be necessary.
2. By and large, the upgrade road to Mandorah will follow the existing alignment except, as for the Bulldog Pass, where the terrain dictates a more practical alignment.

3. In this specific case no discussions were held with any traditional Aboriginal owners as the area falls totally within the declared town planning area of Darwin and does not include Aboriginal land or land which can be subject to Aboriginal land claims,

The project is included in our works proposals for 1980-81 which, on 10 March 1980 was referred to the Aboriginal Liaison Unit for comment. It was similarly referred to the various land councils on 23 May 1980. The covering letter requested identifications of any projects which may have significance as to Aboriginal land, pending land claims and/or sacred sites. The proposals were all cleared.

It is normal procedure with any new road projects to invite comments from:

- (a) Conservation Commission;
- (b) Sacred Site Authority;
- (c) any landowners (including Aboriginal) affected by the projects;
- (d) the Aboriginal Liaison Unit in instances where there could be contention; and
- (e) Heritage Commission.

Alice Springs Recreation Lake Site

- 29 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Further to question No. 23, does the location being considered for a recreation lake in Alice Springs, north of the town in the Todd River, conflict with an Aboriginal sacred site?

ANSWER

There is a sacred site recorded in the register set up under the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act, which will be eventually submerged if the recreation lake on the site in question goes ahead in accordance with design proposals so far considered. The site itself would not be physically damaged, but it would be submerged.

Katherine - Appointment of Resident Magistrate

- 30 Mr MacFARLANE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

What steps are being taken to appoint a resident magistrate for Katherine?

ANSWER

My government does not plan to appoint a resident magistrate for Katherine in the near future. There would be many problems involved in such a proposal.

Because of the insufficiency of work in Katherine a magistrate, whilst based in Katherine, would have to undertake duty at a circuit of several courts over a wide area. The magistrate would therefore not be full time in Katherine.

Because the scope of the work would be of a limited nature, any magistrate appointed solely to the Katherine area would not be in a position to fully exercise his jurisdiction to the same extent as magistrates in the larger centres, where there is some variation in work.

Because of the small community a magistrate based permanently within the community may become too closely involved in community affairs. Such a situation could lead to a conflict of interest in the exercise of judicial functions.

I note that the honourable member has not yet availed himself of the invitation to discuss the matter with the Chief Magistrate or the Deputy Secretary, Department of Law.

Library Facilities in Nhulunbuy

31 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is his present attitude to Nhulunbuy public library facilities, given recent representations to him by (a) a petition opposing library facility amalgamation signed by more than 600 residents, and (b) a public meeting attended by representatives from the Community Development and Education Departments?

ANSWER

A Cabinet decision was made in October 1979 that the Nhulunbuy High School, then under construction, should be extended in order to provide a joint use library for both the high school and the residents of Nhulunbuy. This decision is in line with government policy for maximizing community use of educational facilities.

Two public meetings have been held in September and October of 1980. The total attendance was 38 with some people attending both meetings. This is 1% of the population. This very small minority of Nhulunbuy residents expressed conflicting views on the community library project.

Although a petition has been received it is my view that the interests of the Nhulunbuy community will be best served by access to greater resources for both high school students and the general community.

An agreement has been drawn up between the Department of Community Development and the Department of Education. The agreement allows for the community library service to be reviewed after 6 months and 12 months. It also allows for a Library Advisory Committee to be established in Nhulunbuy

Library Service - Purchase of Books

32 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the total value of books purchased by the Northern Territory Library Service from 1 February to 20 October 1980?
2. Who were the library suppliers or booksellers who supplied the books?
3. Did the Northern Territory Library Service call for tenders for the supply of books?

ANSWER

1. \$402,346.90.
2. List of 65 library suppliers and bookshops who supplied books:

NT Firms: Connoisseur Bookshop, Marrons Newsagency, Arunta Art Gallery, Book Mark, Fisher Firearms, Bookworld, Territory Book Depot, Educational and Technical Books, Tivoli Books, Studio Arts, Singing Tree, Northbooks, Arnhemland Gallery, Corey Books, Information Centre.

Interstate Firms: Serendipity, Burge Lopez, Berkelouw, Kay Craddock, W.R. Thompson, Conrad Bailey, E. Hearn, Barron Books, Gordon & Gotch, Axiom, S.A. Magazine & Book Co., Collins, Hodder & Stoughton, Grahames, Bennetts, Australian Government Publishing Service, Ayers & James, C.C.H. Australia, Library Association of Australia, Technical Book & Magazine Co., Australian National University, Book Wise, Central Book

Agency, ANZ Book Co., Mary Martins, Sydney Building & Information Centre, Paul Hamlyn, Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, University of Melbourne, IBBY Australia, Bureau of Mineral Resource, Burwood State College, Westbooks, Complete Travellers Bookshop, Viking, Review Publications, ANZAAS, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, James Cook University, Britannica, Pacific Linguists, Standards Association of Australia, University of Tasmania, Field Enterprise, Dunn & Mason, Summer Institute of Linguistics, Continental Bookshop, Books for Children.

Overseas Firms: Combridge Jackson, Bumpus Haldane & Maxwell.

3. No tenders were called. In 1973 the Northern Territory Library Service was exempted from the requirement that tenders or quotations be called for the supply of books. Exemption was granted on the grounds that in the case of library orders adherence to these requirements would be uneconomical, inexpedient and inefficient. This exemption conforms with the practice in the states of the Commonwealth.

Allocation of Vehicles to Schools

33 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. On what basis are vehicles allocated to remote schools?
2. Which schools in the Northern Territory have been allocated vehicles for the 1979-80 financial year?
3. Which schools have been allocated but not yet received vehicles?

ANSWER

1. Vehicles are allocated to remote schools on the basis of demonstrated needs.
2. Bulman, Elcho Island, Croker Island, Snake Bay, Bamyili.
3. In respect of the 1979-80 financial year: nil.

Teachers in Remote Areas

34 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are teachers who have served long periods at remote centres such as Bamyili and Groote Eylandt given any preference when they wish to return to more favoured centres, or are they simply treated as though they had had a vacation away from Darwin or Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Preferential consideration is given to teachers who have served for a lengthy period in remote centres throughout the Northern Territory and seek transfer to more favoured centres.

Priority is given to applications for transfer where a teacher has served at least 2 years in remote centres and these applications are actioned before consideration is given to any other requests for transfer.

Membership of Planning Authority and Planning Appeals Committee

35 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Who are the members of the Northern Territory Planning Authority and on what dates were they appointed?
2. Who are the members of the Northern Territory Planning Appeals Committee and on what dates were they appointed?

ANSWER

1. Members of the Northern Territory Planning Authority:

(a) The Northern Territory Planning Authority consists of 3 Territory members and 4 local members in respect of each planning area.

(b) The Territory members are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
Ronald John Withnall (Chairman)	31 July 1979
John Stowell Kennon (Deputy Chairman)	31 July 1979
Barry John Willing (Member)	31 July 1979

(c) The local members for the Municipality of Darwin and Planning Area 1 (area covered by the Darwin Town Plan 1978) are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>	<u>Date of Resignation</u>
Ella May Stack	31 July 1979	15 May 1980
Cecil Albert Black	31 July 1979	
Colin Charles Firmin	31 July 1979	
Ernie Sue Wah Chin	31 July 1979	
Peter Colin Carvosso	26 August 1980	

(d) The local members for the Municipality of Katherine and Planning Area 4 (area covered by Katherine Town Plan) are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
Patricia May Davies	7 August 1979
Patrick John Egerton Murphy	15 October 1979
Douglas Alfred Collins	7 August 1979
Derek John Sweetman	7 August 1979

(e) The local members for the Municipality of Tennant Creek and Planning Area 6 (area covered by the Tennant Creek Town Plan) are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>	<u>Date of Resignation</u>
Alfred Ernest Chittock	7 August 1979	
Gavin Boyd Carpenter	7 August 1979	
Robert Joseph Burton	7 August 1979	
Graham George Sinclair	7 August 1979	1 September 1980

(f) The local members for the Municipality of Alice Springs and Planning Area 8 (area covered by Alice Springs Town Plan) are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
Werner Hermann Otto Oestrich	7 August 1979
Reginald George Smith	7 August 1979
George Brown	18 September 1979
Brian Vaughan	18 September 1979

(g) The local members for Planning Area 3 (Darwin Rural Area) are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>	<u>Date of Resignation</u>
Burge Dawson Brown	1 October 1979	
Leo Vincent Coyne	1 October 1979	27 March 1980
Wallace John Tracey	1 October 1979	
Russell William Anderson	15 October 1979	
John Vincent Maley	30 June 1980	

(h) The local members for Planning Area 10 (Town of Batchelor) are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
Bruce Richard Jones	7 March 1980
Margaret Joan Keile	7 March 1980
Eric Neil Evans	7 March 1980
Margaretta von Einem	7 March 1980

2. Members of the Northern Territory Planning Appeals Committee

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
Dean Mildren (Chairman)	22 February 1978
Gary Hunt (Deputy Chairman)	22 February 1978
Graham Maxwell Chrisp (Member)	22 February 1978
Robert McHardy Morrison (Deputy Member)	25 January 1979
Keith William Lange (Deputy Member)	30 May 1979

Department of Transport and Works and Telecom Depots in Katherine

36 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Does the government plan to convert to residential use land in Katherine presently used as Department of Transport and Works and Telecom depots?

ANSWER

No. The government recently relocated the Works Depot and developed the site for residential purposes. This is the area between Giles Street and O'Shea Terrace.

There is no intention to relocate the Department of Transport and Works plant workshop area and stores, also in O'Shea Terrace, to allow for development for residential purposes.

Commonwealth authorities such as Telecom hold title in fee simple. There is no intention to acquire such sites for residential purposes.

Housing Commission - Unused Blocks in Katherine

37 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

How many unused blocks of residential land are held by the Northern Territory Housing Commission in Katherine?

ANSWER

Four residential blocks are held by the NT Housing Commission: Lots 249, 247, 220 and 218, Stutterd Street.

These are large blocks suitable for duplex residences.

Under the proposed new town plan the blocks have been rezoned R1.

The Commission has written to the Planning Authority opposing the rezoning and is waiting a decision.

ABC Repeater Station in Katherine

38 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that the Australian Broadcasting Commission repeater station 8KN occupies prime residential land in Katherine?

2. Has any proposal been put to the Commission to find a suitable

alternative site on which to erect its 70 foot high transmission towers?

3. Will the government provide a suitable site away from residential land for the Commission's transmission towers?

ANSWER

1. The short answer is yes. The Australian Broadcasting Commission repeater station 8KN occupies lot 171, Lucy Street, Katherine which has an area of approximately 7,234 m² and was acquired by the Commonwealth government on 19 December 1978. Although this lot is currently zoned residential 'A' (flats), it is situated in an area ideally suited for the purposes for which it is currently used.
2. Yes. The Secretary of the Department of Lands wrote to the Manager of the Australian Broadcasting Commission on 1 October 1979 pointing out the shortage of serviced land in Katherine and asking if he would consider entering into negotiations to relocate the transmitter presently occupying lot 171. No reply has been received to date.
3. The government would be prepared to allocate an alternative site but does not consider it necessary at this time because:
 - (a) land for residential purposes can be turned off quicker and cheaper in other areas of Katherine; and
 - (b) since writing to the ABC, the Department of Lands has developed the Transport and Works depot site in Giles Street, Katherine (and released lots to the public) and is planning to release lots in Katherine East in May 1981, which should satisfy the current demand for residential land in Katherine.

Government Assistance to NT Cattlemen

39 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Is it a fact that Top End cattlemen lose more cattle each year through seasonal and pastoral conditions inherent in the area than the Centralian cattlemen lose in droughts?
2. If so, what steps is the government taking to assist Top End cattlemen to overcome these losses?
3. Have Centralian cattlemen presented a case to the government for drought relief and, if so, with what result?
4. Is it a fact that Centralian cattlemen have had 10 good seasons and have received record prices for their cattle during the past 3 years?
5. What steps is the government taking to assist Top End cattlemen to overcome their regional problems caused by low cattle prices and annual nutrition failure?

ANSWER

1. While it is true that Top End cattlemen lose cattle at the end of each dry season, the losses in the Alice Springs district in severe drought can be devastating and far greater than the annual seasonal losses in the Top End.
2. Encouragement for the introduction of hardier breeds of cattle, e.g. Brahman or Brahman cross cattle.
 - Advice on supplementary feeding in the dry season.
 - Investigation of improved management techniques including seasonal mating and weaning trials (Kidman Springs 1981).
 - Constant search for improved pasture species, e.g. buffel grass.

3. All cattlemen have had the opportunity to present a case to government on the drought relief policy. The Centralian cattlemen are not happy with 2 aspects of the scheme and are presently negotiating with the Department of Primary Production on these points.
4. Centralian cattlemen have had a series of good seasons over the last 10 years. In late 1977, cattle prices began to improve above the disastrously low prices of the slump. The prices over the last 3 years have been reasonable but are not records, taking into account inflation.
5. The government is actively seeking new and more lucrative markets for all Territory cattle, both internationally by way of trade missions and within the Territory by supporting the establishment of abattoirs such as the Tennant Creek abattoirs. The NT government actively promoted the construction of the north-south railway which will, among other things, provide more economical transportation for cattle marketing. The government is continuing to carry out research into economical pasture improvement and feed supplementation.

Prosecutions under Bushfires Act

40 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How many prosecutions have been instituted under the Bushfires Act during the past 5 years for lighting fires that got out of control and caused damage to pastoral leases or inconvenienced pastoral lessees?
2. In the same period, how many fires were (a) reported, (b) deliberately lit, (c) lit by careless people, and (d) lit by the pastoral lessee inconvenienced by the fire?

ANSWER

1. Since 1975 the Bushfires Council has instigated 4 such prosecutions under the now repealed Bushfires Control Act. No prosecutions have yet been instigated under the Bushfires Act 1980 which came into effect on 13 June 1980.
2. (a) 787 fires reported.
(b) & (c) This information is not available to us as it is not always possible to determine the cause of a bushfire.
(d) Two proved cases.

Katherine - Prosecutions for Littering

41 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How many persons have been prosecuted for littering in Katherine during the year ended 31 October 1980?

ANSWER

Six. All prosecutions have been initiated by the police.

Airconditioning in Schools

42 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Does his department plan to modify school buildings to enable fans to be used and larger window areas to be opened when airconditioning is not warranted or when airconditioning plants are out of order?
2. Are airconditioners in schools turned off after school each day or over weekends to reduce electricity costs and conserve fuel?

ANSWER

1. My department has no plans to modify existing airconditioned schools to enable natural or fan ventilation to be used. In our more recent fully airconditioned schools all windows can be opened, however ceiling fans are not installed in these schools. In some of our later buildings where airconditioning has been installed after the completion of the building, ceiling fans do exist.
2. Yes, all school airconditioning systems have control switches and the airconditioning is switched off after school hours. The department has already taken steps to advise schools on methods of reducing energy consumption.

Radio Telephone Communications

43 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has his attention been drawn to the communication difficulties experienced by the Numbulwar community of 600 Aboriginals, which has to share one radio telephone channel with 9 other subscribers?
2. If so, will he make representations to Telecom and the Federal Minister for Communications in an effort to upgrade radio telephone communications for these people and for the Groote Eylandt, Gove and Katherine people?

ANSWER

Responsibility for telecommunications lies with the Chief Minister. I therefore suggest that the honourable member redirect his questions.

Flood Insurance Cover in Katherine

45 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that neither the Territory Insurance Office nor other insurers operating in the Territory will provide cover against flood in Katherine?
2. If so, will the government ensure that the Territory Insurance Office provides flood cover at reasonable rates in Katherine until a dam is built above Katherine Gorge to reduce the danger of flooding?

ANSWER

1. I am informed that flood cover in the Katherine area is not generally available from private insurers, although no doubt the cover has been provided in rare instances to selected cases. TIO has not sought out flood insurance for the reasons outlined below, although to the best knowledge of the office, TIO has not received a direct approach for flood insurance from a Katherine resident.
2. Flood insurance is a type of insurance where the premium payable may be calculated very accurately dependant upon the location of the insured risk.

One method followed is to calculate the premium by using -

- (a) Flood charts which give the incidence of floods in a particular area and the depth to which the particular property is likely to be covered, e.g., 10 year flooding cycle, 20 year flooding cycle, and 100 year flooding cycle;
- (b) the construction of the property is another factor, as is also the trade or occupation of the risk. This has a material bearing on

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

whether the contents can be removed when flood threatens, e.g., some or all valuable household contents can be removed prior to immersion, this is not so in the cases of an engineering works or abattoir.

As you can see, application of these factors produce a premium commensurate with the risk, but at a dollar value few people are prepared to pay.

TIO would, as a prudent insurer, wish to charge rates based on those principles should the office be approached for flood insurance cover.

Membership of NTEC

46 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Who are the members of the Northern Territory Electricity Commission and on what dates were they appointed?
2. If there are any vacancies on the Electricity Commission, when is it proposed that they be filled?

ANSWER

1. Mr J. Hair, Chairman - appointed 16 October 1980, Mr K.J. Davey - appointed June 1978, Mr M.S. Purcell - appointed 30 July 1980.
2. Appointments are in train and will be announced shortly.

Expenditure by Ministers on Charter Aircraft

47 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

How much has been spent on behalf of each minister for air charter travel within the Northern Territory for the financial year 1979-80?

ANSWER

Hon. Paul Everingham (including charters booked in his name when several ministers travelled together)	\$ 61,488
Hon. Marshall Perron	\$ 7,644
Hon. Ian Tuxworth	\$ 99,996
Hon. Roger Steele	\$ 30,016
Hon. Jim Robertson	\$ 13,219
Hon. Nick Dondas	\$ 6,271
TOTAL	<u>\$ 218,634</u>

Public Buildings - Modifications for Handicapped Persons

48 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Given that 1981 is to be the Year of the Disabled Person, what action is the government taking to ensure that all public buildings are modified to provide access for handicapped persons?

ANSWER

A seminar on 'Designing for the Disabled' was recently held in Darwin and was attended by representatives of the Department of Transport and Works, interested members of the community and members of the Handicapped Persons Association.

As a result of that seminar the Handicapped Persons Association has undertaken to prepare a list of all access deficiencies in public buildings in Darwin and suggested solutions to the problems. Other centres will be

examined later.

The Departments of Health, Community Development and Transport and Works together with the Handicapped Persons Association will examine this list in detail, provide estimates of cost and place the modifications for each building in priority order. The proposals will then be considered by Cabinet for inclusion on the capital works' program.

A ramp is presently under construction at the Darwin law courts.

Roper Highway

49 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What steps are being taken to upgrade the Roper Highway to the 4-mile landing to enable barges to use the Roper River for supply purposes?

ANSWER

This project is currently under investigation. My department has received a request to upgrade this road to enable development of the area for industrial and tourist facilities. The area has been inspected by my Chief Planning Engineer and the proposals which were put forward by private entrepreneurs in the area are being considered.

This project currently has no program status. If detailed plans of the developments are considered feasible the project will be considered for inclusion in the works program.

Borrooloola-Roper Bar Road

50 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does the government plan to upgrade the road between Roper Bar and Borrooloola to cater for tourists and travellers?

ANSWER

No. However, during the next few years the whole region will be the subject of a study to determine road needs for the area. The need for a road between Roper Bar and Borrooloola will be included in this study.

Insurance Cover for Schoolchildren

51 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Are pupils of Northern Territory schools covered by insurance when engaged in school activities, such as swimming lessons, excursions and sports, outside school grounds?
2. Are parents required to sign indemnity forms before their children engage in such school activities?

ANSWER

1. No, insurance coverage is at the parents discretion. However, for students going on interstate trips or participating in sporting contests conducted under the auspices of the Australian Secondary School Sports Federation, parents are required to take out full insurance cover.
2. Parents are required to sign indemnity forms before children go on interstate excursions.

Loitering, Katherine

52 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Do police officers in Katherine have power to deal with persons who loiter or sleep in and around public facilities?

ANSWER

Police do not have power to deal with persons who loiter or sleep in and around public facilities unless the circumstances accord with the requirements of section 47A of the Summary Offences Act where a person -

- (a) loitering in a public place does not give a satisfactory account of himself; or
- (b) a member of the Police Force believes, on reasonable grounds, that an offence has been or is likely to be committed; or
- (c) a member of the Police Force believes, on reasonable grounds, that movement of pedestrian or vehicular traffic is obstructed.

The relevant legislation is:

LOITERING

47A (1) A person loitering in any public place who does not give a satisfactory account of himself when requested so to do by a member of the Police Force shall, on request by a member of the Police Force to cease loitering, cease so to loiter.

PENALTY: 200 dollars.

(2) Where a person is loitering in a public place and a member of the Police Force believes, on reasonable grounds -

- (a) that an offence has been or is likely to be committed; or
- (b) that the movement of pedestrian or vehicular traffic is obstructed or is about to be obstructed,

by that person or by any other person loitering in the vicinity of that person, or

- (c) that the safety of the person or any person in his vicinity is in danger,

the member of the Police Force may require any person so loitering to cease loitering and to remove from that public place any article under his control, and a person so required shall comply with and shall not contravene the requirement.

PENALTY: 200 dollars.

- (3) In this section "loiter" means to idle or linger about.

Meteorological Bureau Services for Katherine

53 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of plans to establish a weather office at Katherine to provide local weather forecasts as an aid to bushfire control, crop planting and aircraft movements?

ANSWER

As the provision of meteorological services is a function of the Commonwealth government, the honourable member should seek the advice of the Bureau of Meteorology.

Meat Processing Companies

54 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Are there any precautions which the government can take to ensure that companies engaging in meat processing in the Territory are financially stable?

ANSWER

Companies engaged in meat processing in the Northern Territory are subject to the provisions of the Companies Act in regard to their financial activities. However there are no means for government to ensure the financial stability of such companies, particularly in view of widely fluctuating market circumstances and seasonal factors in the meat industry.

In view of the recent failing of some meat processors in the Territory, it is important that producers exercise due commercial prudence in their dealings with cattle purchasers.

Aerial Spraying of Insecticides

55 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Has his attention been drawn to ultra low volume techniques for aerial spraying of insecticides?
2. Can he state whether the government has published advice that light breeze conditions may give better control of the spread of aerial sprays than the calm air conditions often applying about dawn, currently favoured by crop dusters and local authorities using herbicides?
3. What steps has his department taken to enforce the conditions for aerial spraying recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council, which has advised that herbicides are harmless if used as recommended?

ANSWER

1. The ultra low volume technique for spraying of insecticides is a well-established method of pesticide application. It has not been used widely in the NT because there has been little or no call for aerial spraying generally. It may have been used with Malathion against sorghum milage in the Katherine area. It has been used in applying Malathion to the Darwin area for mosquito and fly control immediately after the cyclone in early 1975.
2. The government has not published advice that it is preferable to apply pesticides as a ULV spray in light breeze rather than in calm air. However, as the aerial operator used in the NT is registered in WA, he has to be aware of the requirements of various application techniques as part of the registration process. In the tropics there appears to be little or no air movement at or just after dawn, and so ULV techniques can be used efficiently and effectively.
3. None. The Department of Health has been preparing draft legislation to control the use of pesticides in the NT. Under the proposed Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act, it should be possible to enforce rates of usage of pesticides.

Blocks 534 and 536 Katherine

56 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is delaying the issuing of titles for blocks 534 and 536, Katherine?

ANSWER

The Department of Lands is currently considering allocating equal portions of reserve R1613 (lot 535) to the owners of lots 534 and 536.

This allocation cannot proceed until the reserve is revoked.

The revocation is being prepared for the consideration of the Executive Council and subject to approval the revocation will be advertised in the Northern Territory Government Gazette.

When this has been completed, an offer of allocation can be made to the applicants and subject to their acceptance and payment of reserve price, titles can then be prepared for the consolidated lots.

Land Sales in Katherine

57 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will residential land be available for sale over the counter at a one-stop shop in Katherine?

ANSWER

Consideration will be given to introducing 'over-the counter' land sales in Katherine, when it is clear that an adequate supply of land is available.

Animal Nutrition Research

58 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What research is the government undertaking on animal nutrition in the Top End of the Territory?

ANSWER

Evaluation of the role of salt and sulphur supplements for cattle grazing both native and improved pastures in the Upper Adelaide River and Douglas-Daly areas. Field work was completed in November 1980.

Determination of the energy and amino acid levels required in poultry layer feeds for the Top End environment. One trial was completed in May 1980 and a new trial is commencing now.

Evaluation of the suitability of maize stubble for cattle grazing and the role of protein supplements in aiding stubble utilisation. One trial was conducted at Douglas-Daly Experiment Station during 1980 with field work being completed in November 1980.

Evaluation of the nutritional quality of improved pasture species through measurement of cattle performance while grazing these species.

Current work includes regional pasture testing under grazing at the Douglas-Daly Experiment Station and grazing trial evaluating Buffel grass, Verano and Stylosanthes viscosa at the Victoria River Research Station.

Field work is now terminating on a pasture species and stocking rate trial at Coastal Plains Research Station. A grazing trial to evaluate pasture legumes at Upper Adelaide River Experiment Station has been established.

A pilot trial was carried out during 1980 at Victoria River Research Station to monitor sodium and potassium levels in cattle to check for possible sodium deficiencies.

Economic feed supplement formulas for dry season supplementation in the Top End. Work is continuing on analysis of various past grazing management trials.

Offences Against Commonwealth Laws

59 Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is the Northern Territory to compile statistics concerning offenders and offences against Commonwealth laws in the Territory as recommended by the Law Reform Commission of Australia?

ANSWER

My government appreciates the value in having national uniform statistics which permit the tracing of Federal, State and Territorial cases through the criminal justice system from the point of reporting to their ultimate disposition.

With respect to statistics concerning offenders and offences against Commonwealth laws, the Australian Law Reform Commission did not recommend that such statistics be compiled by the Northern Territory. The commission was of the view that the Australian Bureau of Statistics should take a far more assertive role in this area. My government would be prepared to co-operate fully in assisting the Commonwealth in this matter. The following is the Law Reform Commission's recommendations concerning this topic:

75. The Statistics Power. The overall constitutional responsibility for the making of laws for the production of national statistical data is vested in the Commonwealth Parliament. The power of the Commonwealth is ample. The Parliament may make laws with respect to 'census and statistics'. To fulfil this responsibility the Commonwealth established the A.B.S. The Bureau, through its various State offices, is involved in the collection, analysis and publication of criminal justice statistics. The Bureau has also been involved, over the years, in the discussions about the creation of uniform crime statistics in Australia. Very recently, it has added a special Justice Statistics sub-section to its Demography and Social Branch. This action suggests that the Bureau has begun to recognise the need to improve its efforts in this area.

76. Action by A.B.S. In the Commission's view, the Australian Bureau of Statistics should take a far more assertive role in the development of uniform crime statistics. Progress towards national crime statistics is far too slow and promises to continue at the pace of the most unwilling State unless bold action is taken at a Federal level. While there seems to have been some opposition by State authorities, including police forces, to Federal initiatives designed to secure uniformity in the recording and reporting of criminal justice statistics, there is clear Commonwealth power conferred by the Constitution to gather national data on this subject.

This power is supplemented by the incidental powers. The Bureau should, as a matter of priority, institute, collect and publish national and uniform statistics which permit the tracing of Federal, State and Territorial cases through the criminal justice system from the point of reporting to their ultimate disposition. Comprehensive Federal and Territorial statistics concerning offenders and offences against Commonwealth laws should be compiled as a matter of priority. Statistics are required not for academic curiosity but to meet a number of important practical and, at present, unfulfilled national needs, including:

Criminal Justice resource allocation and planning. Effective utilisation of existing resources, as well as planning for the future, depends upon the availability of accurate and reliable data about the state and direction of crime.

- Evaluation of crime control policies. Assessment of what works, and what does not, among an array of criminal justice crime control techniques, demands access to a range of current statistics generated by operating agencies.
- Providing Parliament, and the public, with information about crime and the measures taken to deal with criminals. The public as the main provider and consumer of criminal justice services has a right to know the extent to which these services are fulfilling their objectives.
- Research. The establishment of new approaches to the problems of crime in the community requires experimentation. Experimentation in turn requires researchers who must rely to a large extent upon statistics produced by official bodies, like the police, courts and corrections.

The provision of up-to-date, detailed and comprehensive criminal justice statistics is already becoming a commonplace in many North American jurisdictions with the advent of computer based information systems. The technology is available in this country. What is required is a concerted effort to apply this technology in an Australian setting to Australian criminal justice data. If necessary, the Bureau should seek specific legislative power to expedite the development of national crime statistics. The Bureau should lead this effort in close collaboration with the Australian Federal Police which already has an important responsibility to prepare national statistics on drug abuse. These statistics are the closest we come in Australia to a national computer based criminal justice information system, but they are confined to a single class of crime which is in many ways atypical and special.

Utopia Land Claim

60 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the cost to the Territory of proceedings commenced by the Attorney-General by way of prerogative writ in the High Court of Australia to challenge the Aboriginal Land Commissioner's findings on jurisdiction in the Utopia Aboriginal land claim case?

ANSWER

Approximately \$15,000.

Alice Springs - Alcohol-Related Offences

61 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that in October 1979 some 227 people appeared on more than 600 charges in the Alice Springs Court?
2. Is it a fact that some 90-95% of these charges were alcohol-related?
3. If so, what action does he propose to take to reduce the high incidence of alcohol-related crimes in the Territory?
4. Will the government undertake an analysis of the residential status-background and the educational and cultural background of the majority of offenders before the courts in the Territory in order to construct a profile of the typical offender and to make available such data to interested community organisations and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Records are not kept in such form as would disclose whether or not the

figures quoted are accurate.

Records, as kept, disclose that in October 1979, 364 appearances were made in relation to 953 charges.

2. The question gives no guidance as to what is meant by 'alcohol-related' charges.

136 of the 953 charges were directly related to alcohol, viz. 'Driving under the influence', 'Exceed .08%', &c.

Some of the charges, not on the face of them directly related to alcohol, would, no doubt, relate to offences committed while under the influence of alcohol or in the course of obtaining alcohol (e.g., stealing money to purchase the same).

No statistics are kept listing reasons given for committing or allegedly committing offences.

A significant number of the charges relate to minor traffic offences. The 90-95% figure mentioned in the question is almost certainly far too high.

Alice Springs - TAFE Positions

62 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many TAFE positions exist in Alice Springs?
2. What are (a) the levels of these positions, and (b) who are the incumbents?
3. Are these positions sufficient for the government to implement the training component of the 'Five Year Plan' for the improvement of Aboriginal communities as outlined in the Legislative Assembly by the Chief Minister?
4. If not, how many new positions and at what levels will be created?
5. When will these positions be filled?
6. Will he supply details of his department's involvement in the 'Five Year Plan', including (a) the number of educators involved; (b) the support services to be provided; (c) the resources to be allocated; (d) the budgets; and (e) the goals?
7. If not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Six.
2. CTS BAND 3 TAFE - Mr T. Marling
CTS BAND 2 TAFE - Mr R. Davidson
CTS BAND 1 TAFE - Mrs D. Shanahan
CTS BAND 1 TAFE - Mr M. Brearly

Aboriginal Adult Education Assistant (NTPS) - Mr R. Golder and Mr J. Macumba.

3. - 6. The matters contained in these questions are currently the subject of Cabinet consideration.
7. Not applicable.

Education Department Document - 'Single Officers Housing Review'

63 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is there a Department of Education document entitled 'Single Officers Housing Review'?

2. If so, will he supply me with a copy of this document?
3. If not, why not?

ANSWER

1. The document you refer to is possibly a minute to my Director of Educational Facilities, dealing with single officer housing in Katherine and Tennant Creek.
2. I do not propose to supply copies of this minute as it is an internal department paper.
3. If the member wishes to direct specific questions on issues of concern to him in this area, I will arrange for answers to be provided.

Schools Commission Innovations Committee Grants

64 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is it a fact that an organisation or incorporated body must first obtain the approval of the Department of Education in order to be eligible for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovation Committee?
2. If so, why?
3. What criteria are used by his department in assessing an organisation's performance or goals in respect of approvals from the Schools Commission Innovation Committee?
4. Is it a fact that his department has refused to approve the activities of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs in conjunction with 2 applications for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovation Committee made in 1978 and 1979 and, if so, why?
5. Does an 'independent school' within the terms of the Education Act require approval from the department in order to be eligible for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovation Committee?
6. What is the government's intention in regard to Aboriginal self-management in education?
7. Is it a fact that the Principal Education Adviser for the Alice Springs region recently informed the Yipirinya Council that the best solution for the Council is to become a part of the Department of Education and, if so, why?
8. Does he plan to support other education proposals similar to those of the Yipirinya School?

ANSWER

- 1.(i) Innovations grants are made to individuals, and not to organisations or incorporated bodies.
(ii) The Schools Commission Innovation Committee in the NT is independent of the NT Department of Education. Normally one member of the committee represents the department, and he cannot, nor does he wish to, control the decisions of the group.
2. See answer to question 1.
3. The department has no formal role in the distribution or use of Schools Commission Innovation Grants, the department would consider:
 - (i) whether the program is likely to contribute to the educational development of those involved;
 - (ii) whether it has good support of parents and community;

- (iii) whether the proposal is innovative;
- (iv) whether it may duplicate aspects of existing programs;
- (v) how it might relate to other educational services; and
- (vii) its relationship to other programs being developed in the wider NT situation.

However, it should be reiterated that the department does not have authority to reject or approve applications for innovation grants.

4. The department has not refused to approve the activities of the Yipirinya School Council in conjunction with their applications for a grant from the Innovation Committee. The Yipirinya School Council's application was referred by the Schools Commission to the department for the following reasons:

- (i) As the style of program likely to be established by the council was already in trial and operation in a number of locations throughout the NT it was felt that it could be better supported by the department if run in conjunction with those already resourced and run by its experienced officers;
- (ii) the commission was keen to ensure that any program established would complement those of other primary education programs in the area; and
- (iii) while proposing to run an 'independent' type school system, the council's proposals did not provide sufficient detailed information to demonstrate that the Yipirinya School Council could independently raise funds, draft and administer a program of planning, housing, staffing and operating an approved education program. Neither did it provide adequate information on the development and implementation of a curriculum for the school.

It is understood that recently the Education Centre in Alice Springs agreed to fund a Yipirinya training program designed to develop Aboriginal assistant teachers. (The Education Centre is 'semi-autonomous' and jointly funded by the Department of Education and the Schools Commission.)

5. See answer to question 2.

6. The government's policy on Aboriginal self-management is exactly the same as outlined by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. The Department of Education recognises the role of the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs in setting policy for Aboriginal education. That policy acknowledges self-management through the upgrading of qualified Aboriginal teachers, and the involvement of school councils in the development and contribution to school policies, programs and their operation. However, the department is obliged to carry out the requirements of the NT act. That act requires the department to be assured that the education offered to children and provided to children is of a satisfactory standard.

7. No, it was not the Principal Education Adviser who contacted the Yipirinya School Council, it was the Director, South. In full consultation with the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary (Programs) he made an offer to the Yipirinya School Council. It is true that the offer envisaged the school as a government school, but allowed for a most flexible and responsive range of provisions - the widest possible under the NT Education Act. The offer included:

- (i) the provision of 3 teachers and 3 assistant teachers with normal government school funding to the Yipirinya School Council;
- (ii) the Yipirinya School Council would operate as a normal school

council, and advise the teachers and regional office on the best way an education program could be offered; and

- (iii) the community have full participation, while the program would have the back-up the of department's full range of resources.
8. While the Department of Education is willing to respond to specific and differing educational requirements which arise in the NT, I believe the department would be acting irresponsibly if it did so without first ensuring that:
- (i) any new proposal genuinely reflected the desires and was likely to meet the needs of the particular community or group; and
- (ii) the proposal did not duplicate an existing program.

The government is well aware of the difficulties faced by Aboriginal communities and groups, arising out of their search for self-management and its necessary skills.

I believe a program in the 'Fringe Camps Area' will only be viable if it is coordinated by the department, and has the full resources of its curriculum and advisory staff to assess and cater for:

- the very complex program they envisage;
- the upgrading of assistant teachers; and
- the proper and educationally sound introduction of bilingual programs;

as well as enabling the provision of the necessary highly skilled professional staff committed to consultation and involvement of the people in the professional and cultural validation of the program.

Alice Springs - Transport for Schoolchildren

65 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Which company has the contract to transport schoolchildren in Alice Springs?
2. How many companies tendered for the job?
3. What were the tender prices submitted?
4. What is the cost per kilometre of transporting schoolchildren to school in (a) Alice Springs; and (b) Darwin?

ANSWER

Matilda Tours Pty Ltd won the contract to transport schoolchildren in Alice Springs for an estimated annual expenditure of \$166,752.

As the balance of information sought deals with the confidential activities of the Northern Territory Tender Board, I suggest this question be re-directed to the Treasurer.

Central Australian Community College Hospitality Course

66 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Why did the person charged with setting up the hospitality course at the Central Australian Community College resign?
2. What steps are being taken to find a replacement?
3. When is it anticipated the hospitality course will start?
4. Does the government feel there is any urgency for such a course to be started in the Centre?

ANSWER

1. Mr Gould came to Alice Springs to prepare an advising to the Department of Education on the establishment of the course, not to set up the school. He was offered an extension to this contract, but for family reasons declined to accept.
2. As the task has been completed the question has no meaning.
3. The hospitality courses will commence in the first semester 1981.
4. The government fully supports the establishment of the Department of Hospitality and Catering. Gillen House will be modified and upgraded to serve as a venue, and the head of department is preparing courses for use early in 1981.

Kormilda and Yirara Colleges - Graduates

67 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many students graduated from all courses last year at Kormilda College and Yirara College respectively?
2. What proportion of last year's graduates from Kormilda College and Yirara College respectively are now (a) employed; and (b) unemployed?

ANSWER

1. The member for MacDonnell is, I am sure, quite familiar with the nature of the courses provided at Kormilda and Yirara Colleges, and as such must agree that the term 'graduated' is not really appropriate. In fact, it is somewhat difficult to ascertain precisely which statistics he is seeking.

Both Kormilda and Yirara Colleges provide transitional courses for students intending to proceed to a high school. These courses may be of one or 2 years duration, leading to enrolment at either year 8 or year 9 in a high school, depending on the readiness of the individual.

The colleges also conduct vocational programs, to cater particularly for students from communities where post-primary courses are not available at the local schools. These courses, of 2 to 4 years duration, are intended to lead to either the return of the student to his or her community for employment or, alternatively, an additional year of specialised training at the college.

In addition to the courses outlined above, some short term special courses have been offered in student driver education and small power boat maintenance and safety.

If by graduation, the member means completion of any of the above courses, the numbers of 'graduates' from the 2 colleges are:

Kormilda - 85; and Yirara - 20.

2. Although neither college keeps accurate records of the post-school employment of their students, it is known that of the students which 'graduated' last year some found employment in the following fields:
 - apprenticeships with the Northern Territory Electricity Commission;
 - dental assistant;
 - stockman;
 - police cadetships;
 - various forms of work in their local communities (school, health clinic and store); and
 - enrolled in teacher training at Batchelor College.

A large percentage of those that 'graduated' were girls, who by virtue

of their attendance at these residential colleges return to their communities better educated in mothercraft, nutrition and community health.

Conference of Council Presidents and Aboriginal Community Advisers

68 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to the Conference of Council Presidents and Aboriginal Community Advisers held at Kormilda College in January 1980, and ask -

1. Did the government agree at that conference that a minimum of 40 adult educators were required to properly staff all major centres in the Territory and, if so, what action has been taken to recruit staff for these positions?
2. Will he supply a list of (a) the names of adult educators presently employed, (b) the locations where they are employed, and (c) their major skills and qualifications?

ANSWER

1. Ideally, 40 adult educators are required to properly staff all major centres in the Territory, and the government has made a commitment towards this goal.
2. (a) R. Lister
A. Harrison
J. Flattum
G. Freeman
R. Earnshaw
R. Davidson
R. McRoberts
J. Prior
L. Brooks
D. Puffett
B. Haynes
A. Steele
J. Irvine
T. Strike
S. Wenman
D. Shannon
Temp. vacant
I. Robert
P. McKinnon
L. Fracek
D. Shanahan
N. Quigley
A. Carter
J. Dunstall
- (b) Snake Bay
Oenpelli
Yuendumu
Warrabri
Bagot
Alice Springs
Garden Point
Yirrkala
Milingimbi
Darwin Rural
Jabiru
Roper River
Borrooloola
Bamyili
Maningrida
Katherine
Papunya
Hooker Creek
Numbulwar
Tennant Creek
Alice Springs
Croker Island
Darwin
Angurugu
- (c) All adult educators are qualified teachers.

Housing Commission - Questionnaire on Sale of Flats

69 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to a notice sent to some tenants of the Housing Commission in Alice Springs recently in which inquiries were made regarding interest in the possible purchase of flats and townhouses, and ask -

1. How many responses to the questionnaire have been received?
2. How many of the respondents showed strong, positive interest in purchasing flats or townhouses?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

3. Will the Housing Commission proceed with any sales?
4. If so, when will the sales be completed?
5. In which particular block or blocks of flats and townhouses will sales be made?
6. How did the Commission arrive at the price of \$42,000 to \$43,000 per unit?
7. Has he received a letter dated 22 October from the South Court Residents' Association of Alice Springs which raises some concern about tenants' security; and, if so, what reply has he made to the letter?

ANSWER

1. Alice Springs - 75.
2. Alice Springs - 16.
3. That is the intention and will be determined when the survey has been analysed.
4. Applications to purchase flats and or townhouses will be processed in the same manner as applications to purchase houses and will be accepted as soon as a decision is made on the complexes to be offered for sale.
5. It has not yet been determined which block or blocks of flats and townhouses will be sold.
6. Valuations referred to Darwin units only. The Alice Springs units will be valued early December.
7. The letter from the South Court Residents Association dated 22 October 1980 has been received. The reply included:
 - (a) Answer No. 6 above;
 - (b) the present tenants who cannot afford to buy or who do not wish to purchase a flat or townhouse would be offered other suitable alternative accommodation at least equal to or if necessary higher than their present entitlement; and
 - (c) that there is absolutely no truth in the rumour that if tenants do not wish to purchase, the entire block of flats will be sold to a developer.

Housing Commission - Document on Aboriginal Housing

70 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to a document tabled in the Assembly by the Chief Minister and issued by the NT Housing Commission in March 1980. The document is titled 'Proposal for Achieving Improved Housing Conditions for Aboriginal Communities in the Northern Territory', and is part of what is commonly known as the 'Five Year Plan', and ask -

1. What is the status of the document?
2. Have the recommendations in the document been considered by Cabinet?
3. If so, have the recommendations been accepted?
4. Has the Territory government had discussions with the federal government regarding the proposal to disband 'the advisory teams of architects and other technical staff engaged on Aboriginal housing within the Department of Construction in the NT'; and, if so, what has resulted from these discussions?
5. What discussions have been held between officers of the Housing Commis-

sion and the leaders of Aboriginal communities regarding the government's proposals as outlined in the 'Five Year Plan'?

6. What has been the result of these discussions?
7. Does the Housing Commission expect to employ more staff to explain the proposals to Aboriginal communities?
8. Did the former Chairman of the Housing Commission, Mr G. Stolz, and officers of the Commission visit a number of Aboriginal communities just before the last Legislative Assembly election with proposals for housing which had to be accepted or rejected before the end of June?
9. If so, when was it decided to make these visits, and what was the reason for the haste?

ANSWER

1. The document was an information paper prepared by NT government departments for the consideration of the NT government.
2. The recommendations of the document are being progressively refined and incorporated in submissions to Cabinet. Action cannot be implemented until such time as the difficulties outlined in 3 herein are overcome.
3. & 4. The NT government has had discussions on the matter with officers of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in April 1980. The proposal to have the funding for general housing on Aboriginal communities transferred from the Commonwealth was rejected by the Commonwealth. Until such time as the function of housing on communities, along with the appropriate level of funding, is transferred to the NT government, the Commonwealth's officers from the Department of Construction will be involved with communities.
5. Discussions on staff housing on communities have been conducted between some communities and the NT Housing Commission. Discussions on general housing cannot be held until funding is provided by the Commonwealth.
6. A works program of 5 NTPS staff houses was undertaken on 4 communities.
7. Yes.
8. Yes.
9. It was proposed to make the visits as a result of a speech made on 14 February 1980 when the Treasurer announced that \$300,000 had been earmarked specifically to provide staff housing on communities. As the moneys were to be expended during the 1979-80 financial year, a quick initiative had to be taken to ensure this.

Housing Commission - Advertisement in Weekend Australian

71 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to an advertisement in the 'Weekend Australian' of 2-3 August 1980 by P.A. Consulting Services Pty Ltd of North Sydney for a Director of Finance and Loans in the NT Housing Commission, and ask -

1. Is it the policy of the commission to use management consultants to select staff?
2. If so, does this indicate a lack of confidence by the government in the recruitment skills of senior commission staff and personnel staff from other areas of government?
3. What were the total costs involved in hiring management consultants to select staff in this instance?

4. What does the term 'operate on a commercial basis' mean in the same advertisement?

ANSWER

1. It is not usual policy of the commission to use management consultants for recruitment. In this case, however, it was considered that a consultant could assist in shortlisting candidates.
2. No.
3. Total costs were \$4,916.20 comprising \$1,800 fees, and \$3,116.20 recruitment expenses.
4. The term 'operate on a commercial basis' refers to the requirement for the commission to use commercial accounting principles pursuant to section 66 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

Mereenie Aquifer

72 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. How many oil wells have been drilled in the Amadeus Basin in Central Australia?
2. How many of these wells have (a) intersected the Mereenie sandstone aquifer, (b) been plugged, (c) been capped, and (d) what is the current status of these wells?
3. What precautions have been taken to ensure that the Mereenie aquifer has not been contaminated by hydrocarbons and salt water from the oil-bearing formation?
4. Is there any danger of the Mereenie aquifer being polluted as a result of past, present or future oil well drilling operations in Central Australia?

ANSWER

Twenty-six oil exploration or development wells have been drilled in the Amadeus Basin. Of these, 8 were at Mereenie and 3 were at Palm Valley. Hydrocarbon shows were found in 6 other wells.

All wells at Mereenie and Palm Valley were drilled through the Mereenie formation.

The 3 wells at Palm Valley were completed as suspended gas producers.

Of the wells at Mereenie, one is completed as a suspended oil producer.

All wells in the Amadeus Basin have been completed in accordance with good oil field practice. This includes the setting of plugs and cement in the well such as to prevent cross contamination of aquifers or hydrocarbon-bearing zones.

There is no danger of the Mereenie aquifer being polluted as a result of past oil exploration activities. The government will ensure that safety standards are maintained.

Well completion reports are held by my department.

Services to Aboriginal Communities

73 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Who is responsible for the maintenance of internal service roads in Aboriginal communities?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

2. Who is responsible for the maintenance of main access roads to Aboriginal communities?
3. Is the planning of main roads to Aboriginal communities and internal service roads undertaken as a correlated construction exercise?
4. Who is responsible for the construction and maintenance of access roads to Aboriginal outstations?
5. Does the government offer on-site technical assistance to Aboriginal communities in respect of building?
6. Is there Aboriginal representation on the Rural Roads Board?
7. What safeguards exist to ensure the preservation of Aboriginal sacred sites which may be affected by road construction?

ANSWER

1. The internal roads within Aboriginal communities are maintained by the local council using funds allocated in the council's budget through Community Government Division of Community Development.
2. If the main access roads to the Aboriginal communities are public roads then the Department of Transport and Works, Roads Division, maintains the roads. Otherwise the responsibility lies with the Department of Community Development Aboriginal Essential Services to provide funds.
2. Main access roads and internal service roads are not undertaken as a construction exercise.
4. The Community Government Division of the Department of Community Development is responsible for the programming and provision of funds for the construction and maintenance of access roads to Aboriginal outstations, except insofar as those roads mentioned in 2 above provide all or part of the access to a community. The standard of road and method of construction should be decided upon only after full consultation with the community involved.
5. The Department of Transport and Works has in the past given assistance and supervision associated with the technical aspects of road building and the Darwin Community College does offer assistance with programs for operations of equipment on site.
6. The Rural Roads Conference holds annual conferences to which invitations are extended for representatives for the Land Councils to attend. However past conferences have shown that representatives very rarely attend.
7. After full consultation with local Aboriginal communities in the development of these projects, each road proposal is referred to the Land Councils and the Environmental Unit of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission to enable all environmental matters, including Aboriginal sacred sites, to be safeguarded and preserved.

Alice Springs - Environmental Damage by Roadworks

75 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to the reply by the former Minister for Transport and Works to a question asked in February 1980 by the Member for Stuart concerning rehabilitation of the roadside and other areas through the hills north of Alice Springs, in which he said that his department had 'spent in excess of \$100,000 on repairs to some of the areas that have been damaged', and ask -

1. Can he confirm the statement reported in the Centralian Advocate on 27 March 1980, that '\$100,000 had been allocated to reclaim environmental degradation in the area?'

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

2. Has there been one or two allocations of \$100,000 for this work?
3. Does his department regard the words 'reclaiming', 'repairing', 'regeneration' and 'rehabilitation' as synonymous with the term 'cleaning up after the contractor?'
4. Was the sum of \$73,384 expended on the hire of a loader and dump truck for rehabilitation, reclamation, repair or regeneration?
5. Does his department normally allocate large sums of money to clean up after a contractor has completed a job, or is it normal practice for contractors to carry out such cleaning up work themselves and for the cost of this work to be taken into consideration when the tender is lodged?
6. Does further work need to be carried out to repair the damage caused; and, if so, what is (a) the nature of the work, (b) how much will it cost, and (c) when will it be completed?

ANSWER

1. Yes. \$103,405 was allocated for environmental rehabilitation which included cleaning up after the original contractors went into liquidation.
2. There has been only one allocation of \$103,405 for this work.
3. My department regards the words 'reclaiming', 'repairing', 'regeneration' and 'rehabilitation' as being synonymous with the term 'performing works necessary for the good of the environment and benefit of the public' and, as such, is normally included in contract documents.
4. The sum of \$73,384 was spent on hiring a dump truck and loader simply to clear the construction area left in a mess after the original contractors went into liquidation.
5. It is normal practice for contractors to pay for and carry out work themselves after completion of a contract. However, in this instance, the original contractors - I.G. Favaro & Sons - went into liquidation halfway through the contract and it was necessary for the Department of Transport and Works to take over the contract. In doing so, the department took over all responsibilities for the contract which included the cleaning up afterwards, and the environmental rehabilitation of the area affected by construction.
6. No further rehabilitation work requires to be carried out. Buffel grass was planted in the ripped areas and all that is now required is for natural regeneration of vegetation to take place. This is occurring satisfactorily.
7. Yes. As previously advised, the borrow pits, quarries and stockpile sites have all been ripped and buffel grass planted in the ripped areas. In addition, top soil was laid in the borrow pits. All work was carried out under expert supervision of the Conservation Commission (then the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission).

Women's Refuges

76 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How much was allocated to the Northern Territory by the Commonwealth government for women's refuges in (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth government contributed \$30,000 to the operating costs of

the Alice Springs Women's Centre in 1979-80. This was made available to the Northern Territory government under the Community Health Program grant scheme.

The Commonwealth did not contribute to the funding of other women's refuges in 1979-80 or to any refuges to date in 1980-81.

Emergency Accommodation

77 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the announcement of the Treasurer in May this year of the government's commitment to providing emergency accommodation for people in certain hostels in need of housing, and ask -

1. When does he expect the scheme to begin?
2. How many people are at present on the waiting lists for (a) public, and (b) private housing?
3. In the 3 months to 31 October 1980, how many people have (a) applied for out-of-turn housing allocations, (b) have been accepted?
4. What is the breakdown of the successful and unsuccessful applicants in terms of whether they are unemployed, single parent families and so on?

ANSWER

1. Negotiations are taking place and accommodation should be available by early next year.

<u>Darwin</u>	<u>Alice Springs</u>
2. Public 1366 NTPS 721	Public 525 NTPS 102
3. 111 interviews 23 to committee (application accepted) 7 approved 16 rejected 78 not referred	29 interviews 14 to committee (application accepted) 3 approved 19 rejected 7 withdrawn by applicants
4. <u>Approved</u> 3 employed 2 supporting parents 2 blind	<u>Approved</u> 1 eviction 1 supporting parent (mother and 1) 1 supporting parent benefit (mother and 1 - medical reasons)
5. <u>Not Approved</u> 50 employed 10 invalid pensioners 28 supporting parent benefits 2 unemployed benefits 1 aged pensioner 3 part-time employed	<u>Not Approved</u> 1 pensioner Nil unemployed 5 supporting parent benefits 13 employed

Social Security Payments and Funding to Organisations

78 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many people have (a) applied for hardship payments on referral from the Department of Social Security, and (b) have received assistance in the 3 months to 31 October 1980?
2. How do these figures compare with the same period in 1979?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

3. What steps is he taking to ensure that organisations in receipt of grants and subsidies know well in advance of the end of the financial year if their submissions have been successful and to what extent?

ANSWER

1. (a) The Department of Social Security has advised the Department of Community Development that it has made 287 referrals to the Community Welfare Division during the months of August, September and October 1980.
- (b) The Community Welfare Division of the Department of Community Development provided financial assistance to a total of 1,775 individuals during the 3 months prior to 31 October 1980.
2. (a) The number of referrals from the Department of Social Security during the period of the 3 months to 31 October 1979 is unavailable. However, during December 1979, 60 referrals to the Community Welfare Division were made by the Department of Social Security.
- (b) The Community Welfare Division of the Department of Community Development provided financial assistance to 580 individuals during the months of August, September and October 1979.
3. Applications for grants-in-aid administered by the Department of Community Development will be called for before the end of 1980.

Applications received will be assessed and decisions made on funding during the financial process leading up to the 1981 budget. It is unlikely decisions will be made until commencement of the 1981-2 financial year.

Organisations will be advised as early as practicable.

Dhupuma College Staff

80 Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many Aboriginal house parents and social advisers from Dhupuma College are still employed in the Department of Education?

ANSWER

All ex-Dhupuma Aboriginal employees are still employed by the Education Department except J. Dhanadhana who accepted a position with the Elcho Island Council.

Fisheries Vessels

83 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Are the fisheries or police vessels 'Salloo' and 'Pobassoo' presently being used for research and monitoring of fish species, numbers and distribution?
2. If so, what is the level of expertise on board these vessels to conduct such research?

ANSWER

The Police Fisheries Enforcement Unit Vessel 'Pobassoo' is doing work in the Daly River area with 2 fisheries division research personnel monitoring fish species and numbers. One of the Fisheries Officers is a qualified biologist and barramundi expert. He has a Fisheries Division Technical Officer Grade 2 as a research assistant.

The current research tour is the second since the Fisheries Enforcement

Unit Vessel 'Pobassoo' was transferred to Police Force control. The previous tour was to the Daly River area from 15 October to 22 October 1980. On this occasion the vessel was crewed as previously mentioned and research personnel consisted of the biologist and an acting technical assistant Grade 2 from the Fisheries Division.

The 'Salloo' is currently based at Gove Harbour. This vessel is being used to police the commercial fishing industry in the Gulf of Carpentaria and northern waters.

The vessel has a permanent crew of 3. The skipper is a Northern Territory policeman who has previous experience as a prawn trawler skipper in Queensland. The vessel engineer is a transferred Fisheries Enforcement Inspector. The deckhand is a policeman with numerous years of navy experience.

The 'Salloo' has an additional crew of 2 to be used as a boarding party. These persons alternate from an experienced fisheries enforcement inspector and a policeman to 2 experienced policemen, as manpower allows. The 'Salloo' will carry out regular patrols of the gulf and northern waters and as previously agreed will be available for research purposes and assistance with foreign fishing vessels.

The area of 'Fisheries Development and Research' was retained by the Fisheries Division, Department of Primary Production at the time of transfer.

The Police Force agreed to assist in research programs and to date has honoured this commitment. It is envisaged research programs will continue in the future on a joint operational basis.

Todd River Reserve

84 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What action has the government taken to improve the condition of the Todd River Reserve in Alice Springs?
2. Is it true that mistletoe infestation is accelerating the death of the Todd River gums and that the growth of bamboo and bullrushes is choking new growth and creating a potential flood hazard?
3. If so, will the government provide assistance to preserve the Todd River gums and enable Alice Springs to retain its reputation as a town of scenic beauty?

ANSWER

1. The government has created a Todd River Reserve under the management of the Conservation Commission. Active rehabilitation measures have been undertaken to improve the reserve, including clean up, planting of trees, irrigation, development of lawns, low profile fencing to exclude vehicles, and other significant projects.
2. Mistletoe infestation on trees is a symptom of poor tree health and can accelerate the decline. Bullrushes and reed grass in the riverbed pose a flooding and a fire threat. These species will gradually be removed by normal means - a difficult task.
3. A proportion of the budget of the Conservation Commission is provided annually for the rehabilitation project and an extra \$20,000 was provided this year to speed up the program.

Ti Tree - Coroner's Inquiry into Shooting

85 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

When will the coroner's inquiry be held into the fatal shooting of a man in the Ti Tree area in July 1980?

ANSWER

It is assumed that the coroner's inquiry into the Ti Tree shooting will be held after the charges arising out of the incident have been heard and determined by the appropriate court. No date has yet been set so far as I am aware.

Pensioners - Taxi Voucher Scheme

86 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is he aware that in May 1980, the former Minister for Community Development stated that \$30,000 had been set aside to introduce a taxi voucher system for the aged, handicapped and ill as part of the government's contribution to the International Year of the Disabled Person?
2. If so, has \$30,000 been set aside for this purpose?
3. At what stage of development is the taxi voucher scheme at present?

ANSWER

1. The former Minister for Community Development indicated that the transportation needs of disabled people would be reviewed as part of the Northern Territory government's participation in the International Year of the Disabled. He indicated that this matter would be referred to the various groups involved in providing transport for disabled people.
2. A total of \$90,000 has now been set aside for IYDP projects including a Commonwealth grant of \$50,000.
3. The matter of transportation and, in particular, the feasibility of introducing a taxi voucher system has been referred to the Regional Committees on the handicapped for their consideration and recommendation. As you are aware, these committees are to co-ordinate actions related to IYDP initiatives.

I am now advised by the committees that the introduction of a voucher system would be premature as the number of transport disabled in the Northern Territory is unknown. Both the Department of Transport and Works and the Taxi Advisory Council have also considered this matter but have not made any firm proposals. Therefore, a taxi voucher system or an alternative scheme will not be implemented until the Regional Committees complete their review of the transport needs of disabled persons and make their recommendations to the government.

Berrimah Prison

88 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Will he table any report compiled on the escape from the Berrimah prison of Frederick David Howard?
2. If not, what assurances can he give to the public that adequate precautions have been taken to ensure that prisoners cannot escape to cause consternation in the community and extra work for the already hard-pressed police force?

ANSWER

1. I will not be tabling any report compiled about the escape from Berrimah prison of Frederick David Howard.
2. Following the escape of prisoner Howard security procedures and facilities at Darwin Prison have been reviewed and upgraded. The public can take comfort from the fact that although the Northern Territory has the

highest imprisonment rate in Australia, its escape rate is the second lowest in the country. The lowest is Tasmania which has not had an escape over the past 12 months.

The Northern Territory has had 2 successfully recaptured escapees within the same period. This level of public protection compares more than favourably with the other Australian states, particularly New South Wales, where the most recent analysis indicates 1 prisoner escapes from custody every 2.2 days.

Alice Springs Prison

89 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Have alterations been made to the Alice Springs prison which will in effect reduce the area available to female prisoners?
2. If so, what action will be taken to ensure that an adequate exercise area is available for female prisoners?
3. Does the government propose to build a prison farm in the Alice Springs area?
4. If so, (a) where will it be located, (b) what is the estimated cost of establishing it, and (c) what will be the accommodation capacity?

ANSWER

1. & 2. Building alterations are in progress at the gaol in Alice Springs to provide adequate toilet and shower facilities and an assembly area for the 50 male and female staff at the institution.

Upgrading of these facilities was among the undertakings given by management following an industrial dispute 12 months ago. The new works also incorporate an office for the gatekeeper and chief prison officer, and take up about 55 square metres of the women's section of the prison.

An area of more than 430 square metres remains for the outdoor recreational needs of women prisoners. Having regard for the limited numbers of female prisoners held at Alice Springs the area available for exercise is considered to be adequate.

3. & 4. There is a proposal that an institution be established in the Alice Springs region along the lines of a prison farm. At this stage investigation is in progress into the availability of a suitable site, the type of agricultural activity to be undertaken and other feasibility aspects of the proposal.

Early thinking is that the institution would accommodate from 40 to 60 minimum security prisoners. Establishment costs have not yet been estimated with any accuracy since a number of variable factors in the proposal are still to be resolved.

Alice Springs - Pinball Parlours

90 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is he aware of recent Alice Springs media reports linking the advent of pinball parlours in the town with an increase in the local juvenile crime rate?
2. If so, what action does he propose to take to have this situation investigated and the problem overcome?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. The government is monitoring the operations of pinball parlours. Reports have been received on the subject from the Police, Department of Community Development and the Youth Forum. The Places of Public Entertainment Act is presently being studied for its effectiveness in controlling the operation of the parlours.

Ewaninga Reserve - Uranium Discovery

91 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Is it a fact that a German consortium has made an uranium discovery in the vicinity of the Ewaninga Conservation Reserve, south of Alice Springs?
2. If so, is he aware of any plans to mine and process this uranium?

ANSWER

Uranium mineralization has been known to exist in a wide area north-west of the Ewaninga Conservation Reserve for some years. The company involved, Uranerz Australia, reports that they have not, as yet, discovered sufficient mineralization of an economic grade to warrant them proceeding to mining and they are actively continuing their exploration.

Until sufficient reserves of material are found, which are economically viable to extract and process, no company can entertain definite plans of mining and processing. I have visited the area and noted that the exploration is conducted with the greatest care to avoid adding to the natural surface effects of the uranium mineralization. Uranerz is exploring within an exploration licence formerly numbered EL 845 and now numbered 2571. A mining lease is required before mining can proceed.

Yulara Tourist Village

92 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I refer to the government's proposal to provide solar power at the new Yulara Village, and ask -

1. Does the government intend to proceed with the proposal to supply solar power to Yulara Village?
2. If so, (a) when will solar power be supplied to Yulara Village, and (b) what will be the total cost?

ANSWER

The government is keen to promote the application of solar energy technology in the Northern Territory as much as possible, and therefore the proposal to install a solar power station at Yulara is of particular interest. However, the capital cost of approximately \$16 million which the McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Company and the Sabemo Transfield Group quoted in the preliminary proposal for the plant is unacceptably high. Officers from the Department of Mines and Energy and the Northern Territory Electricity Commission are continuing with a full technical and economic appraisal of the proposed solar plant, and hopefully a much lower capital cost can be negotiated.

The assessment of the proposal and discussions with Sabemo and McDonnell Douglas are expected to continue for at least several months. Also, because of the power generation subsidy arrangements, Commonwealth government consultation is required.

In the meantime, planning is proceeding for the installation of diesel generation equipment in the initial stage. This capacity will be subse-

quently supplemented by either the solar system, or further diesel sets, depending on the outcome of the current negotiations.

Eye Health and Trachoma Program

93 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer to recent media reports regarding the National Eye Health and Trachoma Program and ask - when will the National Eye Health and Trachoma Program resume its unfinished work throughout Territory communities?

ANSWER

I would have thought the position with regard to the Trachoma Program had been made perfectly clear in recent weeks.

The facts are:

1. The Northern Territory Department of Health is running a Territory-wide trachoma program which has been continuously applied to school and pre-school children over the last 2 or more years.
2. This program is being independently monitored in the Wave Hill area by a team from Melbourne University.
3. The Department of Health and the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists have recently agreed to co-operate in trachoma control and the treatment of the sequelae of the disease.
4. The next step is for the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists to put up a proposal, through the Commonwealth, to the NT Government for consideration, and we are awaiting this response.

Alice Springs - Farm Produce

94 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Bearing in mind that the price of vegetables in Alice Springs is sometimes double that in Adelaide, and that the so-called 'farm area' is plagued by salt problems, will he advise what steps will be taken to provide a more suitable alternative area for production of farm produce in the centre?

ANSWER

The government has been aware for some time of the need for alternative agricultural farms in the Alice Springs region due to the increasing salinity in the area known as the farms area.

Several investigations and reports have been written and consultants commissioned for the rehabilitation of the farms area.

In addition, water drilling programs have been carried out over a number of years to assess areas with agricultural potential. These areas include the Mereenie Basin, land between the Mereenie Basin and Alice Springs and the southern part of the Alice Springs region to James Range.

Suitable soils and adequate ground water are available near Ti Tree where Mr Ian Dahlenburg and his family have established a successful agricultural enterprise.

Unfortunately the government has no vacant Crown land available for release in this area as the land suitable for market gardening is held under pastoral lease tenure by the Aboriginal Land Fund Commission and is now subject to a traditional Aboriginal land claim.

The criteria for an agricultural area serving Alice Springs are a suffic-

iently large area of suitable soils, adequacy of water supply, close proximity to Alice Springs or location on a major transportation route. To date, efforts to locate areas with this combination of features have been unsuccessful.

Home Loans Scheme

95 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

How many people in receipt of (a) part, and (b) full social security and service pensions have been granted loans under the government Home Loans Scheme?

ANSWER

- (a) Statistics are not available.
- (b) Nil.

Araluen and Sadadeen Subdivisions

96 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. On what basis did the government select the companies to undertake development of the Araluen and Sadadeen subdivisions in Alice Springs?
2. In the case of Arian Investments Pty Ltd, does the government have evidence of the company's financial backing other than the fact that it has a paid up capital of some \$2?

ANSWER

1. The government selected the companies to undertake the development of the Araluen and Sadadeen Subdivisions in Alice Springs on the basis of section 3.7 of the Information Document for the development of these areas.

In accordance with the Crown Lands Act, the major assessment factor was 'that the recommended applicant was more likely than any other applicant to carry out satisfactorily the subdivisions of the subject land'.

The critical factors considered when making this assessment were:

- (a) financial, physical and technical capacity of the applicant;
- (b) amount of premium offered, the 'up-front' cash outlay being regarded as an indication of commitment and determination;
- (c) the price at which buy-back allotments were offered;
- (d) commitment to an acceptable time-table of lot turn-off - considerable importance being placed on lot turn-off no later than May 1981;
- (e) apparent ability and capacity to perform quickly;
- (f) demonstrated intent to produce variety and innovate while containing costs.

Because of the critical land supply and housing situation in Alice Springs, favourable consideration was also given to house-land package proposals.

2. Yes. I cannot quantify this information as it is confidential.

Residential Subdivisions

98 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will private developers be invited to register interest in the development of all future residential subdivisions in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

No. However, wherever possible it is intended that future residential subdivisions will be undertaken by private developers, although the government will at all times reserve the right to exercise its option. Each project will be judged independently and will be based on such factors as the economic situation and government policy at the time of development.

Adelaide River Crops

99 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What staff is currently available for research on and development of the crops which will be complementary to the rice production scheme on the Adelaide River?

ANSWER

Two professional staff positions are available for research and development of rice and complementary crops in the Adelaide River area.

One person will be engaged full-time on rice research while the other will be part-time on rice and part-time on complementary crops.

In addition, it is planned to recruit a professional officer to work on the extension, monitoring and development aspects of crops and pastures on commercial properties in the Adelaide River area.

Staff of the Research Services Branch (entomology, plant pathology and chemistry) will also work on complementary crops as required.

Adelaide River Crops

100 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. What crops other than rice will be grown on the Adelaide River?
2. Have markets been found for such crops which will ensure that they will be viable propositions?

ANSWER

1. It is anticipated that legume crops such as mung beans, soya beans or phasey beans will be grown in rotation with the rice areas.
2. Ready markets for mung beans and soya beans, however, further research on these crops will continue.

Berrimah Experiment Farm

101 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Has he or the government called for or carried out any investigation into land at Berrimah Experiment Farm for other than its present use?
2. If so, what other possible uses for the land are envisaged?

ANSWER

To my knowledge no specific inquiry has been ordered into alternative use of land at the Berrimah Experiment Farm.

However, that does not discount any general planning investigation into needs for transport corridors relevant to future development at East Arm Peninsula, Palmerston and the future railway line,

Radio Telephone Communications

102 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the communication difficulties experienced by the Numbulwar community of 600 Aboriginals, which has to share one radio telephone channel with 9 other subscribers?
2. If so, will he made representations to Telecom and the Federal Minister for Communications in an effort to upgrade radio telephone communications for these people and for the Groote Eylandt, Gove and Katherine people?

ANSWER

1. The Numbulwar community is currently served by a base radio which belongs to CMS but is available for more general use. A radio-telephone has also been in operation since March 1979. In addition the school and hospital have their own base radios installed by the respective departments. Numbulwar Council has ordered its own radio to use along with the outstation sets when that system is established.
2. Telecom Australia has just completed a study of remote area telecommunications in Australia, with particular emphasis on Territory outback communities. The content of this study is currently under discussion with the relevant Northern Territory government departments. This should result in detailed consultations with all remote communities in the Northern Territory to establish precise requirements with action following to provide adequate services. This should result in a dramatic improvement to services at Numbulwar and other communities.

NT Development Corporation

103 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

1. Which loans were taken over from the Commonwealth by the Northern Territory government at the time of self-government and which are now being handled by the Northern Territory Development Corporation?
2. What is the status of each outstanding loan?

ANSWER

1. The categories of loans taken over from the Commonwealth and the Department or Authority handling them are as follows:

<u>Loan</u>	<u>Department-Authority</u>
Water Supply Development Ordinance	Water and Sewerage Division, Department of Transport and Works
Long Term Low Interest Loans to Church Organisations	Department of Community Development
Sale of Bores (Drought Relief)	NT Development Corporation
Flood Relief Loans	NT Development Corporation
Special Assistance Loans:	
- Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd	NT Development Corporation
- Alice Springs Abattoirs Pty Ltd	NT Development Corporation
- Carba Australia Ltd	NT Development Corporation
Darwin Business Relief Loans	NT Development Corporation
Primary Producers Board Loans	NT Development Corporation
Sale of Government Homes	NT Housing Commission
6% Concessional Loan Scheme	NT Housing Commission
Home Finance Trustee Loans	NT Housing Commission

2. The status of each outstanding loan is as follows;

Water Supply Development Ordinance

Outstanding amounts are still being collected by the Water and Sewerage Division of the Department of Transport and Works.

Long Term Low Interest Loans to Church Organisations

The Northern Territory government has agreed to waive the balance of these loans if the organisations concerned pay, within 2 years, all the money owed to the NT government, under the scheme, for instalments due between 1 July 1978 and 30 June 1980.

Loans Administered by the NT Development Corporation

There are still amounts outstanding relating to the following loans. The collection of these outstanding amounts is being administered by the Development Corporation,

- Darwin Business Relief Loans
- Primary Producers Board Loans
- Sale of Bores (Drought Relief)
- Flood Relief Loans
- Special Assistance Loans;

(a) Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

(b) Alice Springs Abattoirs Pty Ltd

Details of the amounts outstanding are considered confidential.

Home Finance Trustee Loans

The amount owing to the Commonwealth as at 30 June 1978 was consolidated into a loan repayable over 45 years. Annual instalments comprising interest and principal are paid to the Commonwealth.

6% Concessional Loans Scheme

The amount owing to the Commonwealth as at 30 June 1978 has been consolidated into a loan which the Housing Commission is repaying to the Northern Territory Treasury over 45 years.

This loan is not being repaid to the Commonwealth.

Sale of Government Housing Loans

The Commission is repaying the amount which was owing to the Commonwealth as at 30 June 1978 to the Northern Territory government over 45 years. This loan is not being repaid to the Commonwealth.

The last 2 loans are deemed to be repaid to the Commonwealth by the fact that the revenue they create for the Northern Territory government has been deducted from the total base of financial assistance which would otherwise be made available by the Commonwealth. In other words, revenue which would have normally flowed to the Commonwealth has been offset against the financial assistance the Commonwealth makes to the Northern Territory.

Darwin Airport Site

105 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the siting of the new Darwin airport been agreed upon and, if so, where is the site to be?

ANSWER

The actual siting of the new Darwin airport terminal has not been agreed upon but it will be on the northern side of the main runway.

It is anticipated that a public display of the available alternative sites will take place in January-February 1981 and a final decision will be made after the public has had a chance to express views.

Nurses Quarters at Darwin Hospital

106 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many applications have been received for the utilisation of the vacant nurses quarters at the Darwin Hospital?
2. What use is being proposed for the accommodation units there?

ANSWER

1. Four groups have corresponded with the Northern Territory government showing interest in the nurses quarters, Temira House and Lambell House at the old Darwin Hospital site.
One group has shown interest in Temira House separately.
Three groups have shown interest in Lambell House separately.
Three groups have expressed interest in the use of Lambell House annex separately.
2. Current negotiations are for the proposed use of Temira House and Lambell House as medium to low cost accommodation.

Able Freight Services Pty Ltd

107 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has Able Transport been a contractor to the Department of Transport and Works in (a) 1978-9, (b) 1979-80, and (c) 1980-81?
2. Who are the principals of Able Transport?
3. Have any principals of Able Transport been employees of the Department of Transport and Works? If so, what positions did they hold?
4. Are any principals now employees of the Department of Transport and Works? If so, what positions do they hold?
5. Are any immediate relatives of the principals of Able Transport employees of the Department of Transport and Works? If so, what positions do they hold?
6. Has an investigation been carried out into the contracts awarded to Able Transport by the Department of Transport and Works in Alice Springs?
7. If so, (a) what recommendations were made as a result of the investigation, and (b) what action has been taken as a result of the recommendations?

ANSWER

1. I am informed that Able Freight Services Propriety Limited commenced operation on 7 April 1980. This company carried out 2 general freight services for the Department of Transport and Works on 21 April 1980 and 25 April 1980.
2. The principals of the company are B. & M. Carige.
3. & 4. One of the principals, Mr B. Carige, is currently employed by the department as the District Manager (Roads), Alice Springs (Senior Technical Officer, Grade 2). However, Mr Carige has tendered his resignation and will terminate his services at the close of business on 15 January 1981.

5. A daughter of Mr Carige, Miss Robyn Carige, is employed by the department in the Alice Springs Personnel Section as a Travel Clerk (Administrative Class A3).
6. As part of a wider investigation carried out in August-September 1980 a check was made on work carried out by this company for the department.
7. There were no recommendations made in respect of this company's work for the department.

Nuclear Power-station

108 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. When he speaks of a nuclear power plant for Darwin is he referring to a light water reactor, a high temperature gas reactor or a fast breeder reactor.
2. Is the NT government looking at the possibility of uranium enrichment in the Northern Territory? If so, what details can he give the Assembly?
3. When was the Northern Territory Energy Council first informed of the NT government's sudden enthusiasm for nuclear power?
4. Is it likely that the proposed nuclear power plant could be built in what is known as the Darwin rural area? If so, where?
5. Has the government had any talks at all with Nabalco about the possibility of processing alumina in Darwin, using nuclear power?
6. He has been quoting 'proponents of the nuclear power-station'. Who are these proponents? If they are outside government, will he name them?
7. What would be the estimated power requirement for a uranium enrichment plant in Darwin?
8. Have any representatives of nuclear power-station building companies been to the Territory for discussions with the NT government? If so, when and who were those companies?
9. Will he give full details of any plans to build a hexafluorine plant in the Northern Territory?
10. Is Gunn Point a possible location for a nuclear power-station?
11. How much would the nuclear power plant favoured by the government cost? What would be its output and how long would it take to construct?
12. What is the estimated cost of building a uranium enrichment plant in the Northern Territory?
13. Was he aware when he publicly stated that safety precautions had worked at Three Mile Island that the latest estimated cost of cleaning up that nuclear power plant is \$750 million and that it could take 3 or more years to decontaminate the plant?
14. Is he aware that, according to one American advocate of nuclear power, Mr Pedr Beckmann, weather conditions such as heat inversion and strong winds which exist in Darwin at certain times of the year, could lead to a disaster and loss of life in the community, in the event of a release of radio-active material from a nuclear plant?

ANSWER

1. Nuclear energy is being considered as an option for Darwin's power requirements by the Department of Mines and Energy and Northern Territory Electricity Commission. Economic and technical assessment of the American light water reactors and the Canadian heavy water reactors is

- being carried out by officers of my department. High temperature gas cooled reactors and fast breeders are not being considered.
2. The Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia, a consortium of BHP, CSR, WMC and Peko initiated by the Commonwealth government, is considering the feasibility of a uranium enrichment industry in Australia. The Northern Territory government would be interested in the establishment of such an industry in the Northern Territory if it could be shown to be technically and economically feasible.
 3. The Northern Territory Energy Council is a purely advisory body and hence there is no requirement for government to inform the council of its policy decisions. However, as a matter of information, the council was informed in November 1980 that nuclear energy was an option being considered.
 4. Since no firm decision to proceed with nuclear power has been taken at this stage, no site has been identified. However, it is envisaged that should such a station ever be constructed, it would be 50-80 km from Darwin, and part of a much larger grid system than that current.
 5. The Northern Territory government has held talks with Nabalco about the possibility of processing alumina in the Northern Territory. No reference was made to the use of nuclear power for such a plant. Clearly, electricity at rates much cheaper than those current would have to be offered to attract such an enterprise.
 6. I am not clear as to whom you mean as the 'proponents of nuclear power'. Could you please provide more detailed information on these quotes you refer to?
 7. An enrichment plant which employs gaseous diffusion technology requires about 2500 MW of power. Centrifuge techniques require considerably less power.
 8. No representative of any nuclear reactor company has been to the Territory to discuss nuclear energy with the government.
 9. The Northern Territory government has approached the Commonwealth government regarding the establishment of a plant in the Territory to convert yellowcake into uranium hexafluoride. Also, the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia study covers the establishment of a conversion plant. No firm plans have been formulated as yet.
 10. No.
 11. A 1000 MW electric light water reactor would generate about 6 billion kilowatt hours per year, costing about \$A1,000 million. It is estimated that a nuclear power plant could be operational within 10 years of the date of any commitment to proceed.
 12. A uranium enrichment plant of 10 million separative work units per year capacity would cost about \$A3 billion and would provide employment for 3,000 personnel during construction and 1,000 personnel for operations.
 13. It would be far too complex to describe the events which took place at Three Mile Island. However, melting of the core was prevented. The fact remains that no member of the public has ever been injured by a commercial reactor accident, including the one at Three Mile Island. It has also been recognised that the errors at Three Mile Island were operator errors due to lack of training.
 14. Risks for reactor accidents undoubtedly exist but there is substantial evidence to show that these risks are considerably less than from other activities which are accepted by society.

Only a multiple and sequential failure of components would cause the worst reactor accident, namely, the melting of the reactor core. It has

been estimated that it would take 12-14 hours after the onset of melt-down, for the release of radioactivity to the atmosphere. The dispersal of radioactivity in the atmosphere would be governed by a complex variety of environmental, meteorological and other factors having various probabilities of occurrence.

Probabilities of progressively unfavourable conditions become increasingly lower, so the likelihood of highly unfavourable conditions is extremely low.

The worst conceivable and least probable consequence of a meltdown might require evacuation of the area within a 16 km radius from the reactor.

South Australian Symphony Orchestra Visit

109 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

From what allocation in the 1979-80 budget was the \$40,000 paid by the NT government towards the cost of the tour by the South Australian symphony orchestra drawn?

ANSWER

No payment was made in 1979-80 towards the cost of the tour of the Northern Territory by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

Local Government Authorities - Grants

110 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to item 02, sub-division 4, division 65 of the budget papers, and ask -

1. What is the amount paid to each of the local government authorities at Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek by way of (a) disbursement of Commonwealth grants from personal income tax sharing, (b) operational subsidies, (c) establishment grants for major capital projects, and (d) dollar-for-dollar grants towards cost of capital works on roads, parking and recreational facilities?
2. What projects and works will receive grants under 1. (c) and (d)?

ANSWER

1.(a) DISBURSEMENT OF COMMONWEALTH GRANTS FROM PERSONAL INCOME TAX SHARING

Total amount provided \$ 1,440,000

Distributed as follows:

(i) Darwin	\$ 685,440
(ii) Alice Springs	\$ 269,280
(iii) Katherine	\$ 97,920
(iv) Tennant Creek	\$ 171,360
(v) Amount retained for distribution by NT Grants Committee	\$ 216,000 (i.e., 15%)

(b) OPERATIONAL SUBSIDIES

Total amount provided

PIITS moneys	\$ 1,440,000
NT government contribution	\$ 1,250,000
Available for distribution	\$ 2,690,000

Distributed as follows:

(i) Darwin	\$ 915,000
(ii) Alice Springs	\$ 457,000
(iii) Katherine	\$ 457,000
(iv) Tennant Creek	\$ 457,000
(v) Amount retained for distribution by NT Grants Committee	\$ 404,000 (i.e., 15%)

(c) ESTABLISHMENT GRANTS FOR MAJOR PROJECTS

(i) Darwin	\$ 1,167,000
(ii) Alice Springs	\$ 78,000
(iii) Katherine	\$ 1,211,000
(iv) Tennant Creek	\$ 185,000

(d) \$ FOR \$ GRANTS TOWARDS COST OF CAPITAL WORKS ON ROADS, PARKING AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

(i) Darwin	\$ 450,000
(ii) Alice Springs	\$ 90,000
(iii) Katherine	Nil
(iv) Tennant Creek	Nil

2.(a) PROJECTS - ESTABLISHMENT GRANTS

(i) Darwin

Casuarina Pool \$2 : \$1 subsidy	\$ 107,000
Marrara Sporting Complex - water and sewerage services	\$ 200,000
cable relocation	\$ 60,000
Performing Arts Centre	\$ 100,000
City Car Parking Facilities	\$ 700,000
	<u>\$ 1,167,000</u>

(ii) Alice Springs

Undoolya Road Connector	\$ 78,000
	<u>\$ 78,000</u>

(iii) Katherine

Roads	\$ 30,000
Swimming Pool (balance)	\$ 451,500
Civic Centre - Library	\$ 700,000
New Garbage Dump	\$ 30,000
	<u>\$ 1,211,500</u>

(iv) Tennant Creek

Civic Centre - Library	\$ 25,000
Construction Roadworks	\$ 50,000
Municipal Depot	\$ 110,000
	<u>\$ 185,000</u>

2.(b) PROJECTS - \$ FOR \$

Attached are the programs submitted by the Darwin and Alice Springs Councils proposing projects for funding on a \$ for \$ basis.

The program for the CCD totals \$1.97 million and will be prioritised before submission to the Minister for signature.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Some items submitted by the Alice Springs Corporation are the subject of further investigation as to their eligibility for funding under \$ for \$ criteria.

ITEMS AS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILS FOR \$ FOR \$ FUNDING

The Corporation of the City of Darwin

1. ROADS

Progress Drive
West Lane
Austin Lane
East Point Road (resealing Ross Smith Avenue to Bayview Street)
Gardens Road/McMinn Street
Upgrading of footpaths
Austin Lane
Traffic lights Bennett and Knuckey Streets
Banksia Street (reconstruction)
Aralia Street construction
Hot mix overlay (city streets)

2. OTHER

Fence Oval No. 2
Automatic sprinklers Oval No. 2
Cavenagh Street Carpark (boom gates)
Northern suburbs (sub-depot shed)
Garden Oval (entrance gates ticket box)
Tiered portable seating
Playground equipment
Crisp Street Oval lighting
City and urban beautification
Holtze Cottage Botanical Gardens
Tourist caravan park and camping area

PROGRAM TOTAL

\$ 1,972,057
=====

The Corporation of the Municipality of Alice Springs

1. ROADS

Construction service lane Gregory Terrace to Stott Terrace
Seal Arltunga Park access road
Construct Colocag Car Park
Extend Gillen School bus bay
Construct car park access Telegraph Terrace to Speed Street
Crisp Street turnaround

2. OTHER

Lecture training facility swimming centre
Extensions to Ross Park toilet block
Development of Garden Cemetery

PROGRAM TOTAL

\$ 90,000
=====

Northern Territory Library Service

112 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the total value of books purchased by the Northern Territory Library Service since 1 February 1980 from the following suppliers

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

or booksellers:

(a) NT Firms:

(i) Connoisseur Bookshop, (ii) Marrons Newsagency, (iii) Arunta Art Gallery, (iv) Book Mark, (v) Fisher Firearms, (vi) Bookworld, (vii) Territory Book Depot, (viii) Educational and Technical Books, (ix) Tivoli Books, (x) Studio Arts, (xi) Singing Tree, (xii) Northbooks, (xiii) Arnhemland Gallery, (xiv) Corey Books, and (xv) Information Centre; and

(b) Interstate Firm: Westbooks?

2. What is the value of purchase made from the following publishers since 1 February 1980: (a) Gordon and Gotch, (b) Axiom, (c) Collins, (d) Hodder and Stoughton, (e) Book Wise, (f) ANZ Book Co., (g) Paul Hamlyn, and (h) Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies?
3. Was any attempt made to purchase books from Territory suppliers before direct purchases were made from the above-named publishers?
4. If no attempt was first made to purchase from local suppliers, why not?
5. If an attempt was made to purchase supplies from the above publishers through local suppliers, what disadvantages were there which prevented such transactions?
6. What is the anticipated level of expenditure to be made by the Northern Territory Library Service for purchasing books for the financial year 1980-81?
7. What is the total value of purchases made by the Northern Territory Library Service in the period 1 July to 15 December 1980?

ANSWER

1. (a) NT Firms:

(i) Connoisseur Bookshop	\$	5,269
(ii) Marrons Newsagency	\$	161
(iii) Arunta Art Gallery	\$	5,406
(iv) Book Mark	\$	125
(v) Fisher Firearms	\$	91
(vi) Bookworld	\$	19,950
(vii) Territory Book Depot	\$	3,267
(viii) Educational and Technical Books	\$	1,146
(ix) Tivoli Books	\$	4,308
(x) Studio Arts	\$	65
(xi) Singing Tree	\$	56,264
(xii) Northbooks	\$	67,459
(xiii) Arnhemland Gallery	\$	193
(xiv) Corey Books	\$	684
(xv) Information Centre	\$	65

TOTAL \$ 164,453

(b) Interstate Firm: Westbooks \$ 51,292

2. (a) Gordon and Gotch	\$	3,000
(b) Axiom	\$	2,984
(c) Collins	\$	7,194
(d) Hodder and Stoughton	\$	3,000
(e) Book Wise	\$	78
(f) ANZ Book Co.	\$	201

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

(g) Paul Hamlyn	\$	1,135
(h) Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies	\$	50
		<hr/>
TOTAL	\$	17,642

3. No attempt was made to purchase the material obtained from the publishers/wholesalers listed in 2.(a)-2.(d). Attempts were made to purchase the material from publishers/wholesalers listed in 2.(e)-2.(h) from local suppliers.
4. The books purchased from Gordon and Gotch, Axiom, Collins, and Hodder and Stoughton were paperbacks which were supplied at wholesale prices to Northern Territory Library Service. Had these been purchased from local booksellers then these booksellers would have added their margin to the wholesale price. The paperbacks were purchased from the publishers/distributors direct in order to reduce the unit cost and thereby save public funds. Based on discounts then applying with local booksellers, this represented a saving of approximately \$5,000.
5. The bulk of the books purchased from the publishers listed in 2.(e)-2.(h) were titles not readily available from local booksellers. When additional funding was made available to Northern Territory Library Service for the purchase of books towards the end of the last financial year, the service visited local booksellers seeking specific titles and categories of books. Those which were not immediately available from local booksellers were obtained as a matter of urgency from the publishers/distributors.
6. \$356,000.
7. \$152,446 to 30 November 1980.

Correspondence Students

113 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are Northern Territory correspondence students obliged to undertake their courses through the NT Department of Education and, if so, what regulations impose this obligation?

ANSWER

Northern Territory correspondence students are under no legal obligation to undertake their courses through the Northern Territory Department of Education. However, because of the cost factor involved the South Australian Correspondence School will no longer provide years 8, 9 and 10 courses for Northern Territory students, and as further years are introduced the corresponding years will cease to be open to students from the Northern Territory.

Katherine - Meteorological Bureau Services

115 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Chief Minister, as head of the NT government, act to establish a weather office at Katherine to aid bushfire control, which costs the taxpayer and pastoralists money and time, to enable crop planting to be done at times of optimum seasonal conditions, and to assist in control of aircraft movements?

ANSWER

The Bureau of Meteorology advises that it provides the following weather services for Katherine from its Regional Forecasting Centre in Darwin:

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

- public weather forecasts for Katherine (including maximum and minimum temperatures) with new issues at 5 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily;
- fire weather warnings and warnings of other types of meteorological conditions likely to endanger life and property, issued when the need arises;
- forecasts and warnings for regular public transport and general aviation operating via Tindal Airport and in the Katherine area;
- information on weather records, climatological advice, and special meteorological consultative advice for the Katherine area.

Having regard to the present services provided by the bureau for the Katherine area, I do not consider it necessary to make representations to have the Bureau of Meteorology establish a separate weather office at Katherine.

Darwin Community College Handbook 1981

116 Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What was (a) the cost to prepare, publish and distribute the Darwin Community College's 1981 Handbook, (b) how many copies were printed, and (c) for what purpose is the handbook used?

ANSWER

(a) The net cost is estimated at \$4,441 made up of:

- Cost to prepare and publish - materials	\$ 3,804
- salaries	\$ 3,037
	\$ 6,841
- Cost of distribution	\$ 600
	\$ 7,441
- <u>Less</u> estimated sales (1,500 copies at \$2 each)	\$ 3,000
	\$ 4,441

(b) 2,500 copies.

(c) To inform students and prospective students of the courses offered by the college, enrolment and academic progress procedures, and other services and facilities offered by the college in 1981.

Katherine - Pensioner Cottages

117 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is there any limit on the number of people who may reside at and use toilet and ablution facilities at houses in Katherine built specifically for Aboriginal pensioners and for Aboriginal families?
2. If so, (a) what facilities are provided and (b) how many persons reside at and use the facilities in the houses on Lot Nos 1305, 1304, 1303, 1302, 1301, 1300, 1299 and 1298 Prior Court Pensioners' cottage, 1242, 1241 and 1240 Lockheed Road and 1254, 1253 and 1252 Cox Crescent?

ANSWER

1. Normal family unit plus limited short term visitors.
2. (a) Toilet facilities provided are one internally and one externally.
(b) The dwellings located at Lots 1305, 1304, 1303, 1302, 1301, 1300, 1299 and 1298 are not owned or administered by the Housing

Commission. They are built on Crown land and belong to the Kalano Association.

The numbers of persons who normally reside at the remaining Lots is as follows: Lot 1242 - 8; Lot 1241 - 6; Lot 1240 - 6; Lot 1254 - 4; Lot 1253 - 3; Lot 1252 - 6.

Housing Commission

118 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it a function of the Housing Commission to compete with Aboriginal hostels and private enterprise in Katherine by providing free accommodation for visiting Aborigines in houses under its control?

ANSWER

No.

NT Police Force

119 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the estimated saving from the closure of (a) Daly Waters, and (b) Larrimah police stations?
2. What percentage of all the members of the police force are stationed in (a) Darwin (b) Alice Springs, and (c) the remainder of the Territory?
3. How may outback residents connected to radio telephones, contact sophisticated, modern police aircraft in cases of emergency?
4. Are NT Police aircraft suitable for use on bush airstrips at night?

ANSWER

1. (a) It is not intended to close Daly Waters Police Station.
 (b) There will be a capital saving of approximately \$80,000 in the closure of Larrimah Police Station through not having to upgrade the facility there which would have included the provision of a new residence; plus annual costs of \$58,000 comprising salaries and allowances \$39,000; vehicle capital costs \$4,500; repairs and maintenance to fixed assets \$6,000; and general administrative and running costs of \$8,500.
2. It would be misleading to answer this question in too simple a form. It is necessary to recognise that the Northern Territory Police Force comprises three major groups:
 1. Administrative (Including Training)
 2. Operational Support (including, as examples, the Police Air Wing, Forensic Science Section, Radio Technicians, all of which provide direct support to operational police throughout the Territory notwithstanding the majority operate from Darwin).
 3. Operational.

The following table shows the distribution of police at locations requested (as at February 1981) by number and as a percentage of the total.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Adminis- trative</u>	<u>Operational Support</u>	<u>Operational</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Darwin	39 (7.5%)	88 (16.5%)	200 (37.5%)	327 (61.5%)
Alice Springs	1 (--)	4 (0.5%)	71 (13.5%)	76 (14 %)
Other	--	--	131 (24.5%)	131 (24.5%)
	40 (7.5%)	92 (17 %)	402 (75.5%)	534 (100 %)

It might also be beneficial to note the relative ratios of operational police per head of population in the 4 main centres which are shown in the following table using estimated populations as at February 1981:

- Darwin	1 : 275
- Katherine	1 : 113
- Tennant Creek	1 : 109
- Alice Springs	1 : 239

This shows that Katherine and Tennant Creek have approximately double the number of operational police per head of population than have Darwin and Alice Springs.

3. Outback residents connected to radio telephone cannot talk direct to police aircraft or any other aircraft by that medium, just as they cannot talk to their local police station by that medium if their station is not connected to the radio telephone.

However, the police aircraft are in constant communication with all police stations by one or more of a variety of radio networks (HF, VHF and UHF) and outback residents can communicate messages by relay to and from police aircraft by telephoning a police station connected to telephone or radio telephone.

4. Police aircraft are suitable for routine use on bush strips at night where the strips are adequately lit and equipped to Department of Transport specifications for night take-offs and landings. In an emergency they are no more or less suitable to such a task than the general class of twin-engined aircraft in use in the Northern Territory.

Northern Airlines - Use of Heron Aircraft

- 120 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he confirm that the use of Heron aircraft by Northern Airlines between Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs is a deliberate attempt to replace the Friendship aircraft used on the 'milk run'?

ANSWER

Since the announcement of the closure of Northern Airlines various options are being developed for the future conduct of the 'milk run'.

In this context, the government has announced its readiness to licence Ansett to provide F27 services through Katherine as an interim measure to fill the gap caused by Northern Airlines' withdrawal from the route.

In terms of the long term solution, it is the government's intention that RPT links through Katherine provide regular scheduled services appropriate to the demand. Whether this means F27 aircraft or not remains to be seen, since negotiations with interested parties are still proceeding.

Prison Farm

- 121 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will another prison farm be established in the Territory?

ANSWER

This government has been aware of the need to provide additional facilities for minimum security prisoners in the Northern Territory for some time. As early as 1979-80 financial year the government requested Correctional Services to examine the possibility of developing a prison farm type complex in the Alice Springs region. For some time difficulty was experienced in locating a suitable site, but this now appears resolved,

although negotiations have not yet been completely finalised.

The project which will, in its initial stages, provide accommodation for up to 40 prisoners with a possible later expansion to a maximum of 100, has now been admitted to the 1980-81 design list program. It is anticipated construction will commence during 1981-82 financial year subject to budgetary consideration.

Discount Air Fares for Public Service

122 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Northern Territory government explored the possibility of saving taxpayers' money by seeking discounts on the air fares which are part of the entitlements of NT public servants?

ANSWER

The government has been exploring the possibility of obtaining travel discounts for staff on duty and on leave entitlements. There are complex issues involved and the investigation may take some time to complete.

Katherine - Pensioner Cottages

123 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware of any health regulation limiting the number of occupants of pensioner cottages for Aborigines in Prior Court, Katherine and, if so, does he intend to have the regulation enforced?

ANSWER

Yes. The Public Health (Nuisance Prevention) Regulations 22(1) and (2) determine the minimum air space allowable for sleeping quarters.

The problem of overcrowding of the accommodation referred to has been recognised by the Department of Health for some time and has been the subject of considerable activity.

V.B. Perkins and Co. Pty Ltd

125 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Is he able to state whether or not the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has become a shareholder in the barge company V.B. Perkins & Co. Pty Ltd and, if so, what benefits have resulted from the department's interest in the company?
2. Is it cheaper to ship goods to Numbulwar from Cairns than from Darwin and, if so, is this because of a Queensland government subsidy?

ANSWER

1. Department of Aboriginal Affairs is not a shareholder in the barge company V.B. Perkins and Co. Pty Ltd.
2. Mason Shipping Co. of Cairns charges \$97.50 per tonne for general cargo shipped Cairns to Numbulwar.

Barge Express Pty Ltd of Darwin charges \$106.20 per tonne for general cargo shipped Darwin to Numbulwar.

The Queensland government does not pay a freight subsidy to the Mason Shipping Co. on this service.

Yulngu Association

127 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware that some years ago prima facie cases were established against certain employees of Yulngu Association in regard to financial matters and that these employees were subsequently found innocent?
2. If so, what efforts are being made to locate and charge the guilty persons?

ANSWER

The following is the present situation surrounding the Yulngu Association fraud matters:

Peter Richard Williams, who was the Executive Officer of the Yulngu Association between September 1978 and March 1979, and John Alan Hindley, a former motor mechanic with the Yulngu Association, appeared before the Supreme Court, June sittings 1980, jointly charged with the following offence:

'Between September 1978 and March 1979 at Katherine in the Northern Territory of Australia conspired together to cheat and defraud Blue Line Autos Pty Ltd of \$160,000.00'.

Peter Richard Williams was at the same sittings independently charged with:

'On or about March 2nd, 1979 at Katherine in the Northern Territory of Australia, did falsely pretend to Reginald Alwyn Litchfield of Katherine that he had the authority of the Committee of the Yulngu Association, Katherine, to negotiate a loan from the ANZ Bank in Katherine for the sum of \$115,000.00, and by means of that False Pretence did attempt to obtain from the said Reginald Alwyn Litchfield the sum of \$115,000.00 in money with intent to defraud. Contrary to Section 214 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act'.

and further:

'On the 19th day of March, 1979 at Katherine, in the Northern Territory of Australia, being entrusted with the property of Yulngu Association namely cheque number 001211 drawn on the Australian and New Zealand Banking Group Limited in order that he may apply it for travelling expenses, fraudulently converted to the use or benefit of John Alan Hindley and Gisel Molnar the proceeds thereof, namely \$20,000.00. Contrary to Section 1(1)(a) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1902'.

and further:

'On the 20th day of March, 1979, being entrusted with the property of Yulngu Association namely cheque number 001340 drawn on the Australian and New Zealand Banking Group Limited in order that he may apply it for travelling expenses, fraudulently converted to the use or benefit of John Alan Hindley and Gisel Molnar the proceeds thereof, namely \$25,000.00. Contrary to Section 1(1)(a) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1902'.

The offenders were found "not guilty" on all charges which were dismissed on 4 July 1980.

The person Peter Richard Williams may be proceeded against for an offence against Section 124(1) of the Companies Act. This aspect is being examined by the Department of Law at the present time.

No further efforts to locate and charge other persons is warranted. It is believed the only persons involved in the matter were Williams and Hindley and, although the Supreme Court did not find them guilty, it was considered at the time there was sufficient evidence to proceed with the charges as laid against Williams and Hindley.

Aborigines - Encouragement of Horticulture

128 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What efforts will be made to encourage Aborigines at Beswick, Bamyili, Ngukurr and Numbulwar to develop vegetable gardens as they have done in past years?

ANSWER

1. No special efforts have been made to encourage Aborigines at Beswick, Bamyili, Ngukurr and Numbulwar to develop vegetable gardens in the past.
2. The department is however involved in a number of practical training courses for Aborigines and is considering such a course for food gardens on Aboriginal lands.
3. The department is increasing its field extension services and general horticultural advice is available to all communities and individuals on request.

Aboriginal Blindness - Statement on ABC

130 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the statement on ABC television on 5 January 1981 by Mr Robert Nestdale that 20 per cent of Aborigines are blind?
2. If so, is Mr Nestdale's statement correct and, if so, will he congratulate Mr Nestdale on his accuracy?
3. If the figure is not correct, will he ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs to correct the inaccurate statement?

ANSWER

1. Although I understand that Mr Nestdale made the statement that '20 per cent of Aborigines are blind' on ABC television on 5 January 1981, the text of his speech delivered to the 13th National Young Liberal Convention on that day read '... 20 per cent of elderly Aborigines are blind'.
2. The latter statement is acceptably close to the findings reported by the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists following their work in association with the National Trachoma and Eye Health Program. This showed that 18.9 per cent of Aborigines aged 60 and over were blind. The percentage of blindness in NT Aborigines as a whole is 1.5.
3. I shall draw the inconsistencies between the television statement and the speech to the attention of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

Northern Airlines - Katherine Service

131 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What (a) passengers and (b) freight was carried (i) into and (ii) out of Katherine by Northern Airlines during its period of operation to 13 January 1981 and by Ansett and TAA during a comparable period of time before Northern Airlines took over the service?

ANSWER

This question is of a commercial nature and does not come within the mandate of the government's licensing responsibilities.

I suggest the Honourable Member contact the parties direct.

Katherine - Weed Control Program

132 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has the weed control program which started in 1979 in the Katherine area been successful, or has the scheme lapsed?

ANSWER

The question does not specify what particular weed control program in the Katherine district is referred to, but I understand that it relates to *Sida retusa* (the only yellow-flowered weed currently being worked on at Mountain Valley).

The *Sida* program in the Katherine district consists of two parts:

1. Katherine Experiment Farm

Following a survey of the *Sida* infestation, a re-survey of 24 paddocks at Katherine Experiment Farm was undertaken in 1979 to measure changes in the weed population, and to help define factors that may have been responsible for changes. This has been completed. Arising from the survey several trials to test control of *Sida* by chemicals and competitive pastures were initiated. Progress with these trials has been slow.

2. Mountain Valley Station

At the request of the station, a survey of improved and unimproved pastures on Mountain Valley was undertaken in 1979 to assess the incidence of *Sida* and to help define factors responsible for its spread. The survey was completed and provided some clues as to reasons for its spread.

Advice based on the results of the KEF and station surveys was provided to the station and, with its assistance, a demonstration of possible methods of controlling *Sida* by mechanical, chemical or competitive pasture species means was established. This control demonstration involved not only *Sida* but also control of *Hyptis* and sucker regrowth.

The demonstration continues as the full effects of control measures will not be apparent for several seasons.

In summary, the *Sida* program in the Katherine district continues, but progress to date has been slow.

Dress Standards for Hotels

137 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is there a minimum standard of dress for women entering hotels as there is for men?

ANSWER

The Liquor Commission is not aware of any existing minimum dress standards for women entering hotels.

The Commission itself does not impose minimum dress standards for either men or women but does expect individual licensees to set and enforce such standards, consistent with the type of facilities premises provide.

Radio Reception in Outback

138 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has his attention been drawn to an article in the NT News of 12 January 1981 regarding special radio programs for Aborigines and to promote

Aboriginal culture?

If so, will he take steps to have a short wave radio station established to ensure that all Territorians in remote localities, irrespective of their ethnic origins, are able to receive local news, weather and other informative programs?

ANSWER

1. The government is aware of the proposals of the Australian Broadcasting Commission to introduce program segments specifically to serve Aboriginal interests. The initiatives have the full support of the government. The programs will be treated on a pilot project basis in Alice Springs for a one year trial. If they prove successful, consideration will be given by the Commission to extending the scheme to Darwin, Katherine and perhaps Gove.
2. The honourable member is aware of the numerous representations made by the Territory government, including an approach made to the Commonwealth Department of Communications urging that priority be given to providing a short wave radio station. At the same time, it was suggested that if there was to be further delay, consideration should be given to installing an alternate system similar to that operating in New Guinea which, it is understood, could be provided at reasonable cost and in a short time. A response is awaited from the department.

Yuendumu Airstrip

140 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What was the cost of the upgrading of Yuendumu airstrip?
2. On how many occasions has the upgraded strip been forced to close due to rain?
3. What volume of rain was recorded on each occasion that the strip was forced to close?

ANSWER

1. The Yuendumu aerodrome pavement was reconstructed at a cost of \$194,000.
2. The aerodrome has been closed on 7 occasions since the reconstruction was completed in May 1980.
3. Daily rainfall on those occasions varied from between 4 mm to 26 mm over periods of closure. (It should be noted that his 'wet' has been very severe, i.e., January 1981 rainfall of 175 mm compared to the January average of 60 mm).

Transport for Aborigines in Katherine

141 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What free transport is provided for Aboriginal groups in Katherine that is not provided for other citizens of that centre?

ANSWER

My department does not provide a public transport service to Katherine residents. I suggest the honourable member re-direct his question to the Department of Community Development or the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs for advice on assistance provided to Aborigines.

Pine Tree Motel Katherine

146 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will he ascertain whether Council for Aboriginal Development funds, or any other Federal source funds, have been used to purchase the Pine Tree Motel at Katherine for Aboriginal interests?

ANSWER

No.

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