PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

An index to questions appears at the end of Part II.
Numerical references are to Question Paper page numbers.

Cancelled Visit to Berrimah Prison

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will he advise the House why, when a bus load of prisoners came from Gunn Point to Berrimah Prison for visits last Sunday, the bus turned around and returned to Gunn Point without any of the visits eventuating?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am advised that, on 17 August, 22 prisoners were conveyed to Berrimah Prison from Gunn Point for the purpose of visits from family and friends. This is a routine exercise every Sunday, the average number of prisoners being 20. On 17 August, the Gunn Point bus arrived at Berrimah Prison at 1.45pm and, after entering the gaol, prisoners were instructed to leave the bus for a routine search prior to entering the main body of the gaol for contact visits. All prisoners refused to leave the bus and to submit to a search.

A further offer was made - and I think that was generous of our prison authorities - that, if any individual left the bus, he would be permitted to visit provided he was searched. Again, there was no response and the prisoners were returned to Gunn Point Prison Farm. No hostility was offered by the prisoners, the incident being more a passive refusal to obey a direction. All visitors were informed why the visit from Gunn Point Prison Farm was cancelled and all accepted the explanation in good humour. At this stage, it is assumed that the prisoners were concerned that, for the first time, electronic handheld searchers, called 'friskers', were in use at Darwin Prison.

Cafeteria in Chan Building

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has any decision been made as to the future use of the area previously used by the cafeteria known as 'Big Al's' in the Harry Chan building?

ANSWER

The area previously known as 'Big Al's', which was used as a cafereria after the cyclone, has been refurbished. It still retains all the equipment which would enable it to be used as a cafeteria, restaurant or reception centre. Indeed, the government holds receptions for visiting dignitaries and the like in part of the area formerly used as a cafeteria. Part of the area has also been turned over for use as a library.

An approach was made to me last year for the remaining area to be used as a display centre; for instance, for Aboriginal art. At least 2 art exhibitions have been held by the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Art Gallery in the area that could be used as a cafeteria. There is one talking place at present. Apparently, the art gallery is satisfied with the results of its displays because it keeps coming back. Presumably, quite a considerable degree of custom arises.

It has been impossible for the government to obtain a satisfactory tender for the reintroduction of the cafeteria services which were maintained for a short period after the cyclone. I could not say whether further tenders have been called since the original tenders. I

do not think they have. I think the matter would have been mentioned to me by my departmental head had further tenders been called. On the previous occasion, no actual tender was received, only some vague proposition which did not eventuate.

Purchase of 28 Tasman Circuit

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the government arranged, through the Housing Commission, the purchase of the residence at 28 Tasman Circuit, Wagaman? If so, what price was paid for the property, who is occupying or who is intended to occupy the residence and what expenditure has been necessary to upgrade or improve the property since its purchase?

ANSWER

The question calls for quite a bit of detail, including the disclosure of names. I would ask that the question be placed on notice.

Fire Station at 19-Mile

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When can we expect a definite date for the start of the building of the proposed fire station at the 19-mile?

ANSWER

The building is due for completion in May 1981.

Casuarina Hospital Casualty Clinic

Mrs D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it the policy of the Department of Health to discourage attendance by the public at Casuarina Hospital's casuality clinic and, if not, upon whose authority are physicians who attend at that clinic informing patients that they should not attend that clinic but should seek the services of a private practitioner instead?

ANSWER

I have absolutely no knowledge of any practice by the department to discourage people from going to the outpatients or casuality clinic at Casuarina Hospital. As far as the rest of the question is concerned, I will take the matter up with the department and advise the honourable member in due course.

Dollar-for-Dollar Subsidies to NT Schools

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will the guidelines for the dollar-for-dollar subsidies to the Northern Territory schools be released?

ANSWER

The guidelines for the establishment of a dollar-for-dollar subsidy

scheme is one that I already have prepared. I would have had the system operating other than for a recent spate of publicity given to either the entire of the Council of Government Schools Organisations or merely one officer of that organisation. It seems as if the body which purports to represent parents does not want the money at all. I will now go back to the Northern Territory Council of Government Schools Organisations and talk to them about it. Certainly, it is not the intention of this government to provide substantial sums of the taxpayers' money in an area in which the parents' representatives believe it is not required. Therefore, I propose to discuss the matter generally with the Council of Government Schools Organisations at the earliest opportunity to see just what their objection to receiving money is.

Educational Services to Handicapped Children

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it true, as allegedly stated recently by a departmental officer at a public meeting, that the Department of Education will no longer provide educational services for handicapped children who are below compulsory school age?

ANSWER

I am not fully aware of the source of the comment. The honourable member for Arnhem did give me the courtesy of warning me about this question this morning. It disturbs me quite a deal. The wording of the Education Act is specifically framed to allow the minister to make arrangements for the assistance of handicapped children below or above compulsory school age. It would be flying completely in the face of the intent of this legislature if that was changed by some administrative instruction. I have had the matter checked out and there is no truth in the story at all. The Department of Education will continue to assist such children at the request of parents and having regard to the resources available to the department to provide a satisfactory service to these children. I think the public has to bear in mind that not all pre-schools have the specialist facilities which are required to assist such children overcome their problems. Parents would be aware that there are special schools set up for the purpose both in Darwin and Alice Springs. I would hope to see such specialist facilities being made available in other centres. Quite clearly, there is a demand but it is a matter of finding the resources to meet that demand. Parents would also be aware that the Spastic Centre is a specialist facility for such activities. I know that many parents have a problem with the name 'Spastic Centre' and the unfortunate connotational label which they believe would detach from that establishment to their children. I understand that the local organisers of the Spastic Centre are talking with the national body with a view to trying to overcome this unfortunate labelling which detaches from the establishment to the children. Parents do have a range of options available to them in the education welfare of below compulsory school age children. Certainly, it is my intention and the intention of the senior officers of my department that, wherever possible, assistance will be made available to handicapped persons of any age who need educational help.

Elizabeth River Causeway

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister assure me that the causeway and associated roadworks

at Elizabeth River will be completed before the next wet as the situation in this area is critical?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the design of the causeway and associated roadworks is apparently under way and the project will be completed before the end of this year.

Government Batteries at Tennant Creek and Mt Wells

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the House of the future of the government batteries at Tennant Creek and Mt Wells?

ANSWER

The Department of Mines and Energy is currently carrying out a detailed investigation into the batteries at Mt Wells and Tennant Creek. As honourable members would be aware, the battery in Tennant Creek was first commissioned in the late 1930s and, over the years, there has been a series of 5 of them. The present one, which was constructed in the late 1950s or early 1960s, has been operating as an incentive to gougers since that time. Under the careful direction of the former Director of Mines, Mr Adams, another battery was built in that same period at Mt Wells to assist in the gold mining and the tin mining operations in that area and to encourage gougers to get back into the field and perhaps discover a find of the significance of the Nobles Nob which was found by gougers and which has been producing for nearly 30 years at a very satisfactory rate and has given employment to at least 70 people each year.

The department is reviewing the position of the batteries in light of several things. The first one is the financial considerations that are attached to the batteries. I do not know whether honourable members are aware that we currently charge the princely sum of $2 for putting a ton of ore through the government batteries. This figure was derived in the 1930s. In those days, it was £1. I think it is relevant to point out that the price of gold in those days was £15 per ounce or $30 in today's money. The price of £1 for crushing a ton of ore that may have had gold in it worth £15 an ounce was probably fairly realistic. Looking at today's gold prices of $600-plus per ounce, the charge of $2 per ton for crushing in the batteries is not what one would call realistic, even as an encouragement for people to put through ore that had some gold in it at least. In both batteries, we are spending about $400,000 a year of government funds to produce minerals that have the princely value of $80,000. There must be a serious reconsideration of whether this should be our priority. If it is the priority of the government to continue with this particular facet of mineral encouragement and development, then I think it is also reasonable that the price structure and the crushing procedures in the batteries be reviewed.

One of the things that I am particularly conscious of is that the batteries we have today, which crush a tonne an hour at best, were designed to cater for the needs of gougers that went out to mine with a pick and shovel, shovelled the ore onto a truck, drove it to the battery and shovelled it off at the battery. Based on the economy of

the 1930s and 1940s, the batteries served a very useful purpose. I might add that they were first designed in the 1880s and the 1890s and the first one that was established in Queensland in 1890 is still standing there as a relic. The difference today is that our gougers are very mechanised with their pneumatic drills and their new techniques. They remove the ore with explosives. The concept of transporting ore with big front-end loaders and 40 and 50-yard tip-trucks has made the batteries virtually a bottleneck in the whole system. Again, the government is conscious of the fact that, if we are to serve the gougers in any useful way, it is important that we make the batteries viable to the extent that a gouger can have his ore crushed in a satisfactory period of time that will give him a cash flow that will enable him to go back and carry out more work on his prospect. I would put it to the honourable member that the answers are not simple and they are a long way from being conclusive. When the departmental report becomes available, I will advise the House what action the government will take in this area.

Processing of Home Loans in Alice Springs

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

Would he indicate what steps he has taken to ensure the time taken to process home loan applications in Alice Springs is reduced to at least the same time taken with Darwin applications?

ANSWER

The only way that problem can be solved is to arrange for regional autonomy, a matter which I have heard mentioned many times over the past couple of years. They will be working towards that in both the Housing Commission and the Department of Lands. My intention in respect to the Department of Lands is to establish, in the same manner as the government has successfully done with health and education, a regional directorate and my Cabinet colleagues have supported me in this. That will take place as soon as appropriate documentation can be implemented through the Executive Council and of course recruiting carried out. In respect of the Housing Commission, a proposal has gone through Cabinet anyway to rearrange the counter staff to a more senior level for Alice Springs. Hopefully, we will be able to work towards a position where virtually all documentation and decision-making takes place in that centre. Mr Speaker, the idea is not just to service Alice Springs with a regional office of that type but the entire region from Tennant Creek to the South Australian border.

Government Battery at Mt Wells

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Did he, during the recent Northern Territory Legislative Assembly election campaign, assure the people who use the Mt Wells Battery that it would be continued? Was this advice passed to those people by a departmental officer?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have had several meetings with the gougers at Mt Wells over the past 12 months, particularly over the future of the battery and the

the unsatisfactory manner in which it is handling the volume of work that the gougers expect of it. I went to the area prior to the campaign and discussed the issue again. I will say it again today for the benefit of honourable members because I have said it twice to the gougers and I think it is important. For the government to be able to provide the service that the gougers need at Mt Wells, given the capacity of the battery and the technology that gougers are using today, it is important that the gougers as a group let the government know what they expect of the battery, what they feel is the minimum requirement that they can live with and what they are prepared to pay for the services that they expect to get.

Mr Speaker, I believe that the situation at Mt Wells is one where we have too many people producing too much ore to put through a battery that is not designed to take it.

Already, Mr Speaker, we are receiving requests for assistance from very large prospectors in the area to get their own battery and keep their own ore. I do not object to this at all because the role of the battery is to enable men to develop their prospects and move on to bigger and better things. At the same time, some of the gougers are a little reluctant to accept that they can live without the battery once their tonnage gets above a certain level. They still expect to be able to get the same volume of material through as they have in the past, although they may want to quadruple their production. They still expect to get a priority and they still expect to get it for a minimum fee. As I said earlier, I spoke to the gougers at Mt Wells twice. I still have not heard from them about what they feel is reasonable for their battery to be able to provide for their community. When they decide what is satisfactory, I will be happy to go back and discuss it with them. In the meantime, we will still continue with our departmental investigation of what is reasonable from the government's point of view.

Underpriced Eggs from Adelaide to Central Australia

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he advise if any action has been taken in recent days to stem the flow of underpriced eggs from Adelaide to the Central Australian market?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that is a fairly topical question from the honourable member because of his interest in poultry. Certainly, it has been a matter of great concern to the department that eggs from Red Comb in South Australia and Johnsons in Port Pirie were being dumped in Alice Springs at something like 40% below the Adelaide wholesale price and thus trying to drive the new operator in Alice Springs out of business. This is a matter that we were not prepared to accept. We have sent officials to South Australia to discuss the problem. The industry itself, in recent days, through legal people in this city, have obtained a restraining order under the Trade Practices Act, restraining the South Australian Egg Board from marketing any eggs in Alice Springs at less than a fair wholesale price. The Territory is hoping to resolve the matter by arranging a written agreement on pricing between the parties.

Dust Problem on Virginia Road

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What will be done by his department about the intolerable conditions presently being endured by residents of Virginia Road through the dust caused by articulated vehicles carrying soil along that road?

ANSWER

I have recently replied to some correspondence regarding the situation at Virginia Road. We are aware of the problem and the Police Department as well as the Mines Department and the Department of Transport and Works are overseeing the problem and will be monitoring it until such time as a decision can be made to seal that road.

McMinns Bore

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister advise how many gallons per day will be taken from the McMinns bore field to add to the water supply for the people of Darwin and can he assure me unreservedly that this extraction will in no way affect the bores of the people in the McMinns area?

ANSWER

The amount of water which will be drawn from the McMinns bore field to supplement the Darwin water supply will not be known until exhaustive investigations are concluded. However, I can assure the honourable member that the department will only commission the McMinns bore field on the condition that there will be no adverse effects on residents of the McMinns area.

Education Advisory Council

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I would like to preface my question by saying that it is not occasioned by a press release in the NT News last night but by a report by a member of the Education Advisory Council. Is he aware that members of his Education Advisory Council have publicly stated their doubts as to the worth of their continuing activities on that council? Why has the minister been unable to meet with that council at any of the meetings it has held since its inception last year?

ANSWER

Let me say firstly that it is only very recently that the Education Advisory Council has found itself of a mind that it needs some ministerial guidance. Its functions are very clear under the act. If people refer back to my second-reading speech, they will see that the act allows the Education Advisory Council to carry out its own investigations in such manner and into such matters as it sees fit. Recently, however, the Education Advisory Council has indicated that it wants a meeting with me for the purpose of establishing guidelines and to talk about various things that it feels it wants to explore or to seek a reaction from me on the things that I would like it to explore. I find it rather surprising having regard to the nature of the act and, if the honourable

member is correct, that they find they cannot continue without my guiding hand. I would have thought the act placed a certain responsibility upon the council. Nonetheless, it was only quite recently that the Education Advisory Council asked to meet with me. I think honourable members would be aware that I have quite a bit on my plate and that the Education Advisory Council itself is comprised of members from all over the Territory who are busy people too. The plain fact is that it is extremely difficult to get all those people together on a date that suits me. Because of Cabinet commitments or other commitments associated with my public office, it is very difficult for me to guarantee that, because they can meet, I can meet with them. In other words, it has not been a problem of ill will or reluctance but one of pure logistics. My schedule of work has been such that I have been unable to meet them at times when they have been meeting and, on the dates that I have selected, they have been unable to get a quorum together. It is one of those problems arising out of the penalty of the vastness of this Territory and the very extensive commitments of ministers.

Electricity Commission Materials at Salonika Railway Yards

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Does the Northern Territory Electricity Commission intend using the old Salonika Railway yards for permanent storage of power poles, cables and materials belonging to the commission?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes but, in so far as the permanent storage of power poles is concerned, I think that most of the poles that are being stored there at the moment are ones that have been reclaimed from the cyclone. In the course of time, they will be used throughout the Territory for reticulation and it is not likely that they would become an eyesore in the area.

Alice Springs Recreational Lake Site

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the site for the Alice Springs recreational lake been chosen? If so, does it conflict with a registered Aboriginal sacred site?

ANSWER

I am not certain whether a site has been chosen. I can certainly find that out speedily for the honourable Opposition Leader. Certainly there is a prime site and a model displaying the dam and the lake on that site has been set up in Alice Springs. I believe it was displayed in the government centre down there for some months. Comment from the public was invited in respect to that site. At the present time, I am unaware whether a final decision has been taken to confirm that site. I do know that negotiations have also taken place with the Central Land Council on behalf of any Aboriginal persons who have an interest in the area. I might mention that I understand the area is within the town municipal boundary of Alice Springs. I believe that a written consent to the use of the particular area - regarded as a prime area north of the present Telegraph Station National Park - was obtained but this consent was subsequently withdrawn. I am not aware that it is a registered sacred site. Indeed, I am not certain whether any sacred sites have in fact yet been registered by the Sacred Sites Authority. Again, that is really a matter which the Opposition Leader could ascertain as easily for himself as I could. I can certainly find it out but I am unable to give any definitive answer on those 2 points.

Private Hospital on Old Darwin Hospital Grounds

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has any interest been shown in the proposal to establish a private hospital incorporating sections of the old Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

The government has set up a committee to dispose of all the property which is not required at the old Darwin Hospital for the purposes or use of a private hospital. No tender has actually been called to my knowledge although the tender documents are ready to go, that is, if they have not already gone. For the operation of parts of the old section of the hospital as a private hospital, I would expect that there would be interest. I have no knowledge of any proposals having been received at this stage by the department.

Free Travel for the Unemployed

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it still the intention of the government to allow free travel for the unemployed on public transport and, if so, when is this scheme to be introduced?

ANSWER

It is certainly the intention of government to provide concessions to the

unemployed for travel on buses in the Darwin area. If I recall rightly, the undertaking given prior to the recent election was that unemployed persons would have to pay 50% of the fare on public transport. The department has been investigating methods to administer such a scheme. It may be that such a scheme would be more workable if the travel was free. There has been a lot of work done on this and I have yet to approve of a system of operation of the scheme which is reasonable. We have looked at schemes which operate in some of the states. In some cases, it would appear more reasonable to make public bus services free to everyone rather than to administer a very complicated scheme which takes up considerable time by many people. This is the problem I have at the moment. On advice, I am establishing the best way to go about the administrative arrangements and I cannot at this stage give a time when such a scheme will be implemented.

Answer to Question

Alice Springs Recreational Lake Site

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, I think I should bring to your attention some further information which has just been handed to me by the Minister for Transport and Works in relation to the answer that I just gave on the question of the recreation lake at Alice Springs. I should draw to your attention that Cabinet approved on 21 May the inclusion of the project on the design list. That certainly does not mean that it will ever be constructed on the particular site in question.

Gunn Point Prison Farm Bore

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Have the salinity problems of the bore at Gunn Point Prison Farm been overcome and, if not, what action is proposed?

ANSWER

The Department of Transport and Works compiled a preliminary report on Gunn Point water supply based on a ground water investigation which was conducted in 1973-74. That report indicated that salinity problems could be encountered at the Gunn Point Prison Farm if there was continued excessive use of water for agricultural purposes. For this reason, agricultural activities at Gunn Point have been restricted pending some further investigations. More recently, a quality reappraisal by the investigation branch of Water Resources has indicated that salinity has been reduced to acceptable levels as the result of this continuing restriction on the agricultural activities at the farm. The Water Resources Branch, in consultation with the Department of Transport and Works, are now working on proposals to drill deeper bores in the area with a view to overcoming the salinity problems without the need for continuing restrictions. It is a matter which bears on the future of the Gunn Point Prison Farm and the government is certainly anxious to ensure, if it is possible, the availability of better and less limited water supply on the present site so that the prison farm can stay there. The prisoners seem to have done a very good job with the limited amount of water that has been available to them in producing some very high quality crops. Perhaps we could all learn something from what they are doing there.

Antibiotics in Stockfeeds

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY

Has the Cabinet's submission on the control of use of antibiotics in stockfeeds been proceeded with and, if so, can he indicate when the legislation is likely to be introduced?

ANSWER

The Cabinet submission has been agreed to. The legislative drafting instructions are being analysed finally and should go back to the draftsman in due course. Any veterinary drugs used as an additive to stockfeeds will be controlled by this legislation. Use of other veterinary drugs is controlled by various acts administered by the Department of Health.

Special Purpose Blocks in Future Subdivisions

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

Would he please give me an assurance that, in future subdivisions, the location of special purpose blocks, shops, schools etc will be carefully chosen and then well advertised so that people buying house blocks are fully aware of the purposes of the neighbouring blocks?

ANSWER

I am in full sympathy with the honourable member's sentiments. One of the greatest causes of delays in town planning matters arises when, for one reason or another, parties want to alter the purpose for which land is currently zoned. Of course, in expectation of quiet living in a lower-density area, people are then faced with the prospect of the entire thing being changed after they have made the greatest investment they are likely to make in their lifetime. Most certainly, that is my policy and my department's policy and it would certainly be the intention of the planning authorities throughout the Northern Territory. In respect of the private subdivisions, all matters were taken into account prior to the arrangements to proceed with the private developers. Certainly, precisely the same thing will occur in Alice Springs and any other centre where new subdivisions are proposed.

Consultation with Community Organisations in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Was the decision to amalgamate the new high school and community library services in Nhulunbuy achieved after community consultation and, if so, with which community organisations?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it has been long a concern of this government, as a result of community pressure - including pressure from the place that the honourable gentleman represents - to maximise and make available in a central location those facilities which are generally regarded as being of service to the public. If one looks at the representations coming from Howard Springs or Berry Springs, precisely the same sort of representations

are being made. That is, where the government builds a school, it is asked to also build adjacent to it an oval to be made available to the general community and to also provide such things as library services. I personally have discussed this proposal with many people in Nhulunbuy on my not infrequent visits. I do recognise Nhulunbuy as a part of the Northern Territory even though the honourable gentleman has some doubt as indicated in his maiden speech yesterday. Certainly, this issue was raised with as many people as possible.

I understand now that there is some opposition against the proposal to provide a very sophisticated library service for the school at the same time as for the community. Indeed, the plans and specifications for the new high school in Nhulunbuy were altered in midstream, and probably at some expense as a result of a community request. Certainly, his predecessor indicated to this place on a number of occasions the desirability of maximising community facilities within the very expensive structures that the government erects.

I really cannot understand the concern. Perhaps it comes from a professional jealousy or it may be on the operational side. There may be difficulties and conflicts between the various parties. If there is conflict between government agencies, then I find it somewhat disturbing that they would resist a very desirable arrangement. In addition to the library being altered and extended at the request of the community, the design of the hall was altered and extended so that it was suitable for the general community.

In answer to the question, the move was entirely supported by the community, albeit some little inconvenience may exist in having people travel further than they do from the existing library. I recognise that but, on balance, I think it is a very good move.

Removal of Coffee Bush

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the government be continuing the program to remove coffee bush from our foreshore areas?

ANSWER

The simple answer is yes.

Services to Blocks on Katherine River

Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I ask this on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Can the minister advise the reasons his government is refusing to provide power and water to the 53 five-acre blocks on the Katherine River's north bank?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Elsey always comes up with very difficult questions to answer. Mr Speaker, as you are probably aware, there is a little confrontation going on between myself and the Katherine Municipal Council at the moment over the particular proposed subdivision. The arrangement was originally to provide unserviced blocks. This was based

on our understanding of a desire for this type of land in the Katherine area. The arrangement, in the normal course of events, would be put to the Katherine town council. In letters going back to May of this year, the town council indicated its nervousness with this arrangement. Its exact words in a resolution were : 'For the benefit of potential purchasers, the council would like to see electricity and water supplied before blocks are sold'. Thus, we are faced with the position where the council of the town says it is not happy with the release on a basis of unserviced land. We must also bear in mind that very adequate bore water can be located there and there is the usual rural style of septic systems. We could also solve the electricity problem. What inevitably happens is that it does not matter how firmly you put in the agreement with people who purchase land that there is no undertaking by government to provide services, once they have settled there and put up with the inconvenience of unserviced land for a period of time, the pressure then starts to come.

Having regard to the fact that the council said it wanted the land serviced, we then do a very hasty exercise to see how much it will cost. Would you believe, Sir, that the provision of water alone to those blocks will cost $15,000 per block. Total service costs come to around about $37,000 to $38,000 a block. I cannot see the public of Katherine paying that sort of money for services. Thus, we have this conflict with the council: we want to release the land one way and the council is insisting on releasing it another way at a time when the government was naturally determining its budget for the coming financial year.

I understand, although I have not received a copy of it, that the council apparently wrote to me on 4 July, which was after the beginning of the financial year, indicating that most of the problems as it saw them had been overcome, with the exception of a thing called differential rating. By that stage, the budget was being firmed up and the sort of millions we are talking about to turn off 50-odd blocks is something that involves very significant financial planning indeed. As a result, I wrote back to the council and indicated that, in view of their reluctance to go on with the government's proposal, it was no longer profitable to provide funds within this financial year. Certainly, discussions will continue with the town council and, hopefully, the matter will be resolved. I understand the council held a special meeting last night following the receipt of my letter yesterday and officers of the department indicated to me this morning that there may be a different attitude in the council and perhaps by some method or other we may get people settled on that land in the near future.

The Single Officer's Housing Review

Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does the Education Department have a document entitled 'The Single Officer's Housing Review' and, if so, will the minister table this document in this House?

ANSWER

I have no knowledge of such a document therefore I cannot give any such undertaking.

Warrego School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is he doing to solve the gross overcrowding and lack of other facilities at the Warrego School near Tennant Creek?

ANSWER

I am surprised that I have not been battered around the ears by my colleague, the honourable Minister for Health, about this one. Certainly, during the course of a meeting I held with the newly-formed committee on the handicapped, the matter was raised by parents from that area. I have noted those concerns and, quite clearly, it does indicate a problem exists in Warrego. I want to get to Tennant Creek as soon as I can, perhaps in the company of my colleague who might conduct a personal investigation to see what action can be taken.

Sealing of Roads in Howard Springs

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the actual sealing of Whitewood and Hillier Roads in Howard Springs start?

ANSWER

The contract to seal these roads is expected to be let this month and, hopefully, the job will be finished in early 1981.

Housing Commission Practice Regarding Single Parents

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I preface my question by reminding the new minister that the Housing Commission had the practice of transferring single parents from flat complexes to town houses after they had served a period of approximately 12 months in those flat complexes. It then changed its policy and, in the process, broke a firm undertaking that had been given to a number of those parents. Will he direct the Housing Commission to keep its firm promises given to those parents to transfer them to town houses?

ANSWER

As a general rule, I would say that this government is very insistent that the undertakings of either its ministers or officers are carried out. Nonetheless, I have no personal knowledge of the matter raised by the honourable member for Fannie Bay. Again, as a result of that I cannot give any undertaking to give any instructions. I will certainly have the matter looked at and probably report to her by letter at a later time.

Rebates to Elderly People

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Would the minister please indicate who amongst elderly people are entitled to the 50% rebate on third-party motor vehicle insurance, water rates and electricity charges, with particular reference to those people receiving superannuation benefits?

ANSWER

The government has a widely-publicised policy of what is called pensioner concessions. Recent undertakings were given to upgrade those. The scheme was expanded under the former minister to include not only persons holding Commonwealth medical pensioner benefits cards but also those males in the Northern Territory over 65 and those females over 60. One area which is not completely clear at this stage - and the department is preparing some papers for me so that I can clear up the confusion in everyone's mind - is that of the superannuant who is either a male under 65 or a female under 60.

Superannuation is a fairly confusing area. It is not simply a matter of declaring that all retired superannuants are entitled to pensioner concessions because superannuants come from a whole range of areas. There are simply hundreds of different types of superannuation and there are various reasons why people have been superannuated out of their employment, voluntarily and non-voluntarily. Before the pensioner concession scheme can be simply blanket extended to this group of people, there needs to be some very clear guidelines to indicate who may go to the Department of Community Development and pick up a Northern Territory pensioner benefit card which will entitle him to a whole range of concessions. As soon as I have this matter clarified - and it is one I regard as a matter of priority - I will write to all members of the House and indeed make some press announcements on the subject.

Freight Component of Sales Tax

Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

When will the promised subsidy on the freight component of sales tax in the Northern Territory be introduced?

ANSWER

Announcements have been made in relation to the government's initiative of refunding to wholesalers the sales tax component on freight. The announcements indicated that the scheme would commence from 1 July. Whilst the scheme will take a little bit of time to bring into operation, the refunds to the various wholesalers will be backdated to 1 July this year. That has always been our undertaking. Indeed, if the honourable member can wait for a little while, there will be some reference to this matter in the budget.

Noxious Weeds on Commonwealth Land at Humpty Doo

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What power does the Department of Primary Production have over noxious weeds on Commonwealth land used by the Navy at Humpty Doo?

ANSWER

Even though it is a defence reserve, the land in question is still subject to the provisions contained in the Noxious Weeds Act and the Plant Diseases Act.

20727.819—10

Reconstruction of Nightcliff Primary School

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

He will probably be aware that stage 2 of the reconstruction of Nightcliff Primary School has presently ceased and services have been removed from areas which were being used for temporary facilities. Could he indicate why the work on the reconstruction stage 2 has ceased and when it will recommence?

ANSWER

I am aware of the problem raised by the honourable member because she approached me on this subject last night. The rest of what she has to say would pertain to a document which is to be tabled in this parliament later today. Therefore, I do not feel at liberty to canvass those issues now.

Heavitree Gap Causeway

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise what work his department is presently undertaking in Central Australia to upgrade the Heavitree Gap causeway south of Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The government has decided to widen the existing crossing which is 2 lanes and, at the same time, we will widen the intersection of the crossing at the Stuart Highway to reduce existing traffic hazards.

Education Act Regulations

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will the regulations to the Education Act be available?

ANSWER

I cannot give a firm date to the honourable member. I appreciate his concern because I too have been quite concerned about this. Nonetheless, the Education Act was deliberately worded to allow it to stand free without the necessity for bringing in regulations at an early date. In other words, it worked without having the necessity for having our own regulations. This was deliberately done in light of the fact that we could simply save the regulations of the Commonwealth and continue them. I and my department have been most anxious to ensure that, when the regulations are brought in, they will not need change other than for a philosophical or policy change by a different government or different minister. I prefer to see the thing done correctly the first time round rather than hurry it through. Mr Speaker, I give an undertaking to the House that I will do everything I can to have these regulations promulgated as soon as possible so that via the Subordinate Legislation and Tabled Papers Committee this parliament may review them.

Roads on Bathurst Island

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he give me an assurance that the construction of roads discussed between forestry officers and leaders of the Tiwi people on Bathurst Island will be going ahead as planned this year?

ANSWER

I cannot give any assurance that construction of roads will go ahead this year. I should perhaps bring to the honourable members' attention that the roads the honourable member adverts to are private roads on private land. Certainly, the honourable member for Tiwi and myself have a continuing interest in upgrading the roads on Bathurst and Melville Islands. Within the priorities that the Forestry Branch of the Conservation Commission has, as much work as possible will be done to continue to improve the road system on Bathurst and Melville Islands. However, there are other priorities on those islands which have to be taken into account as well as roads. The possibility of further road construction on the islands will be kept in mind as the financial year progresses.

Aerial Medical Contract

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will the long-delayed decision as to which airline will win the new aerial medical contract be announced?

ANSWER

I believe there was an announcement last night or this morning. I know that there has been a press release prepared to advise that Northern Airlines has won the tender for the operation of the Aerial Medical Division of the Department of Health.

Mindil Beach Casino

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Is he able to inform the House of the reasons for the delays in the construction of the Mindil Beach Casino? What does the minister intend doing to ensure that no further delays will be experienced?

ANSWER

This matter has been one of some concern to the government. I have recently had talks with the principals of Federal Hotels on the subject. We have never lost close contact with them at an officer level during the entire time since Federal Hotels entered into agreement to build casinos and hotel complexes in the Territory. The original proposal to build a casino at Mindil Beach was going to cost in the order of $10m. By December 1979, the estimate at that stage had risen to $12m for the building and about $15m for the total development at Mindil. The company went to tender in February 1980 and the lowest tenderer was $16.9m for the building alone and, with associated costs involved, the project would have been well over $20m. This caused the company some difficulties in its plans for the project and they held negotiations with the tenderers as to ways in which they might be able to lower the

the price to some degree. It also caused them some difficulties because they had to reorganise the lines of finance for such a very large project. They have been doing that at the same time as building their casino and hotel at Alice Springs which is pretty well along the way. The government, in continually applying pressure to the company to get on with the job, has arranged with them that, whilst they undertake that a final contract for the construction of the building will be entered into within 10 days, it is necessary for them to enter into an interim contract virtually forthwith - it was to be this week - for $1m to continue with work at Mindil Beach. I point out to honourable members that in excess of $2m has been spent already including the price of the land itself. Of course, no company likes to see sums of money of that size left outstanding without providing any possible return. Of course, no possible return for that money can be obtained by the company until the project is completed.

However, because the government is concerned with the continuing delays in the matter, I have advised verbally the principals of the company that, unless a firm contract is entered into for the construction of the main facility at Mindil Beach by the end of September, I am going to review the licence that they have to operate an interim casino at the Don Hotel. They assured me that they will certainly be well and truly into a contract for construction by that time and I am sure that bit of incentive will help them along the way.

Lighthouse Reserves at Cape Hotham and Cape Don

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the federal Department of Administrative Services made any approach to his department for the takeover of any structures on lighthouse reserves at Cape Hotham and Cape Don?

ANSWER

I am unable to supply the member with the information. However, I will seek to provide it to her later in the sittings.

Baiting Dingoes with 1080

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise whether a moratorium has been placed on the aerial baiting of dingoes with 1080 and, if so, have dingoes become a danger.

ANSWER

I understand an aerial baiting program with 1080 commenced on 23 July and, to date, the whole of the Barkly Tablelands and 5 properties in the Alice Springs region have been baited. From next Monday, I understand that the Conservation Commission will be doing the gulf country and the Robinson and McArthur Rivers area. It is intended that the program will conclude at about the end of September at which time the whole of the Territory will have been covered. The one exception is that the program people are going through the Territory, station by station, doing those stations which want baiting to be done and leaving those which do not want to participate in the program. I was informed by the Conservation Commission that, when the program is concluded at the end of September, an assessment can then be made as to its effectiveness.

Monitoring of Jenny Crabs

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY

He has assured the House on several times that the monitoring of jenny crabs was continually being carried out by officers of his Fisheries Department. Accordingly, I ask him if he can either table the report of their monitoring procedures or the conclusions that they have reached.

ANSWER

The last communication that I had with the honourable member for Nightcliff on that subject was by a letter dated 4 June. The letter quite clearly explains the government's position. I do not believe that the government will be doing very much more about jenny crabs, not in the immediate future anyway, because there are a lot of other priorities.

Blocks 4631 and 4632 in Eastside Subdivision

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

Would he please inform me if blocks 4631 and 4632 in the new eastside subdivision have been accepted for a small shopping centre and, if so, when will they come up for auction?

ANSWER

I would indicate to the honourable member that, if he asks a question like that again, I will ask him to put it on notice. However, in view of the fact that this is his third day here, I will obtain the information and write to him later.

Dumping Sulphur near Bees Creek

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it intended to establish a dump for sulphur at the 22-mile old iron ore loading facility adjacent to Bees Creek and, if so, will that dump be protected from erosion into Bees Creek and from wind erosion?

ANSWER

I cannot answer the first part of his question off the top of my head. I would think that it would be absolutely essential practice that, if such a dump were established anywhere, it would need to have satisfactory protection around it.

Noxious Weeds in Kakadu National Park

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Would he, in his capacity as minister having responsibility for the Conservation Commission, draw to Dr Ovington's attention the disgraceful condition of the Kakadu National Park in relation to the abundance of noxious weeds?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think for once I have been able to pre-empt the suggestion

of the honourable member for Tiwi because I believe that the Director of Conservation has been in correspondence with the Director of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding the matter of noxious weeds in the Kakadu National Park.

Decision on Rezoning of Land near Fannie Bay Hotel

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will his decision on the recommendation of the Planning Authority in relation to the proposal to rezone land near the old Fannie Bay Hotel from 01 to 02 be announced and will he explain the reasons for the delay because the matter was considered by the Planning Authority in early April?

ANSWER

With all the hundreds of planning matters that are going on contemporaneously around the Territory, I have no hope of retaining them all in my head. Naturally, this is one of greater notoriety than most. We have all heard of it in the press and so on before. I undertake to inform the honourable member of the exact position as soon as I possibly can.

Freight Subsidies for Perishables for Teachers in Isolated Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINSITER for EDUCATION

Will the government reintroduce, for the Northern Territory Teaching Service, the freight subsidies for perishables for teachers in isolated schools, which are currently being progessively removed by the CTS?

ANSWER

Before any examination by the government, the results of the applications before the Arbitration Commission should be awaited. I understand that this matter is still before that tribunal and, of course, it would be improper of me to say anything in this forum which would be seen to interfere with that organisation's proper functions under the Arbitration Act.

School Assessment Forum at Jingili School

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware of the proposal for Jingili School to be closed for one school day in order that a school assessment forum may be carried out by staff? Why cannot such an assessment be carried out in the many weeks of fully paid stand-down time enjoyed by teachers rather than closing the school for one day?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for the question and the suggestion. I will follow it up.

New Northern Territory Government Directory

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

When will the new Northern Territory Government Directory be available to the public?

ANSWER

I understand that a new government directory will be prepared towards the end of the year and promulgated early in 1981. I am not certain of this but I do believe that it is a directory that is renewed annually.

INDEX TO QUESTIONS
20 - 21 August 1980

Aerial medical contract (O'Neil) 17
Alice Springs -
  home loan applications (Collins D.W.) 5
  recreational lake site (Isaacs) 9,10
Antibiotics in stockfeeds (Lawrie) 11
Bathurst Island, roads (Padgham-Purich) 17
Batteries, Mt Wells (D'Rozario) 4; (Isaacs) 5
Berrimah Prison, cancelled family visit (Lawrie) 1
Cafeteria, Chan Building (Harris) 1
Casuarina Hospital, casualty clinic (D'Rozario) 2
Coffee bush (Harris) 12
Dingo baiting with 1080 (Vale) 18
Dollar-for-dollar subsidies to NT schools (Harris) 2
Dust problem, Virginia Road (Doolan) 7
Eastside subdivision, blocks 4631 and 4632 (Collins D.W.) 19
Education Act, regulations (Collins B.) 16
Education Advisory Council (Collins B.) 7
Educational services for Handicapped children (Collins B.) 3
Egg dumping, Alice Springs (Vale) 6
Electricity Commission; Salonika materials storage (Harris) 8
Elizabeth River causeway (Padgam-Purich) 3
Fannie Bay Hotel site, rezoning (O'Neil) 20
Fire station at 19-mile (Padgham-Purich) 2
Free travel for unemployed (D'Rozario) 9
Freight component of sales tax (Isaacs) 15
Government directory (Harris) 21
Gunn Point Prison - bore (Padgham-Purich) 10
Heavitree Gap causeway (Vale) 16
Housing Commission - single parent policy (O'Neil) 14
Howard Springs, sealing of Whitewood Road (Padgham-Purich) 14
Jenny crabs, monitoring procedures (Lawrie) 19
Jingili School, school assessment forum (O'Neil) 20
Kakadu National Park, noxious weeds (Padgham-Purich) 19
Katherine River - services to blocks (Vale) 12
Lighthouse reserves -
  Cape Don (D'Rozario) 18
  Cape Hotham (D'Rozario) 18
McMinns Bore (Padgham-Purich) 7
Mindil Beach casino (Harris) 17
Nhulunbuy community organisations (Leo) 11
Nightcliff Primary School reconstruction (Lawrie) 16
Noxious weeds at Humpty Doo (Padgham-Purich) 15
Private hospital at old Darwin Hospital site (Harris) 9
Rebates for elderly people (Collins D.W.) 14
Single Officer's Housing Review (Perkins) 13
Special purpose blocks in subdivisions (Collins D.W.) 11
Sulphur dump, Bees Creek (Collins B.) 19
Tasman Circuit, residence purchase (O'Neil) 2
Teachers, freight subsidies in isolated schools (Collins B.) 20
Warrego School (Collins B.) 14

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.

Appointment of Administrator

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he inform the Assembly who will be the next Administrator of the Northern Territory and, if not, when does he expect to be in a position to inform the House of that situation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not yet in a position to inform the Assembly who will be the next Administrator. I can assure all honourable members that, if this House is sitting when the federal government reaches a decision on who will be the new Administrator, then honourable members will be first to hear of the decision. I might say that the Northern Territory government has sought at all times to be a participant in that decision which to the best of my knowledge has not yet been taken.

I have put plainly to the Prime Minister and to the Minister for Home Affairs that I would expect the views of the Northern Territory government to be taken very much into account in arriving at a decision.

Accommodation at Old Darwin Hospital

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the current position concerning the future use of the old sisters' quarters and nurses' quarters and why has it taken so long to have these buildings occupied?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has been anxious to have the old accommodation quarters for nurses and sisters at the old Darwin Hospital used for accommodation for some time now. We have been working closely with a group which has been formed from the YWCA and YMCA in Darwin and we have been negotiating with that group to take over the facilities to provide relatively low rentals for people in Darwin and also to include an area for student accommodation and emergency accommodation.

The matter is fairly complex in that the buildings are part of a much larger complex and, therefore, some of the services that are provided to those buildings, such as steam and air-conditioning are part of a larger system. We have had some difficulty in establishing clearly the costs to apportion to these particular buildings. I have received word from the parties concerned that they would like to meet with me as early as possible to discuss the latest information that has been provided on the cost-apportioning question. I would hope that very shortly the buildings will be used for accommodation as indeed they should be.

Problems at Warrego School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he advise the Assembly as to what is being done to alleviate the problems being suffered by the Warrego School?

ANSWER

The honourable gentleman refers to problems being suffered by the Warrego School. In accordance with an undertaking I made in the last sittings, I visited Warrego in the company of the local member, the Minister for Health. While there are some accommodation problems there, I certainly would not describe the situation as anything like suffering. Certainly, the principal never indicated that to me. Nonetheless, there were additional facilities required at that location - additional facilities which the honourable member may not have been aware of - which in fact have been made available to that school.

I certainly will be keeping in contact with my colleague and I dare say the parent body of that school will be keeping in contact with me to see how things pan out. However, there is no grave problem associated with the Warrego School, Mr Speaker. As a matter of fact, it is probably one of the most harmonious and well-run small schools that I have visited. I understand it has a very strong parental influence. The pre-school is one of the finest I have seen operating in the Northern Territory, largely through parent co-operation.

The problems which were evident late last year and probably very early this year have largely been overcome, to my knowledge, as a result of a personal inspection of the place and I will continue to keep an eye on it.

Differential Rating System in Berrimah

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Does the government intend introducing a differential rating system in the rural area in Berrimah?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, consideration is being given to the introduction into the Darwin Rates Act of a system of rating concessions for land which meets the criteria for urban farmland. The provision would be similar to that being proposed as an amendment to the Local Government Act in the bill which I foreshadow to be introduced in the House during this sittings. In short, the answer to the honourable member's question is yes.

Proposals for Darwin Power-Station

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of his recent statements regarding a nuclear power-station for Darwin, can he inform the Assembly what has happened to the proposal to build a coal-fired power-station in Darwin, with an option to convert to gas, as announced by this government earlier this year as a statement of principle?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, for the honourable member's benefit I would just like to elaborate on the briefing that took place recently with the press relating to the possible utilisation of nuclear power generation in the Northern Territory. It comes about because of the consideration that has been given by the Department of Mines and Energy and by NTEC who are addressing themselves to the types of power generation schemes that we should be using. The facts of

the matter are that Stokes Hill Power-Station is subsidised to the tune of $45m this year. That is expected to blow out to $150m in 1985-86. Clearly, that situation cannot be allowed to continue and the federal government has made no bones about the fact that it would like to capitalise its subsidy and perhaps move to a more economic form of generation.

The first proposal put to us by the Commonwealth - it is a perfectly reasonable one given the technology in Australia today - is that we should move to coal. With coal-generating costs of $2m a megawatt, we should be able to provide Darwin with the extra capacity that it will need by the middle of the decade. We should be able to reduce considerably the present generating costs of 14 cents to 16 cents a kilowatt hour. We should be able to provide an energy source that would enable industry to come here and compete on favourable terms with any other area in the country. That is the philosophy that we are working towards: to provide the cheapest possible form of energy source for the people of the Northern Territory and for industry.

The Department of Mines and Energy and NTEC have been working very hard on these proposals since the Commonwealth instituted its first move in the matter. It is becoming pretty obvious, because of changing circumstances that are outside our control, that we will not be able to build a station for less than $300m or $400m and that the works required on the waterfront for handling 0.5 million tonnes of coal a year could be considerably more than was originally anticipated. Only detailed studies will give us an opportunity to address ourselves to that problem.

The rise in coal prices in the last 6 months has indicated quite clearly that it is impossible to build a coal-fired station and hope to arrest or reduce the price of electricity. We may be able to hold it at 14 or 16 cents a unit but there is no way that we will be able to reduce it. If we want to have an energy base here for which people can afford to pay and industry can afford to use, 16 cents is not acceptable. The department and NTEC have been examining other possible options in view of the government's determination to provide 2 primary things: power that people can afford and power that industry is prepared to use at a reasonable cost.

The department's investigations indicate that, on today's figures, nuclear power is an option. One of the most important factors in this consideration is that, with nuclear power, we would be able to enter into a feedstock contract over a 20 or 30-year period. With coal, we will be locked into the increasing price of coal besetting the world today. The price of coal will always be relevant to the price of petrol and oil which is soaring beyond anybody's expectations.

Mr Speaker, for the benefit of the honourable member, I would say that the situation is under constant review. The government is not obliged to take a final decision until late next year, although it would be preferable if we could take one in June next year. There are some serious processes of elimination that we have to go through and, as the situation develops, I will do my best to keep honourable members and the people of the Northern Territory informed.

Dollar-for-Dollar Subsidy to Schools

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will the guidelines for the dollar-for-dollar subsidy to Northern Territory schools be released?

ANSWER

The guidelines were released 20 minutes ago.

Nuclear Power-Station for Darwin

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the minister had any discussions with the federal government concerning funding for a nuclear power-station for Darwin?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. Discussions on funding have so far been related to the concept of a coal-fired station. I would add that the Commonwealth has indicated quite clearly that it wishes to minimise the subsidy level and I can understand its position entirely.

Local Government Rates at Berrimah

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What does the Department of Community Development do with the rates extracted from the people in Berrimah as regards returning some services to the people?

ANSWER

The funds raised by rating in this particular area are paid to Consolidated Revenue. The rates collected in the outer Darwin area are related directly to the value of the land fixed by the Valuer-General under the Valuation of Land Act and are not intended to be related to the level of services provided to ratepayers in the area. Although the provision of services is not related to the payment of rates, the government is conscious of the need for various essential services in the area. It is currently providing such services as garbage collection and street lighting and is upgrading various streets in the area. Major capital works, valued in excess of $2m, have been carried out in the area over the past 3 years; for example, the reconstruction of the Stuart Highway, Berrimah Road, Hidden Valley Road, Strath Road and Makagon Road. If I recall correctly, there are further roads in this area that are on the existing program for upgrading.

Nuclear Power-Station for Darwin

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the Assembly whether approval from the Commonwealth has been sought to establish a nuclear power plant in Darwin and, if so, what has been the response?

ANSWER

The answer is no.

Control of Antibiotics in Stockfeed

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Given his answer of Thursday 21 August, is he yet able to indicate when

legislation to control the use of antibiotics in stockfeed will be introduced in the Assembly?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the instructions have gone to the draftsman and we hope to introduce legislation early next year.

Ross Park Primary School

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action is intended to overcome the accommodation problem at the Ross Park Primary School for the 1981-82 period?

ANSWER

I understand that the difficulty will arise about mid-1981, certainly not before the end of the first term in 1981. As the honourable member would be aware - and I thank him for his attendance at the school council meeting conducted at Ross Park Primary School recently - a series of options were placed before parents ranging from transferring Year 7 at Ross Park Primary School to the Sadadeen High School to providing temporary demountables at various locations, including Ross Park itself, the high school site or at the Rona Glynn Pre-school or, alternatively, bussing the students temporarily to Traeger Park Primary School. All of this is brought about by the necessity for the government to have available to it a subdivision in which to place the new school for the Sadadeen area. That school will incorporate both a pre-school and a primary school. The problem will probably exist for about 18 months from about mid-1981.

I have examined all of these proposals in depth at the request of the parent body. The parents had been told that the departmental view - and this was a quite proper view in terms of economics and education - was to transfer the Year 7 children to the Sadadeen High School. The parents took the view - and I respect their view entirely - that children who progress through primary school would regard Year 7 as their opportunity to be the senior class in the school. If those children were denied the right to be top of the block for Year 7, then the opportunities to develop leadership and so on would be lost until such time as they reached Year 12. In the light of the expressions of concern by the parents, I have completely reviewed the options and will be taking them to Cabinet this Friday with a view to reaching the best possible decision in all of the circumstances.

Dhupuma College Staff

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

Block at Howard Springs

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Who owns the block of land next to the Howard Springs School and what is its future as a reserve? What plans are there to put a community hall on the block?

ANSWER

The land in question is Crown land at present. There has been an application for an oval next to the school to be vested in trustees. The government has considered this and is in the process of making a decision on the matter. There has also been an application for funding for a hall to be used by various groups. This would be associated with the oval itself. $35,000 has been set aside in the budget to meet the operational expenses and to allow the trustees to establish a hall which can be used by various community groups. This is part of a move in rural Darwin generally. The population is growing to such a degree that there is now pressure for independent community facilities at Berry Springs, Humpty Doo and Howard Springs in addition to the very excellent facility at Fred's Pass Reserve which is funded by the government and run by voluntary staff. As the population increases in the rural area, the government will be moving towards providing additional services as the demand requires.

Dollar-for-Dollar Subsidy to Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he indicate the guidelines for the dollar-for-dollar subsidy which he announced 20 minutes ago?

ANSWER

A circular will be sent to schools. I will indicate the major points. Subsidies will apply to fund-raising activities to fund educational projects. School fees will not be considered for the purpose of attracting a subsidy. Evidence must be produced to show that funds have been raised in the current financial year. Bodies which are eligible for subsidy are school councils, parent-teacher organisations and pre-school committees. The scheme is applicable to government and non-government pre-schools, primary schools and secondary schools. To allow immediate implementation of the scheme, each school will be eligible for a subsidy of up to $5,000 in 1980-81. Applications may be submitted to the maximum limit at any time during the financial year but it would be in the best interests of all concerned if applications were submitted before 30 March 1981. Applications for projects beyond $5,000 must be submitted by close of business on 20 February 1981. $5,000 is only a notional figure and any school council which feels it can raise a higher sum for a specific project will be welcome to apply for approval. All normal school fund-raising activities are acceptable with the specific exception of school fees and the annual departmental allocation of funds to schools. Applications and any further inquiries should be directed through the appropriate regional office.

Performing Arts Centre in Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he able to inform me of the current status of the proposal to establish

a performing arts centre in Darwin?

ANSWER

The government is holding ongoing discussions with the Corporation of the City of Darwin on this very matter. We have received a report from consultants relating to the design of the centre. The corporation has land set aside on the Esplanade for the construction of the arts centre. We have been engaged in intensive discussions on how much should be spent on the construction of the building. We have received advice from the Department of Transport and Works on this matter. We are having further talks with the corporation, particularly on the subject of the corporation's contribution to the arts centre. I hope that this matter can be resolved within a reasonably short time. Honourable members will note that a figure of $100,000 was set aside in the budget this year to provide for ongoing design of the arts centre for Darwin.

'Territorians Are Worth Saving' Campaign

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the cost of the current 'Territorians Are Worth Saving' road safety campaign and for what length of time will the campaign be run?

ANSWER

The total cost of the campaign is $112,000. I believe it will last for 1 year.

Ratification of UN Convention

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I understand that there was a meeting of the Attorneys-General in Alice Springs on 6 November attended by the minister in his capacity as Acting Attorney-General. One of the topics for discussion was the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women resulting from the Copenhagen conference. Can he inform the Assembly whether the states and the Territory have agreed to ratify the terms of the convention?

ANSWER

I do not really know for a start whether it is proper for me to answer the question since I am no longer acting in the capacity of Acting Attorney-General. Nonetheless, I think the Leader of the Opposition would be aware of the convention of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General that matters discussed therein are not released to the public without the unanimous agreement of all attorneys. Through the Chief Minister as Attorney-General, I would suggest that be checked out with officers and other members of the standing committee and, if appropriate, the information could be made available.

Tiwi War Veterans

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that there are some Tiwi people who have not yet received entitlements due to them for serving in the armed forces in World War II and there are even some who have not received their war medals?

ANSWER

I was aware that there were Tiwi war veterans who, until 12 to 18 months ago when I became aware of the matter, had not received veterans' pension entitlements and also decorations for war service. The matter is so old that I am a bit hazy in my recollection and I wish to make that clear. I think that I wrote to the Minister for Veterans Affairs on behalf of the Tiwi people and also that I referred the matter to Senator Kilgariff who happens to be sitting in the gallery today. I cannot give any further information but I will certainly follow the matter up.

Funding for NTCOSS

Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

I refer to the recent reports in the media in relation to the government's decision not to fund NTCOSS. Will he advise the Assembly the reasons why he has decided not to fund NTCOSS which is a worth-while organisation in this community?

ANSWER

There is nothing unusual about funds not being available to meet the needs of all applicants for government funding. Indeed, the government has a grants-in-aid program to organisations whom the government supports for their assistance in the welfare field. This has been very much expanded this year. However, the applications that were received total a much greater figure than funds available. That is not unusual. Decisions are made on the merits of each

application. The NTCOSS was one of those that missed out and it was not alone. NTCOSS has been particularly vocal of late and it appears that it requires some sort of a public statement of reasons in addition to the private letter that it received. In my statement of reasons, I touched on the fact that, apart from the availability of funds, my view was coloured by the fact that the organisation appeared to be using its extensive resources to counter government activities and to oppose the government at every move. If honourable members would like to refer to the types of things to which I allude, they should peruse the bimonthly publication that has been issued by NTCOSS over the last year. I think they will get some idea of what I call 'political bias'. That certainly affected my decision in this matter. However, I point out that there is nothing unusual about organisations - some of them quite worth while - not making the grade when one is allocating limited resources.

Private Hospital in Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Have any proposals been received for the establishment of a private hospital in Darwin?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not know but I am aware that tenders close on 2 December for people who are interested in establishing a private hospital in the Northern Territory.

Performing Arts Centre in Darwin

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has a decision been made to determine the design of the proposed Darwin centre for the performing arts by an architectural competition or a design competition?

ANSWER

The government favours a design and construct type of contract for this particular building. It has been the subject of some debate between ourselves and the city corporation. That is the decision the government has taken. As I pointed out to the Assembly yesterday, there are a number of matters still to be resolved before proceeding further.

Funding of After-School Activities at Darwin Primary School

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he give me the reason for discontinuing the funding of after-school activities at the Darwin Primary School?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I suppose if one were to encapsulate that one would say that it was not the function of the Department of Education to run child-minding services. We are a department of education. The original after-school activities program at Darwin Primary School was introduced after the cyclone to solve the problems pertaining to the cyclone. I have often said that it is about time we started to get over the hangups of the cyclone period. That was what it was

designed to achieve and I think it achieved it. Nonetheless, we all recognise the tremendous value of that location for the purpose of minding children while parents are at work.

I think the parent body at Darwin Primary School accepts the view of the Department of Education that it is not its proper role to use taxpayers' money to involve itself in child-minding services. As a result, the parents have reached an agreement with the school council and, on my understanding, the school council will run the operation. It has the full blessing of the Department of Education and will use departmental facilities and resources. It will be funded as a normal community operation through the school council Certainly, the facility will be maintained but not under the direct auspices of the Department of Education.

Location of Concrete Batching Plant

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that a concrete batching plant is being constructed on Irwin Road in the 17-mile area in the midst of what has become an established rural residential area? Why could not the plant have been constructed in the Coonawarra heavy industry area or at the 19-mile which already has heavy industry established there?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the truth of the matter is that there is no planning controls over the rural area. That is only one of many undesirable activities which have occurred there over the last couple of years - starting off with a sand-blasting plant which also caused grave concern in the rural area. The people who have moved to the rural area did so with a view to urban living and I completely sympathise with them when someone sets up a completely incompatible activity near to them. The people in the rural area know that the government, over a period in excess of 2 years, has tried to persuade the rural people that a town plan over the area to prevent this sort of activity is highly desirable. We were told to keep ourselves and our grubby bureaucratic hands off their area. They did not want to know about it because they considered it would be the thin end of the wedge for local government. The net result is that the whole program was put back by a number of years at the wish of rural people. Now they realise the logic in the government's argument for rural plans and that is proceeding. At the moment, I have the documentation on the rural plan in my office. The plan is markedly different, if not totally different, from that which was originally displayed. I would be quite happy to talk to the opposition spokesman on planning as to whether or not it should be redisplayed. I want honourable members to be fully conscious of what it will mean if we redisplay it. If we do, we are then locked into about another 12 months of objections, counter arguments and redrawing.

The plan is a very simple one, providing for 2 different systems of rural living. The idea that the authority has in mind, and I sympathise with its view, is to require all activities in the rural area to need specific approval. That probably is a very sensible way to go about it in all of the circumstances. However, can I both in conscience and indeed at law maintain that that plan is sufficiently similar to the one which was displayed to recommend its adoption to His Honour the Administrator? I am in quite a bind on the matter. I fully appreciate the wish of rural dwellers to maintain their lifestyles and not have these sorts of activities put next to them; for example, the Greek Tavern. No ethnic reflection is meant but, when someone wants to call the business

'The Greek Tavern', I suppose one is inclined to call it 'The Greek Tavern'. That is a matter for the Licensing Commission.

That is the present position. I intend discussing this whole matter with my Cabinet colleagues later this week and I would be quite happy to discuss the matter with the opposition spokesman on planning.

Alice Springs Recreational Lake

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

Is he in a position to report progress regarding the Alice Springs recreational lake?

ANSWER

Discussions are still continuing between the government and the Central Land Council. The environmental report has now been released for public scrutiny and comment and I believe the Snowy Mountains authority will be organising a model about the middle of next month.

Northumberland Insurance Company

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

My question relates to the Northumberland Insurance Company. I have noted the advertisements in the paper requesting those affected by the collapse of the company to approach the Territory Insurance Office. Could the Chief Minister give some indication as to the relief likely to be offered to those people?

ANSWER

I wonder if the honourable member for Nightcliff would mind redirecting the question to my colleague, the Treasurer. He may be able to answer it in some detail. I have a recollection that we did approve a scheme for relief of Northumberland victims to the extent of 50% of their loss. I am not certain of that. Perhaps the best solution would be for the honourable member to put the question on notice.

Bali Cattle Experiments

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Are the experiments with Bali cattle, which have involved an extensive cross-breeding program since 1962, to be discontinued and, if so, why?

ANSWER

The program will be terminated after some 17 years of research requiring considerable resources. The results achieved are inconclusive. The scientific opinion, both inside and outside the department, is quite diverse about the commercial use of this particular cross-bred animal. I am advised that, while the department was successful in breeding 2 fertile Brahman-Bali-cross bulls, at the most optimistic estimate, a further 10 or 15 years of breeding and selecting from a large population would be required to enable the department to assess their commercial value.

Alice Springs Recreational Lake

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has a site yet been chosen for the recreational lake in Alice Springs and, if so, where will it be located?

ANSWER

At the moment, no site has yet been chosen because discussions are taking place with the Central Land Council and government officials. The environmental report has just been made available for scrutiny. Once that particular information has been assessed, a decision will be made.

Heritage Program

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Recent comments made by the Leader of the Opposition would have us believe that this government has nothing done towards retaining our heritage. Does the government have a program of preserving our heritage and does the government have a register of historic buildings?

ANSWER

The government does have a comprehensive program of preserving the Territory's heritage in a number of areas. The Heritage Committee, which the government established recently in conjunction with the National Trust, has prepared a comprehensive list of sites proposed as a register of historical sites of some significance in the Northern Territory. It is intended to circulate this to interested bodies and government departments for them to take note of in relation to any particular works. The list will be presented to Cabinet shortly for its approval and, once that is done, such a Northern Territory list will be distributed.

In the meantime, however, the Australian Heritage Commission does have a list called the National Estate Register which is an Australia-wide list of sites of historical significance and sites which perhaps should be either preserved or taken into consideration in any developmental proposals. Sites that are to go on the National Estate Register are gazetted and objections or comments invited before they are finally adopted by the Australian Heritage Commission. The latest of those lists affecting the Northern Territory was actually gazetted on 31 October. That is a list of additions. Indeed, there are some hundreds of sites already in the National Estate Register which affect the Northern Territory. Whilst the Northern Territory government has not necessarily endorsed those sites, the register obviously has some significance even if it is not binding in law in any way. In association with the Commonwealth government, the government funds the National Trust in the Northern Territory to undertake certain works in relation to preserving our history and historical sites. In addition, individual organisations are also funded by this government for the preservation or restoration or survey work on existing buildings that private organisations may happen to own. This is an ongoing program and we certainly take the subject very seriously. I was rather alarmed at comments by the Leader of the Opposition reported in the press recently. These were just so far off key that I am sure that he did not really believe them at all.

Cattle used in Bali Hybridisation Program

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What will happen to the cattle used in the Bali hybridisation program at the Coastal Plains Research Station if this program is stopped?

ANSWER

The government is approaching institutions like CSIRO, James Cook University and private landholders to see if they would care to take the project over. There are certainly no plans to slaughter animals or to put them on the open market. In fact, if the animals did go to a nature park or tourist institution of some sort, I would want to approve of the facilities personally.

Vanderlin Drive

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When is it proposed that Vanderlin Drive east of Lee Point Road will be reconstructed?

ANSWER

I believe that the design stage will take place in the 1980-81 financial year.

Dhupuma College Staff

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Did he guarantee to continue employment of Aboriginal house parents formerly employed at Dhupuma College?

ANSWER

The short answer is no.

Darwin Public Library

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he able to inform me when the Darwin Public Library will be operating from its new position in Centrepoint?

ANSWER

Most of the Department of Community Development, including the library service, will be located in the new Centrepoint building. I understand that will be ready towards the end of December. At that time, the Darwin Public Library, which is operated at present from the old Esplanade site, will be moved to Centrepoint. We hope to have very fine facilities for the display of the extensive range of books that the library service has.

Fisheries' Vessels

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Are the fisheries' vessels or police vessels Salloo and Pobassoo

presently being used for research and monitoring of fish species and numbers and, if so, could he indicate the level of expertise on board to perform this task?

ANSWER

The question calls for some detail. I am unable to provide the fine detail as requested by the honourable member for Nightcliff in relation to the numbers of persons on board each vessel at present but I can say that, at the time of transfer of the fisheries enforcement function to the Police Commissioner, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Police Commissioner and the Department of Primary Production which allowed for the continued use of these vessels for research and monitoring of fish numbers, habits and so on. If the member for Nightcliff would like to place this question on notice, I will see that it is answered as promptly as possible.

Sand Mining at Flying Fox Creek

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What kind of authority was granted to the Ranger contractors who are currently extracting sand from the banks of the Flying Fox Creek immediately adjacent to the Arnhem Highway? How long is this work likely to continue and will any attempt be made to rehabilitate the area when it is finished?

ANSWER

The honourable member would know that most of these activities are carried out with an authority under the environmental act that we have controlling the uranium industry. The things that he has referred to would be documented. I will take the question on notice and get him the information in writing.

Northern Territory Division of the National Trust

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has he yet seen audited statements for the Northern Territory Division of the National Trust and, if so, what is the position of future funding of this body?

ANSWER

I have not seen the final audited statements of the National Trust. I think that answers both parts of the question.

Berrimah Experimental Farm

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has consideration been given to moving the Berrimah Experimental Farm to another area?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any proposals to shift the Berrimah Experimental Farm. It certainly would not be my decision alone; it would involve quite a few other Cabinet members.

Performing Arts Centre in Darwin

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has a decision been made about the management of the proposed Darwin cultural centre and will the government establish by legislation a trust in accordance with the precedent set by the establishment of the Araluen foundation?

ANSWER

To the best of my knowledge, the question of the organisation to administer the Darwin cultural centre when it is completed has not been addressed as yet. Obviously, the city council would play a very important role in the decision. Indeed, it will be funding portion of it and the government would as well. At this stage, I cannot answer the honourable member's question.

Water Reticulation Repair Service in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will a proper emergency water reticulation repair service for a full 24-hour period be extended to people in the rural area in the same way as applies to people in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

Emergency services as applying to the Darwin area already apply in the rural area. However, the after-hours-service contractor is Wormald. It takes phone calls from people who have complaints and passes them on to the department for immediate action. In the last 3 months up to October this year, there have only been 6 calls registered by Wormald to the department and I am only too willing to investigate any complaint that the honourable member might have in regard to service to people out in that area. As I understand it, people in the rural area are given the same service as people who are living in the Darwin area.

Recreational Lake for Alice Springs

Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to the answer he gave to the honourable member for Alice Springs in respect to the recreational lake for Alice Springs. On what site in the Alice Springs area is the model going to be prepared for by the Snowy Mountains authority in respect to the recreational lake?

ANSWER

To clear up any misapprehension that the Assembly may have, I do have a briefing here and I will take the time of the Assembly to read it. Following investigations into several possible sites for the recreational lake in the Alice Springs area, a report was produced which favoured a site on the Todd River near the old telegraph station. A public meeting was held in the town in January 1980 and public comment was overwhelmingly in favour of the project. An independent environmental impact review carried out by consultants, Dames and Moore revealed 2 main reservations concerning the Todd River site. An Aboriginal sacred site would be inundated and the use of the lake would be restricted by the rate of siltation. Early favourable advice on the sacred site was contradicted by a later advice from the Central Land Council. The

Chief Minister and the Council have been corresponding but, as yet, there is no final agreement. It is estimated that attention to soil conservation and sediment control will allow a useful life of 120 years for the reservoir. Discussions have been taking place between officers of my department, the Conservation Commission and the Alice Springs corporation and the final Dames and Moore environmental review has been released for public scrutiny and comment. The Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation model of a proposed dam site and its spillways is almost complete. The report and a film of the model in operation should be available in December. In answer to the honourable member's question, it looks like the site will be the Todd River site, near the old telegraph station.

Dhupuma College Facilities

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he inform the Assembly as to what will be done with facilities at Dhupuma College?

ANSWER

Subject to the goodwill of the Trades and Labour Council, they will be used for purposes for which they were acquired by the Northern Territory government; that is, for education purposes. I find that, because of the Teachers Federation affiliation with the TLC, the TLC must find itself in a dilemma. There are 3 houses and 2 demountables that we negotiated with Nabalco for occupation by teachers at the beginning of the year. I am not certain whether the black ban has been lifted but, if it has not, the Trades and Labour Council will deprive its own members of accommodation.

MOTION

Mr ROBERTSON (Lands and Housing): I move that Business of the Day be called on.

Motion agreed to.

Mr COLLINS (Arnhem): Mr Speaker, I would like to debate the motion, Sir.

Mr SPEAKER: My adviser assures me, honourable member, that the motion has been put and passed.

Mr COLLINS (Arnhem): Mr Speaker, I was on my feet, Sir.

Mr SPEAKER: I did not stop the question being put. You will have the opportunity to speak tomorrow should you so desire.

Mr ISAACS (Opposition Leader): A point of order, Mr Speaker! My point of order is that I certainly saw the member for Arnhem on his feet when you asked, 'those in favour'. I certainly do not recall you asking for those against. I certainly do not recall you saying that the motion was therefore carried. I do not recall you saying 'the noes' ; you did not give an opportunity for a division. The member for Arnhem was on his feet. You did not see him. That is not your fault but, when he drew your attention to the fact that he was on his feet and wished to speak, I believe he ought to have been allowed to speak.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition has a point. I will certainly allow the member for Arnhem to speak tomorrow. The question is that the

22201.811-29

motion be agreed to.

The Assembly divided:

Ayes 11	Noes 8
Mr D. Collins	Mr B. Collins
Mr Dondas	Mr Doolan
Mr Everingham	Ms D'Rozario
Mr Harris	Mr Isaacs
Mr MacFarlane	Mrs Lawrie
Mrs Padgham-Purich	Mr Leo
Mr Perron	Mrs O'Neil
Mr Robertson	Mr Perkins
Mr Steele	
Mr Tuxworth	
Mr Vale	

Sittings of the Assembly in 1981

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has a timetable for next year's parliamentary sittings been decided upon and, if so, is it true that the Legislative Assembly is scheduled to sit for 24 days in 1981?

ANSWER

As you would be aware, Sir, the arrangements for the sittings of the Assembly are normally arranged between the Chief Minister and yourself and notified through your office. I do not believe, Sir, that you have promulgated a proposed program for next year and therefore the question cannot be answered at this stage. Nonetheless, I dare say that you and the Chief Minister will arrive at a proposed program as soon as possible and every member will be informed.

Sittings of the Assembly in 1981

Mr ISAACS to MR SPEAKER

Mr Speaker, I redirect the question to you, Sir. Can you inform the Assembly whether a timetable for next year's parliamentary sittings has been decided upon and, if so, is it true that the Assembly is scheduled to sit for 24 days in 1981?

ANSWER

I will answer that question in due course.

Trachoma Program

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise in view of recent publicity whether or not the Northern Territory government proposes to continue with the national trachoma program?

ANSWER

I propose to table a statement next week for discussion relating to the noise that has been occurring about the Northern Territory's involvement in the trachoma program. I would prefer to leave my remarks until that time.

Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Can he advise the Assembly of the current staffing and activities of the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority. Could he also advise the Assembly of the firm proposals for the activities of that organisation in 1981?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for his question. I do advise that recruiting is presently in progress as far as staffing the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority is concerned. I understand that applications have been sought for key level positions and they are presently being examined.

In the Douglas-Daly land development area, at least 2 project farms will be established involving the acquisition of land, siting and construction of houses, provision of domestic water, electric generators, fencing and machinery sheds. In addition, in the order of 1,000 hectares of green timber will be cleared for each farm in accordance with existing soil surveys and incorporating appropriate soil conservation methods. Settlers for these farms will be selected and take up residence in 1981 in order to establish crops for the 1981-82 season. Planning for additional farms in the area will continue.

In the Adelaide River area, existing irrigation land is to be regraded with repairs being completed on drains and supply channels. The land in question is to be leased from present owners and a rice project farm established that will be fully operated by the authority. Soil surveys will continue to enable more of an accurate assessment to be made of factors that will determine the ultimate scale of rice growing in the region. This work will parallel Department of Primary Production projects aimed at increasing rice yield and aid in developing complementary enterprises for these farms.

The authority will be undertaking a number of market research projects to more accurately define the size and nature of the market for major commodities. This will include means of developing a greater level of demand for feed grains and export markets for formulated feeds. Feasibility studies relating to siting, capacity, managerial requirements of grain storage and processing facilities will be undertaken. Marketing services to horticultural growers will be developed in association with such producers.

The last point that I would like to raise this morning on this matter is the Commonwealth government relations with the Northern Territory. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics will submit to the Northern Territory government the outline of a cost-benefit study that will run over the stage 1 period of development. The study will incorporate input-output data, development costs and infrastructure costs obtained from the project farms. It will have a significant bearing on the Commonwealth's attitude towards financial assistance of agricultural development in the Territory.

Connector Road from Stott Terrace Bridge

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

Can he advise me of the likely commencement and completion dates of the connector road from the Stott Terrace Bridge to Undoolya Road?

ANSWER

Tenders will close in March of next year and the project should be completed by the end of 1981.

Saturday Afternoon Trading

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has the government given consideration to the possible harmful effects on small surburban supermarkets of Saturday afternoon trading by large interstate firms such as Coles? Will the government consider restricting trading hours of such large businesses in order to benefit the smaller local businesses?

ANSWER

The government has not considered the question raised by the honourable

member for Fannie Bay. I would indeed hope that this government does not get into the realm of controlling business hours. In states where they have legislation on how many hours a week certain businesses can remain open, they have an awful lot of industrial disputation in any situation where the status quo was required to be changed.

The only 2 areas of the Northern Territory where business hours are controlled are in the sale of liquor and the operation of the casino. I believe that it would be a disservice to the people of the Northern Territory if we ever get into the situation of deciding when people shall open their doors for business in any other kind of business at all.

Dhupuma College Equipment

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it a fact that various school supplies and stock from Dhupuma College were burnt or otherwise destroyed without any attempt being made to establish whether schools or community groups in Nhulunbuy could have made use of them?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the rumour the honourable member refers to is one that came to my attention through your own good offices and, of course, it was nothing more than a rumour. A number of old mattresses and pillows and other such items that were unsuitable for further use were disposed of. Most certainly, no items of any value to any students were destroyed so far as I know. I dare say a number of items in the Dhupuma College complex would have deteriorated as a result of the department's unwillingness to break through picket lines and black bans. Certainly, no action taken by the Department of Education would have had a detrimental effect on any useful material whatsoever.

Coastal Plains Research Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is the Department of Primary Production going to permanently close down the Coastal Plains Research Station and, if so, what will be done with the land and facilities? If it is to be offered to a private individual or company, what are the particulars of the proposal?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government is not closing down the CPRS. Obviously, there has been some reorganisation and direction changes in the department. I am advised that there are certain individuals and companies interested in either leasing the land or doing something with it. I am not too sure what. This is being discussed with divisional officers at this time. The department would prefer to change the emphasis in the utilisation of the station from animal breeding and grazing comparison trials to pasture introduction and horticultural and buffalo research.

NT Ombudsman

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did the Northern Territory Ombudsman recently apply to the government to attend an international conference of ombudsmen in Israel? If so, was the

application granted and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Ombudsman recently applied to the Overseas Visits Committee to attend a conference of ombudsmen in Israel. In my absence, the application was turned down eventually by the Acting Chief Minister. The Ombudsman applied to me for a review of the decision and, for obvious reasons of principle, there was no possibility of any review. How can the Chief Minister review the act of the person who was acting as the Chief Minister at the time? Therefore, the Ombudsman was unable to attend the international conference of ombudsmen. Invitations were extended to ombudsmen of all the Australian states. I am not aware how many Australian ombudsmen did attend the conference but I could certainly find out if the Leader of the Opposition wishes to know.

Protection for Local Egg Producers

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Can he advise whether or not it is the government's intention to introduce in this session legislation to protect local egg producers against southern dumping?

ANSWER

This proposal has been the subject of much debate, particularly in the Central Australian area. It is my intention to get final approval from my party for the introduction of demand and supply of eggs legislation. The proposed legislation is regarded by the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities in Australia, which controls the hen levy, as fundamental to the avoidance of the hen levy in the Northern Territory. The government wishes to ensure that Territory producers do not exceed 90% of the Territory consumption. By remaining a net importer, Territory producers will be exempt from the Commonwealth hen levy which currently runs at $1.95 per bird per year.

Department of Primary Production Offices

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

When will the Darwin offices of the Department of Primary Production be housed together in satisfactory accommodation at the Berrimah Experimental Farm?

ANSWER

There are proposals to establish further facilities at Berrimah but, like all proposals, they are subject to pretty tight scrutiny as far as expenditure is concerned. It is a matter of the priorities of the government at the time. Obviously, there is no way in the world that I could commit the government in advance of next year's budget.

Cape Don Lighthouse Buildings

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Following the Northern Territory Conservation Commission's approaches to the federal Department of Administrative Services regarding certain

buildings at Cape Don Lighthouse, can he indicate whether it has received any guarantees that their wishes will be considered by the federal department?

ANSWER

I cannot give any such indication to the honourable member because I am not au fait with this particular matter at present. If the honourable member would like to drop me a line, I will certainly obtain an answer for her pretty swiftly.

Dental Treatment of School Children

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is legislation being considered which will enable dental therapists to recommend and carry out treatment on secondary schoolchildren's teeth?

ANSWER

There is a proposal in the pipeline at the moment for legislation to cover such activities. It has not been dealt with by the government formally and, when it is, there will be an appropriate announcement made.

Housing Commission Tenants in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Given the Housing Commission attitude on the sale of Housing Commission houses to tenants throughout the Territory, what steps are being taken to provide the same facilities to Housing Commission tenants in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for the question. It certainly is something that his predecessor and he are very concerned about. It is certainly something that has occupied my attention for some time. The honourable member would be well aware that the government has long stated its wish to offer for sale Housing Commission houses in his home area and quite properly so. The difficulty is to come up with the land tenure system which would allow that to happen. I can assure the honourable member that, if it is humanly possible, a solution to this dilemma will be found. Land in all other centres of the Northern Territory is owned by the Crown and, as such, it can issue leases in perpetuity or in fee simple to citizens of the Northern Territory. The title of land in the Nhulunbuy area is quite different and the best that can be arranged, in conjunction with the Aboriginal people and the mining company that is concerned, is some form of period tender - 30 years, 50 years or whatever the case may be. Perhaps some form of roll-over could also be negotiated. It is an extremely complex matter which I honestly believe will take quite a bit of time to solve. I would like to discuss with the honourable member whether or not he has any solutions from discussions he may have had as a local member over there, particularly with the traditional owners of the area who pose grave difficulties in this matter.

Water Tank East of Sadadeen Subdivision

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

Can he advise what progress has been made in the construction of an

additional water tank east of the Sadadeen subdivision?

ANSWER

An item has been included in the 1980-81 program to construct the water storage tank at a cost of $1.2m. The tender target date has been scheduled for 1980-81 and the work should therefore commence early in the next financial year.

Old Fannie Bay Golf Course Area

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the government yet made a decision about the future use of the old Fannie Bay golf course area? Will the government incorporate the land in the East Point Reserve?

ANSWER

To the best of my knowledge, the answer to the first question is no and, therefore, the second question cannot apply. I certainly undertake to write to the honourable member with whatever information I can find out as to the current state of planning. As she will be well aware, it is not solely a matter for the Northern Territory government. The wishes of the city corporation must also be borne in mind. I will write to her with an up-to-date report as soon as possible.

Aboriginal Employment in Upgrading of Airstrips

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What steps have been taken to ensure that Aboriginal people have been employed in the upgrading of airstrips currently being undertaken as part of the works program for Aboriginal communities?

ANSWER

Perhaps this question could better have been directed to the Minister for Transport and Works since it apparently seeks specific details on these particular contracts. But I can outline again the policy of the government which is the same as the policy of the federal government and that is to seek the employment of Aboriginal people as much as possible in the carriage of works in Aboriginal areas. If any work can possibly be carried out by Aboriginal concerns, corporations, communities and so on, then at times attempts are made to give those bodies a preference when letting contracts. I am not aware of the exact monetary figure at the moment but I do recall reading a document some time before I went away that indicated that millions of dollars had gone to Aboriginal community organisations to carry out work for the Department of Transport and Works since self-government. I am sure that, within the limitations of airfield construction work which requires a fair degree of expertise and engineering supervision, as many Aboriginal people as possible will be employed.

Aboriginal Employment in Upgrading of Airstrips

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

With regard to the specific program of the upgrading of aistrips in

Aboriginal communities, what steps have been taken by his government and by the contractors to ensure that Aboriginal people have been employed in that program?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide the Leader of the Opposition with that information. However, I will provide it at a later hour in this sittings.

Mereenie Oil Field

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he advise the present status concerning the signing of the oil field lease between the Mereenie partners and the Northern Territory government? Can he further advise the present location of the rig purchased by the partners for that field and, if he knows where it is, can he tell us when drilling will start?

ANSWER

My understanding is that an offer of lease has been made to the partners. It is really a matter for them to take up the offer or come back to the government if they have problems with it. I would expect that matter to be finalised within weeks. The company advised me 2 or 3 weeks ago that it has purchased a rig in America to the tune of $4.5m. It was expected to be in Adelaide at the end of November and it was planned to commence a drilling program in the Amadeus Basin in January. I assume that the schedule of the company is proceeding as expected.

Northern Territory Port Authority

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the Northern Territory Port Authority to continue in its present role or is it his intention that it will be expanded to cover the operation of other Territory ports or be absorbed into the Department of Transport and Works?

ANSWER

The information is subject to a Cabinet paper that is being prepared and I am unable to provide her with that information.

Green Paper on Education

Mr B.COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will a redrafted Green Paper on education be tabled at this sittings to be used as a basis for a White Paper perhaps in the sittings next year?

ANSWER

I think the honourable member would be perfectly correct in saying that it would be leading towards a White Paper next year. That gives me another 12 months. I have received a final draft of the proposed Green Paper and it was my full intention to have that tabled at this time. Nonetheless, it is a document of great importance and the greatest possible thought must be given to it before it is tabled so that it truly reflects the current thinking for

the purposes of discussion by Northern Territory parents, students and teachers alike. For that reason, I doubt that I will be in a position to table it at this present sittings. This means that the February-March sittings would be the appropriate time at which I would be tabling that document. If I find that I am in a position to table it this sittings, I will do so.

Imprisonment of a Youth in Alice Springs

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that, in Alice Springs court on 28 May this year, a youth under the age of 14 was remanded to prison pending a second appearance before the court on 4 June? If this is the case, would he investigate why a youth under the age of 14 was placed in a prison?

ANSWER

I do not have specific details of this matter to hand at the moment but I will endeavour to obtain them. The normal procedure of the department is that I am advised forthwith every time a juvenile is taken into an institution in the Northern Territory under the control of my department. In all probability, I would have been advised but I do not remember the incident or the dates. I will clarify the matter and advise the Assembly.

Marina in Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What stage has the proposal to establish a marina in the Darwin area reached?

ANSWER

This topic has certainly come to light in the last couple of weeks. I will be able to provide information to honourable members later. The government has been waiting for a separate report, which is due any moment, regarding the establishment of a marina in Dariwn.

Teaching Service Bill

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise why the Teaching Service Bill will not be proceeded with at this sittings? When will it be proceeded with? Could he also advise the current progress with the appointment of a Teaching Service Commissioner?

ANSWER

The reasons the bill will not be proceeded with at this sittings are identical to the reasons it could not be proceeded with in the April sittings. I would simply refer the honourable member to that debate. Nothing has changed. The Commonwealth simply has not introduced complementary legislation and therefore we are not, in my view, in a position properly to proceed. The timing, I would assume, would depend upon the passage of the legislation by the Commonwealth in the autumn sittings. There will be a special sittings of the federal parliament at the end of November or early in December. Whether or not the legislation will be introduced at that time will depend of course upon the legislative load of the Commonwealth. Certainly, I would anticipate

that, even if it were introduced in that sittings, the federal parliament would not be in a position to pass the bill until the autumn sittings.

As for the second part of the question, it is the government's intention to appoint an interim commissioner. As has been announced by the Public Service Commissioner, his office has received some 22 applications for the position and I am pleased to say many are of a high calibre. The Public Service Commissioner, in conjunction with officers of the Department of Education, will be providing Cabinet with a short list for consideration in due course.

Professor Harry Messel

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

When is Professor Harry Messel's occupation of the Coastal Plains Research Station to be terminated? Considering the time he has been there and the services offered him by the NT government, will any of his work in the NT be published?

ANSWER

I understand that discussions have taken place with Professor Messel regarding his tenancy at Beatrice Hill. I am advised that Professor Messel has indicated his desire to transfer his operations to Maningrida. Regarding the second part of the question, the decision to publish or not will be a matter for the professor.

Aerial Medical Aircraft

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that Northern Airlines have insufficient licensed aircraft maintenance engineers to adequately service the aerial medical Nomads and, as a result, 3 out of 4 of the aerial medical aircraft based in Darwin have been out of action at one time?

ANSWER

I am not sure that the grounding of the Nomads is entirely due to the number of aircraft maintenance engineers employed by Northern Airlines. One of the unfortunate facts of life about the Nomads is that, for every 2 we have in the air, we have to have 2 on the ground in pieces. I would not be too quick to point the bone at anybody on this particular matter.

MOTION

Mr ROBERTSON (Education): I move that Business of the Day be called on.

Mr COLLINS (Arnhem): I wish to debate this motion. I made some comment earlier in the sittings that, when both the Chief Minister and myself seemed to be slightly confused by a procedural matter, it was hardly surprising because it had been such a long time since any of us had been in here. We are all a bit rusty.

This poses a particular problem with question time. There is no doubt

that question time is one of the most important aspects of the parliament's functions. It certainly excites the most public interest. I do not think there is any doubt about that. It would also have been obvious to the Minister for Education that the Assembly has been packed every question time. It is clear that there are members on both sides of this Assembly who will not have their questions answered if the time is restricted to half an hour.

There does seem to be some confusion over the matter of Standing Orders. To assist in the proceedings of the Assembly, I will discuss that briefly. Some mention was made yesterday of Standing Order 62. Mr Speaker, I would be seeking to have a direction on this from you, Sir, at a later time but it is my belief that Standing Order 62, which mentions those questions which are not open to debate, refers specifically to the manner in which the Leader of the House adjourns question time; that is, by moving that the business of the day be called on. Standing Order 62 says in parentheses that you then have to refer to Standing Order 81. It clearly means that that particular part of the Standing Orders has to be read in conjunction with Standing Order 81. When you then turn to Standing Order 81, you find that it refers specifically to Matters of Public Importance. It is clear from the reading of the Standing Orders that the conclusion of question time is not affected by Standing Order 62 but that it refers specifically to that motion being made during a Matter of Public Importance. That is very clear from the reading of the Standing Orders.

Should any confusion arise in the interpretation of Standing Orders, we have a catch-all Standing Order: Standing Order 1. It states: 'Any question relating to procedure or the conduct of business of the Assembly not provided for in those Standing Orders shall be decided according to the practice in the House of Representatives in the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia'. Could I draw the attention of the Assembly to the practice of the House of Representatives in regard to question time? Since 1972 question time has been 45 minutes. From the time that the Speaker asks if there are any questions without notice, 45 minutes then elapses until the conclusion of question time. That has been the practice of the House of Representatives for very good reasons since 1972. It was initiated by Prime Minister Whitlam and has been continued by Prime Minister Fraser since that time. At the conclusion of question time in the House of Representatives, it is then the practice of the Prime Minister to stand and to say that all further questions will be placed on notice. I would commend that procedure to the Legislative Assembly.

I do feel, Mr Speaker, that the restriction that the government has placed on question time is a great imposition both to the Assembly and to the people who are vitally interested in question time. As I said before, it is certainly an extremely important area of the parliament's responsibilities. It is an opportunity for both government members and certainly for opposition members to place the activities of the government under close scrutiny.

That brings me to a further problem. There are twice as many people on this side of the Chamber as there are on that side, if you exclude the people answering the questions, which makes it even more difficult for us on this side - and we ask fewer Dorothy Dixers than members on the other side - to place the government's activities under any kind of scrutiny. The problem is further compounded by the infrequency of the sittings which is obvious from the great gap between the last sittings and this sittings.

I have a few questions to ask next week that will be impossible to ask if question time is restricted to half an hour. In fact, question time has

been less than half an hour. Yesterday, because of notices given by members opposite, question time did not start until 10.07am and finished promptly at 10.30am. I interpreted the message from the Minister for Education the other day to mean that question time would be restricted to half an hour. Yesterday, we had less than 25 minutes for question time. Now, at no time this week has question time not been filled right up until the last minute and ended on each day with half a dozen members still on their feet.

For the benefit of the public interested in keeping the activities of government under review and for the benefit of the procedures of this Assembly, could I suggest respectfully to the Minister for Education that he brings the practice of this Assembly into line with the practice of the federal parliament as laid out in Northern Territory Legislative Assembly Standing Order 1 so that question time be extended to 45 minutes and be concluded by saying that all further questions be placed on notice.

Mr ROBERTSON (Education): Mr Speaker, I have listened with a great deal of sympathy to what the honourable member for Arnhem has said and I accept the sincerity with which he has said it. I nominated that time in light of the experiences of the Assembly during the course of this year where you, Sir, would be looking around in total confusion as to whether anyone would get up and as to whether or not you should take it upon yourself to bring on the next item by your own motion. I simply thought that an appropriate course of action would be to fix a time, not a period, for question time.

The honourable member has rather cleverly used the provisions of Standing Order 1 to enhance his argument. I put it to him that there is nothing in our Standing Orders which relates to acts such as guillotining, gagging and ramming legislation through in the same manner as was perfected by Mr Daly when he was Leader of the House in the Commonwealth. If the honourable gentleman wants to apply the practice adopted in respect of a time for question time, then he would be happy for the government to accept some other practices invented and indeed maintained in those areas in the Commonwealth parliament.

I have given the reason why I decided on 10.30am; it is because on repeated occasions this Assembly has run out of questions. Nonetheless, I have listened with interest to what the honourable member had to say. I will discuss the matter with my colleagues and with him and I will arrive at a conclusion and announce that later.

Motion agreed to.

Length of Question Time

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he advise the Assembly as to how long question time will be this morning?

ANSWER

As I indicated on the last sitting day, I would give serious consideration to what the honourable member had to say about this matter. I do appreciate his concern. I indicated then that I rejected all his arguments for requesting a longer question time with the exception of course that the gallery is usually most occupied at question time by people interested in the proceedings of the parliament. It is quite an inaccurate analogy to draw a comparison between this Assembly's operations and that of the federal government. He has misinterpreted the intention of Standing Order 1 to imply the use of provisions of the Commonwealth parliament when our own Standing Orders do not provide those provisions. I do not think that that is the intention of Standing Order 1 at all. Every member has an opportunity at question time to ask multitudinous questions. I would anticipate that, in half an hour or thereabouts, everyone has an opportunity to ask 2 or 3 questions whereas, in the federal parliament members are lucky to get an opportunity to ask a question once a month. Nonetheless, I think that probably the best method that we can operate under is for myself, as Leader of the House, to have regard to the nature of questions being asked, the level of interest in them and the legislative program which the government wishes to get through. I propose to make a daily judgment on that matter. For instance, today we have a fairly extensive program before us. On Thursday we have to extend to His Honour the Administrator the courtesy of attending upon him for the presentation of the Address in Reply. The fact that we have, this morning, had sprung on us, even if it is under Standing Orders, a matter of public importance which will occupy the Assembly for some time, causes me to anticipate question time will terminate at 10.30am.

International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did he visit Vienna during his recent overseas trip? Did he meet there with representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency whose headquarters is in Vienna? If so, can he inform the Assembly of the outcome of those discussions?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, although I did visit Vienna in the course of my recent overseas trip and attempts had been made to organise a program for us in Austria when we were in transit from France to Israel, it was impossible. Indeed, the Ambassador was absent from Vienna and the other officials of the embassy with whom we had contact indicated that they were unable to assist us in what I might term even the smallest degree at that time. The reason was that, unbeknownst to myself, All Saints Day and All Souls Day are holidays of considerable significance in Austria and it so happened that we were there at that time and the whole country had ground to a halt . I believe that was the reason for the absence from Vienna of the Ambassador. All government offices were closed and, indeed, even the museums were closed. The city was in effect dead.

Defence Establishment at Shoal Bay

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Why was it considered necessary, in the Commonwealth's occupation of section 407 at Shoal Bay as a defence establishment, that a further mile all round this section was necessary as a buffer zone?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I dare say the honourable member would have to write a letter seeking information from the Minister for Defence of the Commonwealth as to why it was needed. One would assume that that particular defence establishment, being of an electronic nature of radar and communications, would need a buffer to prevent interference to the electronic systems located on that site. Upon self-government, the Commonwealth reserved under the self-government act and acts consequent to it various areas of land in the Northern Territory for Commonwealth purposes. Of course, that area of land was so reserved at that time.

Withdrawal of Grumman Trackers

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

He probably knows from press reports that the Grumman Trackers are to be withdrawn from Darwin. Has he made any approach to the Minister for Defence with a view to keeping that establishment in Darwin rather than having them withdrawn to defend the southern capitals I guess against those New Zealanders?

ANSWER

I received a telex from the Prime Minister or the Minister for Defence late last week in relation to the withdrawal of the Grumman Trackers. It was pointed out in this telex that these planes would be replaced by the Nomad Searchmasters to be operated by Northern Airlines. On that basis, it seemed to me that it was difficult to oppose the removal of the Grumman Trackers as such from the surveillance operations in the Northern Territory especially when this government continuously maintains that we should be conserving energy. These aircraft consume a terrific amount of fuel and I do not believe that we should needlessly duplicate surveillance functions. However, I have taken the opportunity, without telling the Minister for Defence what his business is or where he should redeploy these Grumman Trackers - I have consigned them to history - to ask him and the Prime Minister to in fact beef up the defence capability of the Australian government in Northern Australia. I believe that the Nomad Searchmasters, if not perhaps the best for the task, at least will be adequate for the surveillance task. We certainly must give them a chance to see how they perform before we criticise them. We will certainly be keeping an eye on their performance, but I have taken the opportunity to request the Australian government, in general terms, to increase its defence capabilities in this area.

Alice Springs Bus Service

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

What progress has been made towards an Alice Springs bus service?

ANSWER

A survey questionnaire is with the Government Printing Office. It is hoped that the Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics will carry out a survey in the Alice Springs area on the public transport needs in that area.

Nuclear Power-Station in Darwin

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the Assembly which location the government is looking at as a potential site for its nuclear power-station?

ANSWER

At this stage, the government is not looking at particular sites.

Defence Establishment at Shoal Bay

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Does the Northern Territory government have any use for the mile of land around section 407 at Shoal Bay used by the Commonwealth for agrarian purposes?

ANSWER

I know of no such plans. I am certainly aware of a proposed use for the area that is of interest to the honourable member for Tiwi. That relates to a dump which is hardly agrarian purposes. I understand that arrangements for that have been entered into between this government and the Darwin city council. As for any other uses, perhaps the honourable member might make some suggestions to us and we will take those into account.

Crops in Adelaide River Area

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What crops other than rice will be grown on the Adelaide River? Is there a market for them and would they be an economic proposition? When has he publicly stated that crops other than rice will be grown?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

Darwin Hospital

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

There are still a number of people arriving at the old Darwin Hospital for treatment on weekends and public holidays. Is he aware of this fact? If so, what is being done about it? If not, will he please have his department investigate the matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware of it because the honourable member for Port Darwin brought it to my notice earlier last week. I have taken the matter up with

the department. The department embarked on quite an extensive publicity campaign earlier this year, when the operations of the Darwin Hospital were transferred to Casuarina, to explain to people what services would be available at Casuarina and what services would be available at the Darwin Hospital. In view of the honourable member's representation - and I appreciate that it is a very worthy one - the department will have a look at another program to refresh people's memories about the services they will or will not receive at the Darwin Hospital.

Public Transport to Old Darwin Hospital

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the reason for buses which previously services the old Darwin Hospital being rerouted to bypass the hospital?

ANSWER

I will provide the information to the honourable member at a later hour in this sittings.

Cemetery and Animal Pound

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Where will the proposed cemetery and a large-animal pound be situated in the Berrimah area?

ANSWER

My briefing notes on that particular matter are missing. I will have to provide the honourable member with the answer to her question later.

Photocopying Service for Community Groups

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Since he has offered community groups in Alice Springs a free photocopying service if they provide their own paper, will he make the same offer to community groups in Darwin.

ANSWER

The answer is no. The operations of the access centre in Alice Springs and Darwin are quite different to each other. When I learned of the system that had prevailed in Alice Springs before the time I issued directives about changing the formula for costing for photocopying services through access centres, I agreed to allow the Alice Springs situation to remain as it is while talks proceed with the local government with a view to its taking over the operation from the Department of Community Development. The situation in Alice Springs was quite different to Darwin. The community-based groups themselves provided photocopying paper to the access centre and were charged a small fee for using the paper on the photocopying machine. As a result of this system, the access centre had considerable stocks of other people's photocopying paper on hand at the time of my direction and I therefore undertook to allow that situation to continue.

22201.811-30

Northumberland Insurance Company

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Can he now indicate the level of assistance to be given to people affected by the collapse of the Northumberland Insurance Company?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do have information relating to the subject, but not an exact answer. However, I advise that approximately $250,000 in motor accident insurance claims was left unsatisfied by the defaulting Northumberland Insurance Company in 1974. Following reponse to an advertising campaign, the Northern Territory government is compiling a full register of those claims and the closing date for submission of details is 21 January 1981. Although it will not be possible to make a proper assessment until after that date, it is my belief that, between the Commonwealth and the Territory, at least the damage element of the claims will be substantially met for surviving victims. That is all the information I have at this stage.

Humpty Doo High School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will construction commence on the Humpty Doo High School?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer the question because there are many things which may vary the actual commencement of construction. Nonetheless, as indicated prior to the elections, the government will be proceeding with a composite high school for Humpty Doo. It will range from year 8 to year 12. For the benefit of those who seem to be doubtful that this is the case, I reaffirm that commitment. There is absolutely no doubt years 11 and 12 will be taught there. What is necessary is to identify with the parents of the area exactly what type of years 11 and 12 they want. Any examination of the results around Australia in matriculation or in tertiary entrance examinations will indicate that a very substantial student body is necessary to run a composite high school from years 8 through to 12. I think the parents in the Humpty Doo area should bear very firmly in mind the consequences of them insisting upon a composite high school through to year 12.

It is my understanding, having spoken with the executive of the high school steering committee recently, that indeed they are fully aware of this and ongoing discussions will take place between those people and my department. It is hoped to have the first stage of the school committed and opened by the beginning of the 1983 school year. That is subject to tendering and all of the normal things which can have an influence upon the commencement date of building and thereby have a serious influence on the completion date. That is the intention of the government and we hope to be able to keep to that timetable.

Construction of New TIO Building

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

When is work to commence on construction of the new TIO building which will house the Tourist Commission's office in the mall and when is this building due to be completed?

ANSWER

The tenders for the job the honourable member mentioned have closed and they are currently under consideration. I am advised that the construction period of the building will be about 35 weeks and it is hoped that it would be completed in August 1981.

Upgrading of Acohol Dependence Treatment Unit

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What steps are being taken to upgrade the number of personnel and facilities at the Alcohol Dependence Treatment Unit operating at the Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

Honourable members would be aware that the government committed itself earlier this year to the establishment of a Drug and Alcohol Authority. One of the functions of this authority would be to take over the care of people who are severely affected by alcohol. At the moment I have before me a proposal by the department to beef up the operation of the rehabilitation unit that is currently being operated in a de facto way by the Health Department in the old Darwin Hospital. There is a Cabinet paper in the system now. Given that the matter is before Cabinet, I would prefer to advise the honourable member later in writing of the exact steps that the government will take.

Howard Springs Reserve

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the Northern Territory government or the Conservation Commission have any thoughts of increasing the area of the Howard Springs Reserve and, if so, when?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Tiwi very thoughtfully gave me some warning that she was intending to ask this question, so I have been able to get a response for her. The situation is that the owners of the land, some of which is required to enlarge the reserve which presently comprises an area of 2,000-odd hectares, have recently indicated that they are willing to consider a government proposal to acquire their land adjacent to the reserve. The additional area being sought is 611 hectares. The Department of Lands is now considering how to best implement the proposal to acquire the land.

Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Have any farmers pulled out out of the ADMA scheme yet, and which farmers will be growing rice on the Adelaide River this year?

ANSWER

The answer is yes. One farmer who was intending to participate in rice growing over the wet season has decided to pull out. The ADMA will now proceed with share farmers or hired farmers and it will also utilise some of

the area on the upper Adelaide River Experimental Station.

Public Transport to Old Darwin Hospital

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will the minister take steps to ensure that persons who still have a requirement to visit the old Darwin Hospital can still get there by public transport?

ANSWER

There could be several reasons why the routing has been changed around the Darwin Hospital. First of all, there has been construction at Gilruth Avenue where most of the area has been closed to normal traffic flow. With the advent of the opening of the Casuarina Hospital, there may not be enough demand apart from the people living in that area. However, I will obtain information from the department and provide it to the honourable member. If it is possible to maintain some kind of bus service for those people going to the hospital, we will do so.

Northern Territory Government's Computer

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Is the Northern Territory government's computer being used to capacity?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government's main computer is being used almost to full capacity at the present time. It is somewhat of a fluid situation. Very large computers these days are able to be built onto with various additions of equipment. This has been the case with the government's computer. It was inherited at self-government from the Commonwealth and since that time we have been adding sections to it to cope with needs as they emerged. The government is currently considering an application by the ADP centre to further enlarge the existing computer to meet with the requirements of various government departments and a decision will be made on that matter in due course. For the time being, the machine is being used to its maximum potential.

Unibeef Project at Mataranka

Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

What environmental controls are being exercised over the Unibeef project to ensure that coffee bush will not spread uncontrolled from the project area at Mataranka?

ANSWER

I have been advised by my colleague, the Treasurer, that it is not coffee bush but leucaena of some type. I can assure honourable members that I have certainly seen coffee bush in many tropical areas of the world and, if it is a problem, then it is certainly not confined to Darwin. I can assure the honourable member for Fannie Bay that the Conservation Commission in the person of its Director and certainly the Environmental Unit is taking a keen interest in the proposals by the Israeli-American consortium for the establishment of ethanol production from this particular tree in the Mataranka area. The

project will be a huge one if it continues in its present form. Obviously, it will be a very good thing for the Northern Territory. Its employment potential is immense. As it is an agricultural project, lands that have never before been put to the plough will come under cultivation. Obviously, there is every incentive to the Northern Territory to support and further the project. I undertake, and I know that the Director of Conservation is behind me on this, to ensure that all conceivable environmental safeguards are maintained.

Uranium Discovery at Ewaninga

Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it a fact that a German consortium has made a uranium discovery in the vicinity of the Ewaninga conservation reserve which is to the south of Alice Springs? If so, is he aware of any plan to mine or to process this uranium?

ANSWER

I can think of 3 groups which are exploring in the area south of Alice Springs. There are 3 different German companies which all have an interest with Australian partners in an exploration program. If the honourable member would like to put his question in writing, I will see that he receives a reply.

Gap Road Flats

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

What is the likely starting date for construction of the Housing Commission single-officer flats on Gap Road?

ANSWER

From memory, I understand that the Housing Commission's proposed flat development on Gap Road is subject to a hearing of the Town Planning Authority at this time. The commencement date would be contingent upon the success of that rezoning. I will seek further details on the matter and advise the honourable member later.

Upgrading of Roads in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he give a commencement date for the upgrading of the roads in the area known as contractors village at Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

I am unable to give a precise date. However, the project is included in this year's capital works program.

Henbury Avenue Special School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it true that the opening of the Henbury Avenue Special School for handicapped children, which has already been delayed 12 months, will now not occur until 1982?

ANSWER

Again I will seek the information and provide it to the honourable member later. The honourable member would be aware that we have hundreds of schools in the Northern Territory of one kind or another and it is impossible to remember the status of all of them at any one time.

Bagot Road Lights

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why are the Bagot Road lights so out of synchronisation that the people travelling on Bagot Road get a longer go at the green light than the people travelling in from the rural area on the Stuart Highway?

ANSWER

The honourable member may have noticed some lack of synchronisation at that particular location. I believe that the construction of the overpass will cause some problems with traffic flow. I give the honourable member an undertaking to have the matter investigated and I will report to her at a later hour.

Fireworks

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it the intention in 1981 to have 2 fireworks days and allow fireworks to be sold to celebrate 1 July and 5 November?

ANSWER

I have not addressed myself to the matter. I will advise the honourable member later.

Off-Peak Power Supply

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Have any investigations been undertaken within the Northern Territory Electricity Commission or the Department of Mines and Energy on the feasibility of providing cheap power to off-peak industrial users?

ANSWER

The honourable member raises the issue of cheap power to industrial users. I am at a loss to know what cheap power is and where it comes from. All the power we seem to deal with is pretty expensive. If the honourable member is referring to the principle of giving concessions to some people in industry or to householders for using power at certain times, we are not in a position to do that because we have an agreement with the Commonwealth, relating to the recovery of money, that is fixed to the electricity prices in north Queensland. If we wish to continue our relationship with the Commonwealth so far as our subsidy is concerned, it would be in our best interests to observe that part of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Ross Park Primary School

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What proposal has been adopted to solve the Ross Park Primary School housing problem?

ANSWER

As I indicated last week, the government has been addressing itself to this very serious matter. I indicated that Cabinet would be considering the matter last Friday. Indeed, it resolved the matter finally yesterday. It will be necessary for the government to provide demountables at Ross Park in order to cater for the short-term difficulties of a very rapidly growing population in that area.

The government will be calling for expressions of interest from builders for a design-and-construct proposal for a completely new preschool, primary school and special school to be located in the new Sadadeen subdivision. The letting of tenders for that private subdivision were recently announced. It is anticipated that it will take about a month from now to draw up the design brief specifications, about 2 months to receive responses from builders for the project and about a further month for the tenders to go out. The tender documents will call for the establishment in the first instance of a core school to accommodate about 150 students, which should be ready by the commencement of the 1983 school year. The remainder of the school will follow very shortly thereafter.

I am afraid that the people at Ross Park will have the minor inconvenience of perhaps 3 demountables placed at Ross Park for the beginning of the second term of next year at which time the problem is due to arise. There will be no problem for approximately the first half of next year. That is the solution which the government has found: a short-term demountable program on the existing Ross Park School where all these children presently attend and the immediate commencement of a multi-purpose primary educational facility at Sadadeen.

Nhulunbuy Water Rates

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How long will it be before Nhulunbuy residents will pay water rates on a par with the rest of the Northern Territory centres?

ANSWER

The subject of water at Nhulunbuy poses a very difficult question. It is a company town and I thought I alluded to that in the budget debate the other day. Whilst we introduced concessions for Darwin residents on 1 July this year,we are unable to do so in Nhulunbuy because Nhulunbuy is controlled by Nabalco which controls the water supply. However, in light of a press release from the honourable member, I have asked my department to make some inquiries and to report back to me.

Completion Date of Mindil Beach Casino

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Is he able to give the completion date of the Mindil Beach casino?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thought that I could have. In the absence of specific information, I believe that the completion date of the casino, now that the contract has been let, will be December 1982. I will endeavour to confirm that for the honourable member.

Outpatients Clinic at Casuarina Hospital

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that large numbers of people are travelling a considerable distance to Casuarina Hospital to find when they get there that they cannot get medical attention? Is it true that medical practitioners are not available at the outpatients clinic until 1pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays?

ANSWER

The honourable member made a statement at the beginning of his question which I am not sure is true and I will ask the department to investigate and report on it. So far as the matter of practitioners not being available in Outpatients until 1pm is concerned, I will also ask for a report on that and advise the honourable member.

Alcohol Dependence Treatment Unit

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does he give a high priority to the rehabilitation of alcoholics in the Northern Territory? If he does, will he give an assurance that the Cabinet paper that he referred to yesterday on the Alcohol Dependence Treatment Unit will get a priority listing for a Cabinet decision to ensure an early upgrading of this important unit?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I certainly give a priority to the rehabilitation of alcoholics in the Northern Territory and the establishment of the unit. The rest of the question relates to matters of Cabinet consideration and I will leave it at that.

Consolidation of Legislation

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he inform me how the legislative draftsmen are proceeding with consolidating Northern Territory legislation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to be able to provide the answer to the honourable member for Port Darwin's question because a great deal of progress has been made in this area. The program for consolidation and revision of Northern Territory statutes is running well ahead of schedule and indeed below cost estimates - I am sure all honourable members will be pleased to hear - with the reprints. I believe that, at the present time, the Legislative Draftsman is within 20 acts of completing what had been planned for the reprint of the acts and that they will shortly be starting on the regulations. I am told that a fair estimate of when it will be all finished is within 12 months of starting and that is by about May 1981.

It was anticipated that this would be an enormous task and indeed it is a big task. But, using modern methods and with the assistance of the amending legislation which we passed last year to provide for changes in the procedures - for instance, with side notes - the task has been able to be accelerated. I would certainly like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Legislative Draftsman and his staff and the Government Printer. I am sure that all honourable members and indeed the community itself will be pleased to have these reprints.

Outpatients Clinic at Casuarina Hospital

Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does he have an answer for me this morning to the question I asked him yesterday about Outpatients services at Casuarina Hospital?

ANSWER

It is my intention to answer the honourable member for Arnhem and the points of the honourable member for Nightcliff tomorrow.

Italian Earthquake

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise what action the Northern Territory government will take to assist victims of the recent Italian earthquake?

ANSWER

I am sure that all honourable members and everyone in the Northern Territory community has been shocked by the recent disaster in the south of Italy which has resulted in very grave loss of life. The timing of a disaster such as this could not have been worse with the onset of winter. I understand that an Australian appeal has been established by the leader of the Italian community here and the Prime Minister has agreed to be patron of the appeal. The Commonwealth government has also announced that it will make an immediate allocation of $500,000 to the appeal. In addition, it has agreed to match dollar-for-dollar funds contributed by the states and the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory government will subscribe $5,000 to assist the victims of the earthquake disaster. I would ask that all citizens of the Northern Territory support the government by adding their own contributions to the appeal.

When one goes around the Territory, the contributions that have been made to this place by the hard work of the many Italian citizens who come to Australia and become good Australian citizens is obvious. They have brought their culture to us and some of their way of life which I think has added very greatly to our way of life since immigration commenced in a serious way after the second world war. In order to make arrangements for the proper collection of contributions, I have contacted the Lord Mayor of Darwin and the Mayors of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs and the Chairman of the Nhulunbuy Corporation. All have agreed to support the appeal and to act as collection centres for donations. They will also provide receipts for donations received and the Commonwealth government has agreed that donations to the appeal will be treated as deductible for taxation purposes. I urge all Territorians to give generously.

Supreme Court Building

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise as to the status of the proposed extensions to the Supreme Court building in Darwin and at what stage is the design or construction at present?

ANSWER

I have asked my department to provide me with that information. When I receive it, I will provide it to the honourable member.

Sattler Airstrip

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why are the marshalling yards being established at the southern end of the Sattler airstrip at the 22-mile and will they be used for public or private purposes for industrial material transhipment or primary production transhipment?

ANSWER

Investigations are being made to provide some trucking and storage facilities south of Berrimah. At this stage, it is only an investigation. When I have more information, I will provide it to the honourable member.

NT Ombudsman

Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Will the Treasurer advise why he refused permission, while he was Acting Chief Minister, to the Northern Territory Ombudsman to attend the International Conference of Ombudsmen in Israel earlier this year?

ANSWER

As Acting Chief Minister, I received recommendations on this question from the Overseas Visits Committee which recommended that the trip not be approved. I endorsed that recommendation.

Health Department Finance for Patients Transferred Interstate

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the Department of Health pick up the entire medical bill for Northern Territory patients transferred interstate on the recommendations of the Northern Territory health authorities and, if not, what figure is set as the upper limit of these costs?

ANSWER

I believe that the department does pay all the medical expenses. However, in relation to transport costs, there has been traditionally and there will continue to be a contribution of $40 from the patient flying interstate. In some circumstances, it is necessary for patients to have someone accompany them from the department and, in that event, there is a $40 contribution also. The practice was established back in the days when it was 20 pounds. I distinctly remember this from the time my family flew out of Tennant Creek. The $40 is a contribution towards offsetting the airfares which cost $300 or $400 for a return fare. I think that it is very reasonable.

Land-backed Wharf

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that the design of the new land-backed wharf is being reviewed because the wharf has been found to be too small? If so, will the redesign delay the completion of the project and by how long?

ANSWER

To my knowledge, there are always reviews being carried out to upgrade facilities. However, I am unaware of any review being carried out regarding that particular construction.

Inquiry into Performing Arts

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In October 1979 an inquiry was announced into the performing arts in the Northern Territory and appointments were subsequently made of members to that committee. Why have they never met?

ANSWER

I will have to seek information on this particular matter and provide it to the honourable member during the course of this sittings.

Upgrading of Housing Commission Houses

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the program to upgrade Housing Commission houses to cyclone standard been completed?

ANSWER

The program to upgrade all Housing Commission rental and sale accommodation-houses and flats- up to cyclone standard has been concluded. Nonetheless, in light of new engineering information, certain weaknesses have been discovered. An engineering review is now taking place in respect of the pre-cyclone design of Housing Commission houses which are viewed to be satisfactory but, nonetheless, if a cyclone of the intensity of Tracy occurred again, there may be some risk in respect of some of the older Housing Commission houses. It is an on-going process. The commission is anxious to complete the upgrading of these houses to the highest affordable standards. It is one of those programs which one could say has no time limit.

Crocodile Attacks in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

What is being done to protect Nhulunbuy residents from crocodile attacks beyond providing signs which are rapidly being souvenired?

ANSWER

It is a matter of regret to hear that these signs are being souvenired because any person who removes a sign of that type which gives warning to people who might be proposing to enter water which may be inhabitated by crocodiles is really doing a very grave disservice to his neighbours in what is a fairly small community. I am sorry to hear that. If the honourable member for Nhulunbuy can advise me urgently, I will see that the signs are replaced by the Conservation Commission without delay.

Aside from that, the honourable member for Nhulunbuy would be aware - I think I have written to him - that Australia is party to an international treaty in relation to the protection of certain endangered species. It was certainly argued correctly at the time when Australia adhered to this treaty that the salt water crocodile was an endangered species. It now appears that the salt water crocodile may have regenerated to a stage in the Northern Territory where the position should reconsidered. In any event, the Northern Territory has taken steps through the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers

to have the situation reconsidered in respect of the salt water crocodile in the Northern Territory. We certainly do not go so far as to have it declared open season on salt water crocodiles or even to get to the stage where they may be hunted. But we are endeavouring to get them from one schedule which prohibits any dealings with them at all onto another schedule which will enable us to trap them and keep them in captivity. In anticipation of our success in this area, which we must anticipate because it is becoming obvious that action must be taken in certain areas, we have authorised the trapping of crocodiles in the Nhulunbuy area where we receive reports that they could present a danger to human beings. If the member for Nhulunbuy receives reports that crocodiles are menacing popular bathing areas, the Director of Conservation would be happy to hear from him and attempts will be made to trap those crocodiles.

Department of Primary Production

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is it a deliberate policy of the Northern Territory government to run down the activities of the Department of Primary Production especially in areas of research and experimentation in favour of pilot farms on private properties and, if so, will he explain the thinking behind this policy?

ANSWER

I thought the policy was quite clearly outlined last week. It is not the government's intention to run down the research stations in favour of establishing project farms on private land.

Width of Assembly Tables

Mr HARRIS to SPEAKER

I am continually buffeted from post to table during sittings by staff of the Assembly and also by members. Would you please examine the possibility of having the width of my table reduced?

ANSWER

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

Architectural Consultants to Department of Transport and Works

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What was the criterion for the selection of 2 private architects in Darwin to act as consultants to his department in preparing design work for the extension to the Supreme Court building? Is it a fact that one of those architects is not registered as an architect in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

It is true that officers on contract to the department did travel to a number of Australian cities in 1979 in relation to the Supreme Court building project. However, these officers were not contracted as architects but as draftsmen. They visited Perth, Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Townsville. These cities were selected because court houses had either been recently constructed or were being constructed there. The purpose of the travel was to collate information on court houses to be used in developing the designing

brief. Such visits are very common in the design stage of major one-off buildings. Indeed, their travel was exactly the same as that undertaken by the local architects in conjunction with the design of the museum and art gallety. It is true that one of the officers at that stage was not registered as an architect in the Northern Territory for the simple reason he was engaged as a draftsman.

Guidelines for Subsidy to Youth Centres

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Are the guidelines for the 3-to-1 subsidy for youth centres available and, if so, what are they in outline?

ANSWER

Guidelines for the government's announced policy of providing 3-to-1 subsidies for youth centres in the Northern Territory have not yet reached me. I understand that I will receive them this week. We have not made any grants in this field to date. However, there are sums available under this scheme and they will be used this year. As soon as guidelines are approved, I will ensure that the honourable member for Alice Springs receives a copy.

Aboriginal Essential Services Program

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does he agree with the Secretary of the Department of Health that the priority given to the upgrading of the airstrips to Metroliner standard has been detrimental to the main thrust of the Aboriginal essential services program?

ANSWER

I ask him to place the question on notice and I shall write to him about it.

Arts Advisory Council

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Some time ago his predecessor announced the establishment of an arts advisory council in the Northern Territory and applications for membership were invited. When will he announce to the public the functions of that council and the persons who have been appointed to it?

ANSWER

This matter has now been with me for some time along with a raft of others which have yet to be considered in some detail. I will make announcements in due course.

TIO Building Alice Springs

Mr VALE to TREASURER

Can he advise the estimated completion date for the TIO building in Alice Springs? Can he also advise me whether the TIO proposes to sublet part of that building to other tenants?

ANSWER

The Territory Insurance Office is building an office block in Alice Springs as part of its investment of funds within the Territory. The Alice Springs building will be completed about March 1981. In line with TIO's investment policy, it will rent about 75% of that building to other parties in order to make the TIO more attractive and viable and build up the assets required for backing insurance policies in the Territory.

Architectural Consultants to Department of Transport and Works

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What was the criterion upon which the 2 architects were appointed as consultants, albeit as draftsmen, to his department for design work on the Supreme Court building?

ANSWER

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

Able Transport Pty Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the relationship between a company called Able Transport Pty Ltd which operates in Alice Springs and the Department of Transport and Works in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

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

Flagstaff House Site

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has a decision been made yet on the future use of the area of land previously occupied by Flagstaff House at the end of Myilly Terrace?

ANSWER

I understand the land is currently held by the Conservation Commission. I also believe that the Conservation Commission has approached the Darwin City Corporation which is interested in taking over maintenance of the land. I am not sure whether that has taken place yet but I can certainly find out.

Douglas-Daly Development Project

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In the case of the Douglas-Daly development project, who owns the land which will be acquired to start the project farms and for how much is the land being purchased? How will the Douglas-Daly farm project settlers be selected?

ANSWER

Some of the Douglas-Daly project land is on Douglas Station. Other parts

of the land that we are currently looking at are on Oolloo Station. I understand that the chairman of the authority has approached the owners of the land as to their requirements, the exact boundaries and the negotiable price. Valuations are being conducted on both sides - on the part of the private owners and on our part through the government valuers. Prices have not been established. I do not believe the specifications for settlers have finally been established. I do believe that very attractive specifications will have to be drawn to get the right sorts of farmers into the project farms. That will be distinct from stage 2 where different criteria will be used. But, in the first stage, if you are to attract people who are commercially successful in farming, the conditions would have to be very attractive indeed.

Site of the Old Hartley Street School

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

Have titles to the blocks in Alice Springs numbers 68 and 69 Hartley Street, which is the site of the old Hartley Street School, been vested in the Alice Springs town council?

ANSWER

The short answer to the question is not yet. The land in question has been applied for by the Alice Springs town council for the purpose of car parking and the National Trust has also applied for the old Hartley Street School which was the first school built in that region and is of quite significant historical value. The Alice Springs town council has been authorised by myself to proceed with the construction of the car-park in order to save time and money. The actual method of tenure in the land is being worked out between the National Trust, the Alice Springs town council and the Department of Community Development which has responsibilities in each of those matters. Immediately the best form of tenure is arrived at, I would anticipate issuing an appropriate lease.

Education Advisory Council

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has he met yet with his education advisory council? Could he advise the Assembly what matters are currently under consideration by the council?

ANSWER

I certainly would not be in a position to advise the honourable member of the details of agenda items which are before the council. The answer to the first part of the question is next week. I am quite happy to send a copy of the agenda to the honourable member so that he will be informed as to exactly what they are considering.

Location of Proposed Rice Farms

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will the proposed rice farms be located solely on the Adelaide River or will they occupy the whole or part of the Marrakai Plains?

ANSWER

The rice farming part of the first stage is experimental. Initially, it

will be confined in the areas surrounding the upper Adelaide River. I do not know that it will ever get to the Marrakai Plains but it could at a later time.

Architectural Consultants to Department of Transport and Works

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Regarding the design work produced by the 2 consultants in his department, is it a fact that all designs produced have been scrapped?

ANSWER

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

Policy on National Testing Program

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of public statements and some recent controversy on the question of national testing for school children, could he advise the Assembly what his policy is on the national testing program?

ANSWER

I believe the program which was launched by the Australian Council of Research and Education and which is under the auspices of the Australian Education Council was a very worthwhile program. Quite frankly, I fully support it. I always have and I believe I always will. Further, I believe in a mix of external and internal testing of our students within our own school system. As the honourable member for Nightcliff has pointed out, we are all accountable to the consuming public for our educational services. Unless we monitor ourselves and unless we are willing to come clean with the public which pays the money to provide a very expensive educational system, then I think we are failing in our duty. To my mind, there are only 2 ways of doing it. Firstly, you let schools know exactly what is required of them within the core subject areas and then you vet the product. You examine what you have done and what you have achieved. I am a firm believer in testing as a vehicle of finding out how we are getting on, where we are failing and what socio-economic areas in relation to schools are having difficulties so that we can take corrective action on behalf of the taxpayer, the parents and the employers who are so vitally concerned that the delivery of education is of the highest possible standard. I would say that this information, nonetheless, must be very carefully used. It is very easy to draw the wrong comparisons between school and school and district and district. The information should be used for the guidance of the educational system to improve itself. Provided it does not discriminate between socio-economic areas and geographic areas such as to cast the wrong reflections upon individual schools, then this information in my view ought to be made available to the public with that very firm proviso. The other thing is that we simply must get ourselves out of this position where employers are themselves examining students when they are coming out of our schools. It is rampant. The fact of the matter is that employers do not trust us. It is about time we did something about regaining that trust.

Bilingual Education Program

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise the Assembly of the current status of the department's

22201.811-31

investigation into the effectiveness of the bilingual education program?

ANSWER

I am not exactly certain when the report of the task force which is examining the success or otherwise of the bilingual program will be made available to me. At the risk of being proven wrong later, all the indications are that it is a highly worthwhile program.

Crops in Adelaide River Area

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

When has he publicly stated that crops other than rice will be grown on the upper Adelaide River?

ANSWER

I am not so sure that I as minister have publicly made that statement. I do believe that that statement was made on page 80 of the interim Lapidge Report.

Solar Units in Reserves

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

The Conservation Commission has set up solar power units in some southern parks and reserves in the Northern Territory. Will this program be extended to include parks and reserves in the northern parts of the Territory as well?

ANSWER

The policy of the Conservation Commission - and this policy is borne out in practice unlike that of some other instrumentalities - is to avail itself as far as possible of natural sources of energy and to use construction methods which avail themselves of the surrounding environment. The Conservation Commission has built a number of low-energy houses. I understand that the hot water systems at the Katherine Gorge National Park are solar systems. I cannot be sure of that. Certainly, it is the policy of the commission to conserve energy as much as possible. I am certain that I can give an undertaking that, when maintenance is undertaken and any systems are capable of being replaced by low-energy systems, that will be done.

Nhulunbuy Hospital

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why was no allocation made in the budget to convert the accommodation blocks at Nhulunbuy Hospital to bedsitters and self-contained flats as has happened and is continuing to happen in other hospitals in the Northern Territory.

ANSWER

I believe there was an allocation of $500,000 to convert the old nurses quarters in Alice Springs to 2 and 3 bedroom units for the staff by knocking the walls out of the old nurses quarters and generally redesigning the building. This will be done because, in their present state, they are not acceptable quarters for nurses or anybody else. If the department presents such

conditions to people, they take the option of living off campus which is not always in the interest of the staff or the department.

So far as Nhulunbuy is concerned, a proposal has been considered to turn the accommodation into larger units by knocking out walls to make them 2 and 3 bedroom units. I understand that money is not the problem. The design of the building precludes simply knocking a wall out to make the building bigger because plumbing and electrical reticulation has to be considered. I will give a detailed paper to the honourable member on the reasons why this particular exercise was not continued at Gove Hospital.

ATEC Courses at Batchelor

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has a decision been taken by the minister as to the admission numbers at the ATEC courses in Batchelor for next year?

ANSWER

The number of students would be subject to budgetary considerations. As I said yesterday in the budget debate, the government is anxious to expand the activities of Aboriginal teacher education to the maximum extent possible given the resources available to it. There is also the limiting factor of space until such time as Batchelor stage 2 is completed. The honourable member is quite at liberty to phone the appropriate people in the Department of Education about a simple matter like this. I cannot give a definitive answer. If he wishes me to track down the information, I am more than happy to do so.

Energy and Industrial Crops

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Are any officers of the Department of Primary Production currently working on energy crops and other industrial crops in a research capacity and, if so, what crops are they?

ANSWER

The answer is no.

Animal Pound at Berrimah

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he yet indicate the site of the animal pound which is to be situated in the Berrimah area?

ANSWER

As I indicated to the member for Tiwi yesterday, the location of the rubbish dump has been resolved. I am not certain about the exact location of any proposed pound. I will undertake to obtain the information and personally advise both honourable members during the course of the day.

Central Australian Community College Hospitality Course

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he advise the Assembly of the current status of the hospitality courses in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The Director of TAFE and my ministerial officer will be in Alice Springs talking to the people who are currently housed in Gillen House on Monday next. In conjunction with the Community College of Central Australia Council, they will make final decisions, hopefully, during the course of that day.

Stott Terrace Intersection

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise whether or not the government will construct an underpass or an overpass either under or over the railway line at the Stott Terrace Railway Terrace intersection and, if so, when will construction commence?

ANSWER

I ask the member to put the question on notice.

Trachoma Program

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of his statement the other day about prophylactic measures that are being taken in regard to child trachoma sufferers, could he advise the Assembly what is being done for adult sufferers?

ANSWER

I shall take that as a question on notice and write to the honourable member about it because a fair amount of detail is involved.

Closed Season on Ducks and Geese

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is he considering making any recommendations to Cabinet regarding the timing of the closed season on ducks and geese given the fact that the harvesting of the proposed rice crop will coincide with the closed season for magpie geese?

ANSWER

I was not proposing to make any such recommendation at this stage. Perhaps a working group consisting of the honourable members for Arnhem, Nightcliff and Victoria River could come up with a solution to this problem.

Air Services to Aboriginal Communities

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he give a guarantee that Northern Airlines services to Snake Bay, Garden Point, Croker Island and Goulburn Island will be continued after March 1981?

ANSWER

I cannot give a firm guarantee. All I can do is to ensure that Northern Airlines will carry out the services provided that the routes are economical. I cannot give a guarantee to the honourable member if the routes are not economical.

Air Services to Aboriginal Communities

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What arrangements will be made to ensure the maintenance of air services to Snake Bay, Croker Island, Garden Point and Goulburn Island?

ANSWER

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

Criminal Code

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the present position of the criminal code?

ANSWER

I am pleased the the honourable member for Tiwi asked me this question because I did want to say something on this before the Assembly rose today. I have said in this Assembly previously that I had hoped that we would be in a position to table for discussion a criminal code during the course of these sittings. I think it has been made available at least to the Leader of the Opposition. A substantial portion of the code itself has been prepared but it is still a long way from being in a state of preparation to enable it to be tabled at this sittings. This has been caused unfortunately by a draftsman's illness and by draftsmen leaving the service. Additional draftsmen have to be recruited. Only last week the draftsman actually having charge of the preparation of the code unfortunately contracted a serious illness, meningitis. Therefore, I will not be in a position to table the criminal code at this sittings. I certainly hope to be able to table the code at the first sittings next year.

Government Hostels

Ms O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What arrangements have been made for the long-term management of the hostels now owned by the Northern Territory government, formerly the Commonwealth Hostels, and for which the interim 12-months management period by Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services will soon expire?

ANSWER

The existing contract has been extended for 12 months with only marginal variations. The exception to that will be the arrangements in relation to Gillen House in Alice Springs which will become a school of hospitality and catering. If this answer is not completely accurate, I will write to the honourable member.

Stuart Highway Reconstruction Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise when this government proposes to start reconstruction of the Stuart Highway along the old Railway Terrace to the Smith Street intersection?

ANSWER

This project has no status. However it is included in Transport and Works 1981-82 draft works proposals. It is the present intention to call tenders towards the middle of 1982.

Tenders for New Primary Schools

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How does he propose to call tenders for the construction of the 3 new primary schools, Karama, Leanyer and Humpty Doo? Will it be design and construct or the more normal method of tendering?

ANSWER

This is subject to discussions between the Chief Minister, myself and the permanent head of the Department of Transport and Works. When I am in a position to provide her with that information, I will do so.

Casuarina Hospital Opthalmologist

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why weren't all the applicants for the position of specialist opthalmologist at Casuarina Hospital interviewed after applications were called for last May? I understand a decision has been taken on this position.

ANSWER

I would have to take advice from the secretary of the department on that particular matter because the appointment of people to positions like that is his prerogative. I do not think that it is the rule that every applicant is interviewed. As a rule, the departments select a short list and interview from that. I will obtain the information and write to the honourable member.

Rapid Creek Pre-school

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that a drain connected to the sand pit at the Rapid Creek

Pre-school is unserviceable and is presenting a possible health hazard? Could he ask his officers to investigate the matter to ensure the speedy rectification of the blockage?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition. If what he says is true, it shall be fixed forthwith.

Metroliners

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question relates to a statement made on 5 November by the General Manager of Northern Airlines referring to the withdrawal of Metroliners from gravel strips for safety reasons. Is it true that those aircraft are to be returned to the Top End to be re-operated on gravel strips?

ANSWER

I have not had an application from Northern Airlines regarding the re-introduction of the Metroliners in the Top End. It was indicated by the Northern Territory government in the budget debate that there would be major upgrading of remote area strips. However, because of the withdrawal of Northern Airlines Metroliners, the Treasury and my department are carrying out further investigations into which airstrips will be upgraded. Northern Airlines have brought back the Heron which is more suitable to the Top End operation than the Metroliner.

Means Test for Housing Commission Accommodation

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The minister has indicated on previous occasions that no means test will be required to obtain Housing Commission accommodation for some time. Is he able to indicate a period of time before means testing for this purpose is likely to be introduced.

ANSWER

There are no plans whatsoever to introduce a means testing system for Housing Commission accommodation. I do not intend to address myself to that question at all. I must qualify that with a reminder to the honourable member that, in order to obtain the low-interest money from the Commonwealth, we are somewhat bound by the conditions of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement and the presence of the Northern Territory at the Conference of Housing Ministers is essential in order that we make sure that the Commonwealth and the states are fully aware of our view. I know of no move within the Commonwealth-State Housing Minister forum to introduce mandatory means testing nor do I know of any such initiative on behalf of the Commonwealth. It is not really a definitive answer to the question but certainly we are not contemplating it.

Qantas Flights from Darwin

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the announcement this morning by the honourable federal Minister for Transport that Qantas will be seeking to operate on long-haul

domestic routes, will the minister renew his representations to the federal minister that Northern Territory passengers ought to be carried on international flight segments between Darwin and Melbourne and Darwin and Sydney?

ANSWER

Yes.

Game Meat for Export

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Conservation Commission any plans to cooperate with private operators in harvesting game meat for export to European countries?

ANSWER

I do not know of any plans in the abstract of the Conservation Commission for cooperation with private operators in the taking of game meat for export to European countries. It is my recollection that the Conservation Commission has done this in the past and I assume that it would, where necessary, do it in the future.

Freeze on Unalienated Crown Land

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did he write to the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs around November 1978 saying inter alia with regard to the development of unalienated Crown land: 'The continuation of the freeze on the development of unalienated Crown land for a period of 2 years from 29 August 1978 will apply only to traditional land claims when they have been lodged with and accepted by the Aboriginal Land Commissioner?' Is the freeze still applicable and, if so, how long is it intended to maintain the freeze?

ANSWER

I could not answer the first part of the honourable Leader of the Opposition's question. If I may say so, I think it is a little unfair to ask me without any notice whatsoever whether I did on such and such a day 2 years ago write such and such a letter in those precise terms. Therefore, if the honourable Leader of the Opposition wants an answer to that question I would ask that he place the question on notice. In answer to the second part of his question as to whether the land freeze is still in operation, it is not so far as I am aware because I think it expired some time in August.

Stott Terrace Intersection

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise whether the government proposes to construct an overpass or an underpass at the Stott Terrace and Railway Terrace intersection.

ANSWER

The government intends to construct an AT grade signalised intersection at Stott Terrace and Railway Terrace intersection. An overpass is considered

to be a future possibility. An alternative case for significant change to the criteria for the government's decision to proceed with flat bed crossing includes current and proposed railway movements as indicated by the Australian National Railway and the results of traffic monitoring in the affected areas.

Dhupuma College Demountables

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will the Education Department make available to community groups and sporting organisations demountables left over at Dhupuma College in much the same way as the Health Department made available demountables at the Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Arnhem raised this matter with me very briefly last night and he pointed out the types of community groups, in his view, that could benefit from such an arrangement. I will have inquiries made as to the suitability of any existing buildings for community purposes on whatever arrangements can be entered into. I would point out that one is more likely to fall through the floor of most of the buildings over there rather than to get any use out of them.

Berrimah Experimental Farm

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has the minister or the Northern Territory government called for or carried out any investigations into land at Berrimah Experimental Farm for other than its present use and, if so, what other possible uses for the land are envisaged?

ANSWER

I ask the gentleman to place the question on notice.

Subdivisions by Private Developers

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

What moneys are saved by the government in getting land subdivided by private developers?

ANSWER

In order to do justice to the question, one would have to have a complete set of figures. It runs into quite significant amounts of money. We are not only looking at savings to the government but we are also looking at a far more expeditious method of producing land. I think anyone who has seen what is happening out in the northern suburbs - and doubtless will see in Alice Springs - will realise that private enterprise, being of the nature it is, is able to perform clearly far better than governments can - and that is governments plural. It is not just a matter of saving money. I do not have the actual figures on me. As I say, you would have to take subdivisions one by one. Taking Sadadeen stage 1, for example, the saving from memory is around $2.4m. I think the honourable member could scale his thinking across similar subdivisions around the Territory and get a picture accordingly.

Sale of Fireworks

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is he yet in a position to indicate whether fireworks will be sold on 1 July and 5 November next year? I indicate to the honourable gentleman that shopkeepers stocking these fireworks have to order them 6 months in advance?

ANSWER

I advised the Assembly the other day that I had not addressed myself to the question and I certainly will not be doing so for at least a couple more weeks. I advise the honourable member that we will take a decision before Christmas on the matter and that would be ample time for shopkeepers to be able to order their stocks. Since I have spent some time in business, I am aware that there is a lead time but I think the honourable member is going a bit far to say that there is a 6-month lead time involved in the purchase of this material.

Aerial Medical Services at Gove

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has there been any downgrading of the Aerial Medical Services at Gove as a result of the transfer of the operations from TAA to Northern Airlines?

ANSWER

I do not accept that there has been any downgrading in the operation of Aerial Medical Services since the transfer from TAA to Northern Airlines. This is particularly so in Gove where we have been able to place a second Nomad on a full time basis for the region. The difficulties of keeping the Nomad in the air are immense and the capacity to have a second one on the ground as a back-up is most helpful to the people working in the field. I cannot accept the honourable member's proposition.

Sittings of the Assembly in 1981

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is the minister able to give the Assembly information on the sitting dates for next year?

ANSWER

The date for next year's sittings have been cleared by Mr Speaker in accordance with the usual arrangement. These dates, of course are subject to the usual sessional order which we have for variation and also to the exigencies of workload which may be presented to this place. The first sittings next year will be on 24,25 and 26 February and 3, 4 and 5 March; then 26, 27 and 28 May and 2, 3 and 4 June; 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20 August; and then 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19 November.

Crops in Adelaide River Area

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What staff is currently available for research and development of crops

which will be complementary to the rice production scheme on the Adelaide River?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable gentleman to place his question on notice.

Home Building Societies

Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

I understand that existing home building societies do not lend money for homes outside town boundaries in the Northern Territory. Perhaps they cannot. In negotiations with other organisations now seeking to be registered as building societies in the Northern Territory, will the government attempt to ensure that they can provide finance to Territorians for homes outside town boundaries?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the operations of the existing and any proposed new building societies in the Northern Territory are limited by legislation. Unfortunately, we are operating under an old South Australian act. It is a most unacceptable situation and the government has in the pipeline a new building societies act which will be prepared as soon as resources permit. In the meantime, the companies which may seek to register under the act can only be bound by those requirements. However, in any other areas of general influence that we may have on new building societies in the Northern Territory, we will certainly be putting the government's general views about the treatment of Territorians and the flow of funds.

Yulara Tourist Village

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise what stage the development of the Yulara Village has reached?

ANSWER

Yulara Village is quite well advanced in terms of planning and there is indeed a considerable amount of work being done on the ground. Three and a half million dollars is allocated this year towards infrastructure at Yulara Tourist Village. I am aware that a contract has been let for the construction of a new airport terminal at the new airstrip which is already in service at Yulara and is capable of taking jet aircarft. Roads are being constructed and water supply is being arranged. I understand the provision of electricity for the village is in hand with the Northern Territory Electricity Commission. The planning of the village and the implementation of planning decisions is in the hands of an ad hoc committee, the Yulara Tourist Village Planning Committee. This is chaired by Mr Stolz and members of the committee are from interested departments such as Transport and Works, the Tourist Commission, NTEC and so on. The committee answers to the Director of Conservation. The Conservation Commission has the ultimate responsibility for the satisfactory construction of the village. At the same time, honourable members would be aware that advertisements were placed world wide for expressions of interest in erecting hotels and providing other amenities for visitors to the village. I understand that a considerable number of expressions of interest were received and these have been reviewed by the committee. No

recommendations have come to me at this stage from the Director of Conservation or the committee. I do believe, however, that some finality in that respect is expected at least within the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Casuarina Hospital

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he be making a statement to the Assembly today on the services available to the public at Casuarina Hospital and the other health centres in Darwin? If so, will he be ensuring that the detail of that statement is prominently published?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is my intention to deal with this particular issue during the adjournment debate this afternoon. I will cover the aspects raised by several members in the Assembly the other day.

Campbell Committee of Inquiry into Finance

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Did the Treasury make a submission to the Campbell Committee of Inquiry into the Banking and Finance Industry?

ANSWER

I did have some discussions with officers of the Treasury department on the very nature of the inquiry and what it sought to establish. I cannot advise the honourable member whether Treasury actually forwarded a written submission to the Campbell inquiry. We did not have people appear there. I am sure of that.

Water Pressure at Howard Springs

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the reason for the extremely low water pressure out of the taps at Howard Springs which resulted in one case of very muddy water yesterday?

ANSWER

I do not know. However, I believe the reconstruction and the upgrading of the water mains between the 19-mile and the Darwin area could have some bearing on the problem. I will undertake to provide the honourable member with that information at a later hour.

Registration of Territory Seamen

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it the government's intention to take over from the Commonwealth the examination and issue of tickets of competency for Territorial seamen engaged in the coastal trade?

ANSWER

At this stage of the development, no.

Complaint of Police Harassment

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

My question relates to a letter to the editor, the Star newspaper reported on 26 November on a complaint of complete police harassment of a lady who was being detained. Is he aware of this supposed incident and, if there is any substance to the allegations, will he instigate an investigation?

ANSWER

This is one of those situations one finds oneself in all too frequently. In answering this question, I will turn to a document I received in the mail not so long ago. I think it was called 'Wimmen Behind Bars' - 'women' spelt in a phonetic sort of way. In that document there were very grave allegations made against police officers and yet no complaint had been received by the police. To the best of my recollection, no complaint had been received by the Ombudsman. This is exactly similar to the case the honourable member for Nhulunbuy has raised. When I noticed this letter in the Star newspaper yesterday, I caused inquiries to be made. It transpires that neither the police nor the Ombudsman have any record of any complaint being received in respect of this matter. The first contact that I have had is a phone call this morning from a person purporting to represent the Australian Marijuana Party who wished to see me today. All I can say is that, were I to see this person, I would simply refer him to the Ombudsman. I would suggest that the complainant go to see the Ombudsman herself. Quite frankly, I think it is one of those sorts of harassments that our police force is having to put up with all the time. These people go to the press, they try to create a sensation and they have not even availed themselves of the avenues that are already open to provide for the investigation of such complaints.

Alice Springs Casino

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Could he please advise on the opening date of the Alice Springs casino?

ANSWER

The hotel-casino complex in Alice Springs which is being built by Federal Hotels is currently scheduled to be completed about July next year. I understand the company is making every endeavour to try to open in June if it possibly can.

Taxation of Subsidised Housing

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister received any response from the federal government to his communications on the question of taxation of subsidised housing in the Northern Territory and, if so, what were the details?

ANSWER

I cannot provide any answer for the honourable member for Arnhem at the present time. You will appreciate that I am still becoming acquainted with up-to-date details of various problems that are on my desk. I will look into this matter and I will certainly provide the honourable member for Arnhem with details as soon as I possibly can.

Walker Report on NT University

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he make available copies of the Walker report on the proposed Northern Territory university to the members of this Assembly?

ANSWER

Yes.

Council Bylaws on Litter Legislation

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Do councils outside of Darwin which do not have bylaws need such laws to appoint officers or inspectors under the litter legislation passed by this Assembly?

ANSWER

Yes, councils do have to have bylaws before inspectors of those councils automatically become litter inspectors under the Litter Act. However, there are other ways that councils without bylaws can have their inspectors enforce the provisions of the Litter Act. One of them is to ask the minister responsible for the Litter Act to appoint persons to be inspectors under the Litter Act. Other than that, councils or council inspectors have a right under section 6 of the Litter Act to institute action under the Litter Act against an offender. Indeed, any citizen in the Northern Territory has the right to institute action under that section. Any corporation which professes that its hands are tied in implementing the Litter Act because it does not have bylaws has 2 options open to it: adopt some bylaws or take another course of action.

Child Welfare Bill

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will the new Child Welfare Bill be ready for introduction into the Assembly at its next sittings in February 1981?

ANSWER

I cannot guarantee that it will be introduced during the next sittings but it will certainly be introduced as soon as it can be prepared and approved.

Loveridge Report

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has he yet received the final section of the Loveridge Report? If not, when does he expect to receive it?

ANSWER

I do not believe that the final section is with us just yet. I would have to ascertain progress. I understand that Des Loveridge has been ill for

some time and I will try and let the honourable member know later.

Furnace at Waste Water Treatment Plant

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he explain to the Assembly why the furnace at the Darwin waste water treatment plant has operated for only 3,000 hours in the last 3 years?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I anticipated a question from the honourable member for Fannie Bay in light of a press release that she issued a couple of weeks ago. To allay any fears that the honourable member may have, I will give her information from a briefing note that I received regarding the problem. There was an overtime ban imposed a couple of weeks ago and that was withdrawn within a couple of days. The unions and the department are discussing that particular problem now. Overtime bans in themselves do not automatically lead to sewage bypassing the plants. This only occurs when a ban coincides with a heavy through-put. It is a fact of life that, during the wet season, an amount of sewage does bypass the plant as rainwater penetrates the sewerage system.

The honourable member had been reported as alleging that the furnace at the plant is not being used. This furnace was designed to decarbonise sludge which is treated sewage. Instead of burning sludge, the department has been experimenting in using it and effluent for other purposes in line with the recycling approach. For instance, the department is presently placing sludge near the treatment plant and using it as fill. In fact, we have had approaches from various sources who have indicated that they would like to use treated sludge and effluent as some form of fertiliser or conditioner. There is still work to be done in this area before the effluent can be readily used but I believe that search for these alternative uses iscommendable. There are no mechanical problems with the furnace. The critical point that I wish to make is that the effluent and sludge are already treated and are chemically safe. They are not harmful. The treatment plant was inherited from the Commonwealth. The concept is not a good one and definitely treatment plants are inferior to sewage ponds. One inherent problem is that the outlet pipe is exposed during low tide. While this is an undesirable feature, the effluent is chemically safe and the cost to extend the outlet would be quite significant.

Nhulunbuy Library

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he advise the details of the proposed operation of the combined Nhulunbuy High School Community Library? I would like such details as whether it is intended to operate the library for the community during school hours.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it was intended to do so. It would seem to me to be a rather poor sort of public library function if it was only available to the public during other than school hours. I would have to check the information with the two departments responsible. Either my colleague or myself will write to the honourable member with details.

Darwin Speedway

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What discussions have been held between the government, the Corporation of the City of Darwin and NTRDA regarding the moving of the speedway as quickly as possible to its right and proper locality?

ANSWER

It is almost impossible to answer the question because the proposal to move the speedway from Bagot Park, where it has been causing some annoyance, has been on and off since cyclone Tracy. I was involved in those days when we attempted to get on committees of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission and have some involvement. I have discussed this matter with members of the city council and certainly members of the Motor Sports Council which has been formed to hold the head lease at Hidden Valley.

The actual question of the period of time that the speedway is allowed to operate at Bagot Park is entirely in the hands of local government. Recently, they met with members of the NTRDA and decided to extend the period for another year. I understand that those decisions were taken without any consultation with the Northern Territory government. Of course, they do not have any obligation to consult with us on that question.

Gove House

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is there any progress on the proposed upgrading of the Housing Commission single persons accommodation in Gove House?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have received some advice quite recently setting out a number of options. Those options are currently under examination by the government and any decision will have to await that consideration.

Notice given on 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 organizations, to whom were they referred?

6. How many applicants were found accommodation directly by efforts of the Housing Commission?

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?

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?

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"?

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"?

Grants-in-Aid 1980-81

21 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

Katherine - Appointment of Resident Magistrate

30 Mr MacFARLANE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

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

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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

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 goverment 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?

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 (e) lit by the pastoral lessee inconvenienced by the fire?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

Borroloola-Roper Bar Road

50 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

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?

Loitering in Public Places

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?

Meteorological Bureau Services in 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?

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?

Notice given on 25 November 1980

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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 Innovations 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 Innovations 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 Innovations 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 Innovations 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?

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?

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?

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?

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 employed, (b) the locations where they are employed, and (c) their major skills and qualifications?

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?

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?

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 Commission 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. Stoltz,

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?

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?

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?

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?
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?

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 list 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?

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?
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?

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?

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?

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

7. What safeguards exist to ensure the preservation of Aboriginal sacred sites which may be affected by road construction?

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?

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'?
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?

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?

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 4 November 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?

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?

Permanent Part-Time Employment

1 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the program of the Public Service Commissioner for investigating the possible introduction of permanent part-time employment?

2. Has a decision been made to introduce permanent part-time employment and, if so, when will it be introduced?

ANSWER

1. Permanent part-time employment has been the subject of NTPS Consultative Council consideration for some time. The Public Service Commissioner's program for investigation for the possible introduction is to have the full Consultative Council consider its subcommittee's final recommendation at its meeting in Alice Springs on 30 and 31 October 1980 with a view to recommending to the Commissioner an agreed package of terms and conditions for permanent part-time employment. The Commissioner expects to be able to make definitive decisions on the recommendations before the end of the year.

2. My government has made a commitment to introduce permanent part-time employment and our objective was to introduce a scheme on 1 January 1981, however, because one of the most important conditions applying to permanent part-time employment is the right to superannuation, difficulties could arise in having the Commonwealth authorities develop the necessary changes to the Commonwealth scheme by that date to enable NTPS employees to be covered for superannuation purposes.

   The government's Canberra representative has had detailed discussions with the Commonwealth Department of Finance and the Commonwealth Public Service Board, but the federal officials are not optimistic concerning an early resolution of the problems to enable the necessary changes to be effected to Commonwealth legislation.

   Permanent part-time employment without superannuation cover would not provide the flexibility necessary to enable full-time employees to take advantage of this progressive form of employment.

3. It appears that the government's program to introduce permanent part-time employment could lead to industrial problems as the Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union has advised the Public Service Commissioner's office that it is totally opposed to the introduction of permanent part-time employment. This will have to be borne in mind and efforts at consultation undertaken.

Criminal Code Proposals

2 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Have the judges of the Supreme Court commented on the first draft of the proposed new criminal code prepared by Mr Connolly? If so, has the bill been circulated to legal practitioners, criminologists and the community?

ANSWER

The preliminary first draft prepared by Mr F.G. Connolly of Counsel is in substantially similar terms to the Queensland Criminal Code, although certain innovative provisions have been drawn from other jurisdictions (notably the theft provisions).

The preliminary first draft has been sent to the judges of the Supreme Court and one of the judges has met with an officer of the Department of Law to comment on the draft.

The Parliamentary Draftsman, together with another officer of the Department of Law, are now preparing a draft Criminal Code Act which has some changes from the preliminary first draft, and this draft act will be widely circulated once it has been tabled in Parliament.

The preliminary first draft (which was intended to be no more than a first step towards a criminal code and not a bill as such) has not been circulated to lawyers or the community although lengthy discussions were held by Mr Connolly with interested parties.

Alice Springs Recreational Lake Site

3 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the site for a recreational lake in the Alice Springs area been chosen and, if so, does it coincide with any Aboriginal sacred sites registered with the Sacred Sites Authority?

ANSWER

No.

Mindil Beach Casino

4 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

1. What is the anticipated date for the opening of the Mindil Beach casino?

2. Is the government concerned about the amount of work that has been done on the site?

3. Has Federal Hotels informed the government that it wants to reduce the size of the originally proposed project at Mindil Beach and, if so, what are the full details of any new proposal?

4. Is the government satisfied that Federal Hotels has put sufficient effort into promoting package tours to bring tourists to the casino?

5. Does the government agree that the bulk of the people using the present interim casino are local gamblers, and if so, does the government agree that this is contrary to the view that the casino would, in the main, cater for tourists?

6. What comment has the government to make about the casino's adverse economic impact on the central business area?

7. Does the government believe that the casino has had any adverse impact on the community generally?

ANSWER

1. The project is expected to be completed during December 1982.

2. The government has already expressed its concern in the House, about the delays with the development.

3. Under the agreement the minister may agree to modifications to the

approved plans.

When the lowest tender for the building construction was found to be $16.9m, some $5.0m over the early estimate, the minister agreed to a request from Federals, to deferments and modifications without detriment to the original plans, they being:

3.1 substitution of concrete framework for steel framework;

3.2 minor modifications to finishes; and

3.3 deferment of minor facilities such as:

3.3.1 a second small swimming pool;

3.3.2 a public change room and toilet annexe;

3.3.3 a small external bar;

3.3.4 a basement preparation kitchen;

3.3.5 a gym and sauna area; and

3.3.6 fitting out of level 4 of the main building complex which will eventually become the main function area of the complex.

4. Yes, considering that the main thrust of their packaging is being geared to the openings of Alice Springs and Mindil.

5. Patronage at the Don Hotel-Casino indicates that the Territory residents fully support the complex which has added a new dimension to Darwin's nightlife. Patrons are not requested to provide information on their residential status, however it is obvious that numerous tourists as well as residents visit the complex. The casino is an added attraction for tourists.

6. No evidence has been put forward to indicate adverse economic impact in the central business district. New restaurants, shops and office developments in the CBD indicate the reverse.

7. No evidence has been received which indicates that the casino has had an adverse effect generally.

Regional Committees for the Handicapped

5 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Prior to the 1980 election the former minister stated that 2 regional committees for the handicapped would be established, one for the north and one for the south. Have these committees been established and, if so, (a) whom do they comprise, and (b) which organisations do they represent?

ANSWER

The Chief Minister in his ministerial statement to the Legislative Assembly in May 1980, announced the government's intent to develop an optimum level of services which reflect the needs of Territorians who are handicapped. To accomplish this end, the Chief Minister asked that regional committees be established comprised of people with the requisite experience, expertise and interest to recommend the services required by disabled people.

In accordance with this, I have recently announced the membership of

these committees. In the north, the Regional Committee is comprised of:

Dr Alan Walker	-	Chairperson
Mr Ian Overell	-	NT Spastic Association
Mr James Berry	-	Handicapped Persons' Association
Mr Alasdair McGregor	-	Deaf Children's Association
Mr Keith Amos	-	Somerville Homes
Mrs Veronica Elsegood	-	Aboriginal Women's Resource Centre
Mrs Doreen Baker	-	Disabled person
Mrs Gina Zammitt	-	Parent of a handicapped child
Mrs Georgina Edwards	-	Disabled person

The southern Regional Committee membership includes:

Mrs Barbera Vaiana	-	Chairperson - and a disabled person
Mrs Jenny Carpenter	-	Alice Springs Spastic Council
Mrs Peggy Campbell	-	Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
Mr George Lamb	-	NT Council on the Ageing
Mr R. Gaff	-	St Mary's Children's Homes
Miss Miranda Parkes	-	Bindi Centre
Mr Chris Turner	-	Disabled person
Ms Michele Castagna	-	Disabled person
Mrs Carol Frost	-	Parent of a handicapped child

In addition, the Departments of Health, Education, Community Development and Social Security will be represented on each group bringing the total membership to 13 persons for each regional committee.

Ethnic Health Workers

7 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Are there any plans to increase the number of ethnic health workers to cover more ethnic communities in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

There is no specific plan to increase the number of ethnic health workers at the present time, although the matter is currently under review.

Multi-Cultural Education Program

8 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many part-time instructors are employed by the Department of Education under the multi-cultural education program?
2. What (a) languages do they teach, and in (b) which schools, (c) for how many hours, and (d) at what levels?

ANSWER

1. Fourteen were employed up to the end of second term 1980.
2. (a) Greek, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Indonesian and Modern Greek.

   (b) St John's, Parap Primary, Secondary Intensive English Unit (Dripstone High), Jingili Primary, Nightcliff Primary, Stuart Park, Darwin Primary, Larrakeyah Primary, Ludmilla Primary, Wagaman Primary, Millner Primary and Casuarina High School.

   (c) Number of hours approved varies between 2 and 320.

(d) Levels range from year 3 to secondary.

MULTI-CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Language	Days	No. of Hours Approved	Period of Approval	Level	Schools
Greek	-	44	1. 7.80 - 30.12.80	Year 12	St John's
Mandarin	Mon-Wed	30	1. 7.80 - 30.11.80	Year 4-7	Parap Primary
Vietnamese	Mon-Fri	320	1. 7.80 - 30.11.80	Year 8-12	S.I.E.U. (Dripstone High)
Indonesian	Tue	63	1. 7.80 - 30.12.80	Year 3-4	Jingili Primary
Mandarin	Mon-Wed	7½	26. 5.80 - 30. 6.80	Year 4-7	Parap Primary
Modern Greek	-	75	3. 7.80 - 4.12.80	Year 8	St John's
Mandarin	Monday	2	23. 6.80 - 30. 6.80	Year 6-7	Nightcliff Primary
Mandarin	Mon-Wed	50	1. 7.80 - 30.11.80	Year 4-7	Stuart Park
Mandarin	Mon-Wed-Fri	40	1. 7.80 - 30.11.80	Year 4-7	Darwin Primary
Greek	Varying	120	31. 3.80 - 30. 6.80	Pre-school	Nightcliff Primary Larrakeyah Primary Ludmilla
Modern Greek	Mon-Wed	40	28. 7.80 - 5. 8.80	Year 4-7 Year 6-7	Wagaman Primary Nightcliff Primary

Special Aboriginal Housing Scheme

10 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In regard to the 1978 agreement between the Commonwealth and the Territory for the provision of housing for Aboriginal people in the Territory, and which is commonly known as the Special Aboriginal Housing Scheme -

1. What amount has been (a) allocated by the Commonwealth to the Territory, and (b) expended on this scheme to 20 August 1980?
2. How many houses have been built and in which locations throughout the Territory?
3. How many houses and in which locations will be built (a) this financial year, and (b) next financial year?
4. Did the Territory government alter the agreement or its implementation to prevent homes being built under this scheme to be located adjacent to or opposite privately-owned homes?
5. If so, does such a restriction still apply?

ANSWER

1. (a) $809,000.

(b) $785,000 (Balance being held to pay for land when valuations are received).

2. Twenty-one - 10 in Alice Springs;
5 in Tennant Creek; and
6 in Katherine.

3. Five in Katherine subject to land availability.

4. No, the agreement does not make reference to the location of houses built under the agreement. A decision was taken by the former Minister for Lands and Housing that houses constructed under the scheme would not be built adjacent to or opposite privately owned homes.

5. The decision referred to above has never been rescinded.

Emergency Housing

11 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has his attention been drawn to the newsheet of July 1980 "NT ACTION", published by the NT Council of Social Service, which claimed that a register opened in the Darwin mall for 2 days had shown that 82 adults and 6 children were living on the beach or in cars, and that 177 adults and 101 children were living in unsatisfactory conditions?

2. If so, does he have evidence to show that these figures are accurate?

3. Has he or the NT Housing Commission received submissions from NTCOSS seeking support for the establishment of an emergency housing committee and, if so, what action has been taken by the government?

ANSWER

1. While I have seen the newsheet mentioned, I have also seen reports in the media referring generally to the claim made in the newsheet, which is published by the NT Council of Social Service.

2. I have no evidence whether the figures included in the newsheet are accurate or not.

3. I have received submissions from NTCOSS seeking support for the establishment of an emergency housing committee. I have already replied to the Council's submission of 2 July 1980 and the Council's further submission of 5 August 1980 is being examined. My earlier reply to NTCOSS indicated that I did not favour their suggestions.

Purchase of Residence at 28 Tasman Circuit Wagaman

12 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has the government arranged through the Housing Commission the purchase of the residence at 28 Tasman Circuit, Wagaman?

2. If so, what price was paid for the property, who is occupying or is intended to occupy this residence, and what expenditure has been necessary to (a) upgrade, or (b) improve the property since purchase?

ANSWER

The Public Service Commissioner on 17 July 1980 instructed the Northern Territory Housing Commission to purchase the above property for housing the new Solicitor-General.

The property has been purchased for $92,000. According to the Valuer-General, the market value of the property is $96,000.

The purchase is not yet finalised. No expenditure has been necessary to upgrade or improve the property. It is expected that an expenditure of $500 may be needed to replace the stove.

Driving Licence Examiners

13 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How many (a) men, and (b) women are employed as examiners for driving licences?
2. Does the Department of Transport and Works have a policy regarding employment of women as driving licence examiners and, if so, what is the policy?

ANSWER

1. (a) Five men.

   (b) Four women.
2. The department does not have a policy for or against either male or female licence testers. We look for efficiency, pleasant personality and ability to deal with the general public in a friendly, but responsible manner. A proven knowledge of the Motor Vehicles Act and Traffic Act are required. Testers must hold "A", "C" and "E" class licences and preferably a driving instructors licence.

Motor Vehicle Registry in Alice Springs

14 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In regard to the Alice Springs branch of the Motor Vehicle Registry -

1. How many employees are (a) currently employed, (b) have (i) transferred, or (ii) resigned, and (iii) at what levels since 1 July 1978?
2. Has his attention been drawn to complaints published in the Alice Springs press alleging that some employees of the branch may perform their duties with excessive zeal?
3. Has he or his department received complaints about the branch and, if so, (a) how many, (b) to what specific issues did they relate, (c) how many have been investigated, and (d) what has been the result of any such investigations?

ANSWER

1. (a) Eight employed.

   (b) (i) Four transferred - 3 x A1; 1 x A3.

   (ii) Twelve resignations - 11 x A1; 1 x A3.
2. Yes.
3. (a) Four.

   (b) (i) A refusal to register a damaged vehicle.

   (ii) Suspension of use of traders plates.

   (iii) Dissatisfaction with vehicle inspection procedures.

   (iv) Interim inspection of substandard private hire cars.

   (c) All have been investigated.

(d) The first 2 complaints listed were referred to the Ombudsman, who, after investigations, ruled in favour of the department's decision.

Investigation of the third complaint showed that action had been taken in accordance with the Motor Vehicles Act.

In the final complaint, the member of the public elected not to avail himself of options open to resolve the complaint.

Lots 4631 and 4632 East Side Subdivision Alice Springs

15 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it proposed that lots 4631 and 4632, East Side Subdivision, Alice Springs, will be used for a small shopping area and, if so, will he inform me when he approves their use for such purpose and when the blocks will be offered for sale at auction?

ANSWER

The proposed zoning change to facilitate release of the lots has been on exhibition with no objections being received. The Planning Authority will consider the matter on 12 September and a report and recommendation will then be prepared for my consideration. Assuming my approval, Executive Council will then consider the matter.

A date for the next land auction in Alice Springs has not been fixed, but will probably be in late October or November.

It is expected that these blocks would be available for this auction.

Arnhem Highway

16 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it planned to widen the Arnhem Highway and, if so, what is the program to be undertaken?

ANSWER

No. There are no proposals at this stage to widen the Arnhem Highway.

Aerial Spraying of Insecticides

22 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

The matters raised in these questions are more the preserve of the Minister for Primary Production. I suggest the honourable member

redirect her questions.

Alice Springs Recreation Lake - Environmental Impact Study

23 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has an environmental impact statement on the Alice Springs recreation lake been completed and, if so, will he make the document public?

ANSWER

There is an environmental report on one of the locations being considered for a recreation lake for Alice Springs. This is the location north of Alice Springs in the Todd River. There are a limited number of copies of the report, but it is available for perusal by the public at the office of the Department of Transport and Works, Alice Springs. A copy of the report is available in the Legislative Assembly library.

Delissaville Health Centre - Installation of Airconditioners

28 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will airconditioners be installed at the Delissaville Health Centre?

ANSWER

Work was carried out by Department of Transport and Works Essential Services Group. The airconditioners were installed on 9 October 1980 and are operative.

Crocodile attacks, Nhulunbuy 65
Crops in Adelaide River area 53, 71, 79
Darwin -
  Hospital 23, 53, 54
  power-station, proposals 24
  Primary School, funding 31
  public library 35
Delissaville Health Centre, installation of air-conditioners 108
Dental treatment of schoolchildren 44
Department of -
  Community Development, advertisement in NT News *99
  Education, 'Single Officers Housing Review' *93
  Health, finance for patients transferred interstate 64
  Primary Production, offices 43, 66
  Transport and Works, architectural consultants 66, 68, 70
Dhupuma College -
  demountables 78
  equipment 42
  facilities 38
  government expenditure *86
  staff 27, 35, *87, *97
  transfer of students *87
Differential rating system in Berrimah 24
Dollar-for-dollar subsidy to schools 25, 28
Douglas-Daly development project 68
Driving licence examiners 106
Ducks and geese, closed season 83
Education Advisory Council 69
Egg producers, protection for locals 43
Emergency accommodation *97, 105
Energy and industrial crops 72
Ethnic health workers 103
Expenditure by ministers on charter aircraft *91
Fannie Bay golf course, old area 45
Fireworks 59, 79
Fisheries vessels 35, *99
Flagstaff House site 68
Furnace at waste water treatment plant 84
Game meat for export 77
Gap Road flats 58
Gove House 85
Government assistance -
  for tradesmen to visit remote areas *90
  to NT cattlemen *89
Government hostels 74
Grants-in-Aid 1980-81 *86
Green Paper on education 46
Grumman Trackers, withdrawal from Darwin 52
Hartley Street, school site 69
Henbury Avenue special school 58
Heritage program 34
Home building societies 80
Housing Commission -
  advertisement in Weekend Australian *96
  document on Aboriginal housing *95
  purchase of 28 Tasman Circuit 105
  questionnaire on sale of flats *95
  tenants in Nhulunbuy 44
  unused blocks in Katherine *89
  upgrading 65

Howard Springs -
Reserve 56
water pressure 81
Humpty Doo High School 55
International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna 51
Italian earthquake 63
Katherine -
appointment of resident magistrate *88
blocks 534 and 536 *92
Department of Transport and Works and Telecom depots *89
flood insurance cover *90
Meteorological Bureau services *91
prosecutions for littering *90
Kormilda and Yirara Colleges, graduates *94
Land-backed wharf 64
Library service, purchase of books *88
Litter, council bylaws 83
Loans to -
Church of England Carpentaria College Inc *87
North Australian Baptist Homes Trust *87
Local government -
elections *87
rates at Berrimah 26
Loitering in public places *91
Loveridge report 83
Mandorah road *88
Marina in Darwin 47
Means test for Housing Commission accommodation 76
Meat processing companies *92
Mereenie -
aquifer *96
oil field 46
Messel, Professor Harry 48
Metroliners 76
Mindil Beach casino 60, 101
Multi-cultural education program 103
National Testing Program, policy 70
National Trust, Northern Territory division 36
Nhulunbuy -
hospital 71
library facilities 84, *88
road upgrading 58
water rates 60
Northern Territory government computer 57
Northumberland Insurance Company 33, 55
NTCOSS funding 30
NTEC membership *91
Nuclear power-station for Darwin 26, 53
Nurses quarters at Darwin Hospital *87
Offences against Commonwealth laws *92
Off-peak power supply 59
Ombudsman 42, 64
Operational Grant Subsidies Scheme *97
Performing arts centre in Darwin 28, 37, 41, 65
Permanent part-time employment 100
Photocopying service for community groups 54
Planning Authority and Planning Appeals Committee, membership *89
Police harassment, complaint 82
Port Authority 46
Private hospital for Darwin 31

Public buildings, modifications for handicapped persons *91
Public housing, out-of-turn allocations *86
Qantas flights from Darwin 76
Question time, length 51
Radio-telephone communications *90
Rapid Creek Pre-school 75
Ratification of UN convention 30
Regional committees for the handicapped 102
Register of uranium workers *87
Registration of Territory seamen 81
Rice farms, proposed location 69
Roper Highway *91
Ross Park Primary School 27, 60
Sadadeen subdivision *97
Sand mining at Flying Fox Creek 36
Sattler airstrip 63
Saturday afternoon trading 41
Schools Commission, innovations committee grants *93
Shoal Bay, defence establishment 52
Services to Aboriginal communities *96
Sittings of Assembly in 1981 40, 79
Social security payments and funding to organisations *97
Solar power units in reserves 71
Speedway 85
Stott Terrace -
   connector road from bridge 41
   intersection 73, 77
Subdivisions by private developers 78
Taxation on subsidised housing 82
Teachers in remote areas *88
Teaching Service Bill 47
'Territorians Are Worth Saving' campaign 29
TIO building, construction 55
Tiwi war veterans 30
Trachoma program 40, 73
Unalienated Crown land freeze 77
Unibeef project at Mataranka 57
Uranium discovery at Ewaninga 58
Utopia land claim *92
Vanderlin Drive 35
Walker report on NT university 83
Warrego School, problems 23
Water reticulation repair service in rural area 37
Women's refuges *98
Youth centres, guidelines for subsidies 67
Yulara tourist village 80

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 Aboriginals 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 in 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 bettle 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 Transecutive 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 Vesteys 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 be 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 Elsey. Can he advise what action is being taken to provide outback Territorians with a shortwave 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 Holcraft 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? It 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 responsability 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 Goal. 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.

23100.814-25

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 MINSTER 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 Yirrkala. 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 difficultues 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 exhorbitant 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 resrouces 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 electricial, 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?

Elsey and Hodgson Downs Pastoral Leases

126 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What efforts are being made to have land excised from Elsey 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.

Item	Cost
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	$825,482.27

2. The following total amounts were repaid:

Loan 1	$ 38,568.26
Loan 2	$ 3,181.24
Loan 3	NIL
	$ 41,749.50

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
Borroloola 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
Elsey 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

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 Aerobatic 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
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

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
Family Support Services Scheme	
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
International Year of the Child	
Browns Mart	11,240.00
Darwin Toy Library	708.85
Darwin Family Centres	18,860.00
Ethnic Children's Services Worker Scheme	
Migrant Resource and Settlement Centre	16,000.00
Children's Services Programme	
NTCOSS for Children's Week	2,000.00
States Grants (Home Care) Programme	
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
Operational Subsidies of a Continuous Nature	
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 revelant 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:

Name	Date of Appointment
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:

Name	Date of Appointment	Date of Resignation
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:

Name	Date of Appointment
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:

Name	Date of Appointment	Date of Resignation
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:

Name	Date of Appointment
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:

Name	Date of Appointment	Date of Resignation
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:

Name	Date of Appointment
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

Name	Date of Appointment
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 m^2 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

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	$	218,634

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.

Borroloola-Roper Bar Road

50 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does the government plan to upgrade the road between Roper Bar and Borroloola 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 Borroloola 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.

23100.814-28

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 redirected 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) and (b)

(a)	(b)
R. Lister	Snake Bay
A. Harrison	Oenpelli
J. Flattum	Yuendumu
G. Freeman	Warrabri
R. Earnshaw	Bagot
R. Davidson	Alice Springs
R. McRoberts	Garden Point
J. Prior	Yirrkala
L. Brooks	Milingimbi
D. Puffett	Darwin Rural
B. Haynes	Jabiru
A. Steele	Roper River
J. Irvine	Borroloola
T. Strike	Bamyili
S. Wenman	Maningrida
D. Shannon	Katherine
Temp. vacant	Papunya
I. Robert	Hooker Creek
P. McKinnon	Numbulwar
L. Fracek	Tennant Creek
D. Shanahan	Alice Springs
N. Quigley	Croker Island
A. Carter	Darwin
J. Dunstall	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?

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 Mereeenie, 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?

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?'

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.

	Darwin	Alice Springs
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.	Approved 3 employed 2 supporting parents 2 blind	Approved 1 eviction 1 supporting parent (mother and 1) 1 supporting parent benefit (mother and 1 - medical reasons)
5.	Not Approved 50 employed 10 invalid pensioners 28 supporting parent benefits 2 unemployed benefits 1 aged pensioner 3 part-time employed	Not Approved 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?

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:

Loan	Department-Authority
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 meltdown, 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	
PITS 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	$ 260,000
Performing Arts Centre		$ 100,000
City Car Parking Facilities		$ 700,000
		$ 1,167,000

(ii) Alice Springs

Undoolya Road Connector	$ 78,000

(iii) Katherine

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

(iv) Tennant Creek

Civic Centre - Library	$ 25,000
Construction Roadworks	$ 50,000
Municipal Depot	$ 110,000
	$ 185,000

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 prioritorised before submission to the Minister for signature.

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

or booksellers:

(a) NT Firms:
(i) Connoissuer 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

(g) Paul Hamlyn	$	1,135
(h) Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies	$	50
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:

- 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
- Less 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.

Location	Administrative	Operational Support	Operational	Totals
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 Gizel 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 Gizel 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 Aboriginals 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 Aboriginals 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 Aboriginals aged 60 and over were blind. The percentage of blindness in NT Aboriginals 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 Aboriginals.

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.

ABC repeater station, Katherine 182
Able Transport 215
Aboriginal -
  blindness, ABC statement 228
  camping areas 110
  encouragement in horticulture 228
  Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 111, 151
  services *165, 201
Adelaide River crops 212
Adoption of children 144
Aerial spraying of insecticide 189
Age of consent 149
Agreement between NT government and AFAP 119
Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority 119
Air-conditioning in schools 184
Alcohol treatment centre funding *168
Alice Springs -
  Abattoirs 150
  alcohol related offences 192
  bus service 142
  council bylaws 155
  environmental damage by roadworks 202
  farm produce 210
  Golf Club *161
  link courses between schools *168
  NTEC after-hours service 123
  pinball parlours 208
  prison 208
  recreation lake 147, 178
  TAFE positions 193
  traffic and railway *160
  transport of schoolchildren 196
  water pressure, racecourse area 131
Amateur fishing licences 119
Animal nutrition research 190
Ansett Airlines, proposal 130
Antibiotics in stockfeed 123
Appeals against disciplinary actions in CTS 142
Apprentices accommodation 130
Arafura Hostel, redevelopment of site 114
Araluen and Sadadeen subdivisions 211
Arts Advisory Council 139
Assets register for Government Printing Office 146
Bagot road flyover 123
Berrimah -
  bituminising access roads 135
  Experimental Farm 212
  Prison 207
  rates 139
Borroloola-Roper Bar road 187
Breathalyser blood-alcohol levels 125
Bus shelters, lighting 132
Bushfires Act, prosecutions 184
Carpentaria College 111, 136, 137, 156
Casuarina Hospital -
  computer operation 116
  emergency power failure 114, 115
  translation facilities 158
Cattle duffing 111
Cattlemen, government assistance 183
Central Australian Community College, hospitality course 196

Centrepoint library 120
Charter aircraft, expenditure by ministers *161, 186
Charter operators over RPT routes 127
Child Welfare Bill 125
Church of England, Carpentaria College Inc, loans 170
Coastal Plains Research Station 136
Coastal surveillance and medical contract 119
Collia tin mine *86, *143, *159
Commonwealth Teaching Service 121
Concessions for interstate pensioners 109
Conference of Council Presidents and Aboriginal communities 198
Connair -
  purchase 117, 120, 121
  TAA bid *165
Correspondence students 222
Crocodile farm 158
Cropping Development Scheme, report 131
Cryptostegia Grandiflora and Calitropis Procera 141
Darwin airport, site 214
Darwin Community College -
  BA degree 146
  handbook-1981 223
Darwin Hospital -
  future use 128
  nurses' quarters 177, 215
Darwin primary schools, upgrading 152
Demountables from Darwin Hospital 145
Department of Community Development -
  advertisement in NT News *160
  Grants-in-Aid *161
Department of Transport and Works -
  contractors 141
  water division staff *167
Detoxification units 110, 118
Dhupuma College -
  applications for old buildings 147
  government expenditure 169
  staff 169, 205
Discount air fares for public service 226
Dollar-for-dollar subsidies 138, 140
Donkey Camp, electricity supply 138
Douglas-Daly project farms 115
Douglas Station, selling price 117
Draft Criminal Code 125
Dress standards for hotels 229
Duck hunting licences 134
East West Airlines 121, 124, 127, 128, 129, 131,*166
Education Department -
  budget cuts 141
  handbook 155
  regulations 149
  staffing 111, 153
Elsey and Hodgson Downs pastoral leases *162
Emergency accommodation 204
Ewaninga Reserve, uranium discovery 209
Exploration licences in Arnhem Land 147
Fannie Bay Gaol 133
Female field worker with Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority *168
Fire-station in rural area 149
Fisheries vessels 205
Fishing incentives 142
Foot and mouth disease in NZ 112

Gas turbine station, Snell Street *163
Geothermal power sources 157
Grants-in-aid 1980-81 170
Health clinic, Peel Street 144
Hermannsburg Mission *162
Hodgson Downs Station bores *163
Holcroft Report 129
Home Loans Scheme 211
Horses, travelling stock 127
Hospitalisation of injured schoolchildren *163
Housing Commission -
  Aboriginal accommodation 224
  advertisement in Weekend Australian 200
  document on Aboriginal housing 199
  industry accommodation 154
  questionnaire on sale of flats 198
  vacant blocks in Katherine 182
Housing development, Ludmilla 147
Hybrid solar-generating unit from WA 144
Indemnity forms for schoolchildren *162, 187
Indo-Pacific Marine 154
Industries Training Commission 130, *168
Insurance cover for schoolchildren 187
Jabiru -
  hospital 136
  water supply contamination *163
Katherine -
  appointment of resident magistrate 178
  blocks 534 and 536 189
  community welfare office *162
  flood insurance 185
  High School, cleaning contract *162
  land sales 190
  litter prosecutions 184
  loitering 188
  Meteorological Bureau services 188, 222
  pensioner cottages 223, 226
  Planning Authority 156
  Transport and Works and Telecom depots 182
  water supply *162
  weed control program 229
Katherine River, damming 138
Koerner, Richard *163
Kormilda College -
  attendance by former Dhupuma College students 143
  graduates 197
Land brokers in NT 150
Langton Road 141
Leave of absence legislation 124
Library services *167, 179, 220
Local government authorities, grants 218
Local government elections 177
Long service leave legislation 109
Malak, rezoning of open space land 110
Mandorah Road 177
Marina, model design 122
Marketing of shark 140
Meat processing companies 189
Mercury tests on sharks 156
Mereenie aquifer 201

Mindil Beach, casino 111
Mines and Energy Department -
  Morgan Gallup poll 148
  officer's visit to South Africa 152
Minister for Primary Production and Tourism, overseas trip 134
Motor vehicle licence plates and registration stickers 113
Mount Wells Battery, take-over 157
Naval headquarters, reconstruction 138
Nhulunbuy -
  appointment of surgeon 134
  Housing Commission, homes sales 132, 137
  library 140, *179
  water rates 114
North Australian Baptist Homes Trust, loans 169
Northern Airlines -
  Ansett proposal 130
  Heron aircraft use 225
  Katherine service 228
  pilot bans *166
  pilots, alternative employment 120
  replacement by TAA *167
  submission by TAA 130, 134
Northern Territory Development Corporation 213
Northern Territory Electricity Commission -
  membership 186
  services 131
Northern Territory Police Force 224
Northern Territory Public Service *163
Northumberland Insurance Co. 112
Nuclear power-station 125, 216
Numbulwar, freight costs *164
Offences against Commonwealth laws 191
Old timers home in rural area 114
Operational Grant Subsidies Scheme *160
Palm beetle infestation 115
Pensioners -
  concession scheme 135, *161
  taxi vouchers scheme 207
Performing arts centre 113
Pine Tree Motel 231
Planning Appeals Committee 180
Planning Authority *164, 180
Plant variety rights scheme 109
Police station, 19-mile 119
Ports in NT 141
Primary school at Fred's Pass Reserve 121
Prison farm 225
Prisoner work release scheme 118
Private hospital 145
Public buildings, modifications for handicapped 186
Public housing, out-of-turn allocations *86, *159
Radio reception in outback 229
Radio-telephone communications 185, 213
Railway through Darwin 155
Rape bill, introduction 133
Residential subdivisions 211
Robinson River Station *161
Roper Highway 187
Rum Jungle, rehabilitation of mine site *165, 113

23100.814-31

Sadadeen subdivision *160
Sales tax -
  on freight 136
  rebate scheme *164
Schools Commission Innovation Committee 194
Scoliosis problem with schoolchildren 143
Shortwave radio to outback 127
Single officer accommodation, Gap Road 140
Single officers housing review, document 193
Social security payments to organisations 204
South Australian Symphony Orchestra, visit 109, *167
Special school, Darwin 123
State reference library, Cavenagh Street 139
Street lighting 133
Stuart Highway, upgrading to Heavitree Gap 153
Superannuants concession scheme 152
Taxis for handicapped children 145
Teacher shortages in public schools *168
Teachers in remote areas 180
Telecom services to rural areas 143
Tenders for school bus runs *164, *165
Ti Tree, coroner's inquiry into fatal shooting 206
Todd River reserve 206
Toxic shock syndrome 124
Trachoma health program 210
Transecutive pilots *167, 122
Tropical fruits, nuts and vegetables 112
TV reception in outback 131
Uranium workers register 176
Utopia land claim 192
V.B. Perkins & Co Ltd 226
Vegetables, imported 153
Vehicles, allocation to schools 180
Vesteys Beach marina 142
Womens' refuges 203
Yirara College 197
Youth centre capital works subsidy 157
Yuendumu -
  airstrip 230
  road *163
Yulara Tourist Village 209
Yulngu Association 227

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.

Audit for Northern Territory Government

Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the Treasurer note that the Prime Minister, in his statement on the review of Commonwealth government functions, indicated that the Commonwealth Auditor-General will no longer carry out audits for the Northern Territory government? What steps are being taken to ensure that appropriate audit functions will continue to be maintained?

Question re-directed to CHIEF MINISTER

ANSWER

It was thought inappropriate that the function of Auditor-General should be the responsibility of the Treasurer and, for that reason, I hold administrative responsibility for the function of Auditor-General although, of course, that gentleman operates quite independently other than for administrative support. The remarks of the Prime Minister in his statement were noted. A paper has been prepared for the consideration of Cabinet by officers of my department relating to the total effect on the Territory - good, bad or indifferent - of the various facts germane to the Territory in the statement made by the Prime Minister in the federal parliament some weeks ago. Only last night, I was able to read that document and approved it for submission to Cabinet. Cabinet will consider what steps we should take in relation to either the establishment of an Auditor-General's unit in the Northern Territory or perhaps calling for tenders from firms of chartered accountants for the work of the Auditor-General to be carried out. These are matters which will no doubt be considered by Cabinet in terms of the options put forward to it, but it is too early at this stage to say what decision is likely to be made.

Bag Limit for Territory Fishermen

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

I understand that a number of problems are being experienced with the bag limit that has been imposed on Territory fishermen. Are problems being experienced and, if so, is anything being done by the government to counter these problems?

ANSWER

I have had no reports about problems with the bag limit. Indeed, I have heard no fish stories recently at all. I believe that the present management regime is: no re-issue of surrendered or cancelled fishing licences, restriction on the transfer of commercial licences except for reasons of hardship, injury or ill-health, a 4-month closed season for commercial fishing extending from 1 October to 31 January, a restriction on the maximum net length to be used by commercial fishermen to 1,500 metres, the development of alternative fisheries to provide an outlet for excess fishing effort is being encouraged and, of course, there is the bag limit. I would say that there is some doubt in my mind as to the operation of all these measures in conserving this natural resource which is so important to Territorians. In due course, I believe that the government will take the step of initiating an inquiry into the barramundi fishery over and above the other work that is being carried out by the department. We will look at ways and means of further ensuring the conservation of this remarkable fishery.

Carpentaria College Site

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

At the last Assembly sittings, he indicated that a development plan would be prepared for Carpentaria College and placed on public display. Can he advise what stage this development plan has reached?

ANSWER

Yesterday morning, I saw for the first time the development plans in sketch form. I understand that they have now been lodged with the Planning Authority. I would imagine that, over the next week, they will become available for public scrutiny if the full plans are available. All I saw yesterday was a conceptual layout which looked very interesting and would probably result in a very useful facility for that area.

Instant Money Game

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is the South Australian-based instant money game legal in the Territory and, if so, what revenue does the Territory gain from its operation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the instant money game, which is available in Alice Springs and Darwin at least, is legal in the Territory. The game is subject to an agreement between the Northern Territory government and the South Australian government. Under this agreement, the Territory retains a portion of the South Australian government's commission on sales of the game. Revenue obtained from this source is expected to be about $50,000 by the end of the current financial year. It is interesting to place the instant money game into context with other games which attract increasing patronage from the public in the Territory and from which the Territory government derives revenue, even though we have not legislated for these financial arrangements with the states. Actual expenditure on interstate lotteries in 1979-80 totalled about $2.195m from which the Territory obtained $363,575 in commission. Projections on expenditure this financial year indicate a total expenditure of $2.8m on interstate lotteries such as Tattslotto, NSW lotto and instant money, bringing an estimated $450,000 to the Territory government. It is significant that the projected figures for this financial year represent a 27% increase in expenditure over the previous year. A further 46% increase in revenue is projected for 1981-82. The anticipated expenditure on interstate lotteries in 1981-82 is expected to be $4.1m, returning an estimated $840,000 to the Northern Territory in commissions. It would seem that at least some Territorians do have spare cash to have a flutter from time to time in gambling even outside of casinos.

Kakadu National Park

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise to what extent the management, direction and control of Kakadu National Park have been transferred to the Northern Territory as a result of the federal government review of government functions?

ANSWER

No.

Cement Manufacture from Coral at Gunn Point

Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Are tests being carried out on coral reefs off Gunn Point to evaluate their possible use for cement manufacture? If so, by whom are the tests being carried out and what is the government's attitude to the possible destruction of this valuable biological resource?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any such tests. It may be helpful if the member for Fannie Bay refers the question to my colleague, the Minister for Mines and Energy, who may know something of this matter. It certainly has not come within

my purview although the Conservation Commission may be aware of it. I can seek information if my colleague knows nothing of it.

Staffing Dispute - 14-Mile Fire Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he at liberty to tell me the results of the meeting between the Northern Territory Fire Brigade staff and Deputy Public Service Arbitrator Booth regarding arbitration in the staffing dispute relating to the 14-mile temporary fire station?

ANSWER

I have a summary of the outcome of those hearings which I am happy to make available to honourable members. Briefly, the major results of the hearing are that the 14-mile fire station be manned during the dry season and that previous working arrangements continue. This means that the minimum manning strength for low fire danger days will be 15 men and the minimum manning strength on very high to extreme fire danger days will be 17 men. Senior duty officers may call upon additional men should the situation so require in an emergency. These arrangements will be reviewed by the Director of Fire Services once he has had the opportunity to fully assess the brigade's operational requirements.

Cement Manufacture from Coral at Gunn Point

Mrs O'Neil to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I would like to re-direct my earlier question to the Minister for Mines and Energy.

ANSWER

To advise the member, there have been applications made for at least 10 years for exploration licences for the area. Two of the parties involved in these licence applications are Adelaide Brighton Cement and Darwin Cement. I cannot tell the member of the business relationship between the 2 but I know that they have an interest. There are a couple of aspects that I would like to bring to the member's attention. Firstly, the land is under an Aboriginal land claim and, as such, the applications for exploration licences over the area would not be dealt with in the normal course of events. Secondly, the area of interest is outside the 3-mile limit and is therefore under Commonwealth jurisdiction. Therein lies a problem in itself because the Commonwealth, at this stage, does not have any legislation to enable us to handle offshore minerals although we can handle offshore gas and oil. As far as the taking of samples is concerned, I believe some sampling has been done in a minor way to test the chemical composition of the limestone reefs. I would not regard the actual sampling as anything extraordinary. It could be very helpful because it might determine at an early stage that there is nothing there worth pursuing and save private interests and government a lot of time in processing worthless applications. If the honourable member would like any additional information, I will get if for her but I leave it to her to advise me.

Demountables from Darwin Hospital

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Have all the demountables from the old Darwin Hospital been allocated?

ANSWER

The demountables were certainly allocated, however not all parties to whom they have been allocated have removed them. Of late there have been at least 2, to my recollection, changes and withdrawals of offer as it were and demountables have been used for other purposes. The removal of all the buildings that are surplus at the Darwin Hospital certainly has been planned for.

University Planning Unit

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the announcement of the federal government that there will be no funding for the Territory university in the current triennium, could he advise what will happen to the University Planning Unit?

ANSWER

As the honourable member is well aware, the federal government took the decision that the Northern Territory does not, in its view, require a university at this time, completely in the absence of the advice of the very body it set up to so advise. I must say it is one of the most ridiculous turns of events that I have ever experienced. The Tertiary Education Commission, of course, has a charter to make that advice available to the federal government, notwithstanding the government's decision. I understand the TEC will do that quite soon. The future of the Commonwealth's funding could be somewhat coloured by the views of the Tertiary Education Commission. It is the intention of the government that there shall be a university for the Northern Territory, and it is therefore the intention of the government that the Interim Planning Act continue until such time as a university act is introduced into this Assembly. It is certainly the intention of the government to establish an interim senate. We intend that there shall be a university in the Northern Territory. It is a matter of convincing the Commonwealth that we are correct in that intention. There is no reason why we cannot pass in this Assembly - if the Assembly is so willing - an act to establish a university of the Northern Territory, with or without Commonwealth funding. What it does mean, of course, is that we may run into great difficulties as we get into the business of undergraduate teaching without Commonwealth money for the simple reason that the Commonwealth is the sole funding agent of undergraduate teaching throughout Australia and it would be seen by other universities as odd, to say the least, if the Northern Territory went alone into that type of funding. There are many things we can do in the area of establishing a university notwithstanding the present Commonwealth government decision. I would think that we could do virtually all of those things which a university does short of actual undergraduate lecturing. I hope that the Commonwealth will come to the view arrived at by the Northern Territory community: a university is needed in the Northern Territory. I do not know what the recommendations of the TEC will be but I hope they will be favourable to the establishing of a university in the Northern Territory and, if they are, I hope the Commonwealth will see the light.

Beatrice Hill Research Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION AND TOURISM

What are the government's intentions for the use of the complex at Beatrice Hill now that Professor Harry Messel has vacated the premises?

ANSWER

The proposal is that the Breatrice Hill Research Station be incorporated into the Coastal Plains Research Station for work on buffalo research and pasture improvement. There is also a possibility of carrying out some rice research.

Air Terminal for Darwin

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the federal government's decision to sell Australian air terminals to the private sector, can the minister confirm whether Darwin's new terminal will be constructed on schedule?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide the honourable member with that information. I will provide it to her later in these sittings.

Director of NT Fire Brigade

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What experience in fire fighting and fire prevention does the new director of the NT fire service have and how much of that experience has been obtained in tropical conditions?

ANSWER

The experience that the new director has is quite extensive. I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Trotting in the Territory

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Rumour has it that trotting will be coming to Darwin in the not too distant future. Has the Racing and Gaming Commission been approached to support trotting in the Territory?

ANSWER

No application has been put to the Racing and Gaming Commission to establish a trotting industry in the Northern Territory although some interest has been expressed in the establishment of a trotting track in the Northern Territory. The Racing and Gaming Commission has quite an open mind on this matter. Indeed, the upgrading and future plans for the Winnellie Park Greyhound Track may include the possibility of a trotting track at the same venue in due course. However, at this time, it is only a broad idea in people's minds. There is no serious push in the community by persons interested in establishing trotting in the Territory.

Commonwealth Insurance Commissioner

Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has the Treasurer noted that the office of the Commonwealth Insurance Commissioner is to reduce its supervision of the insurance industry throughout Australia as a result of the recent federal government decision to review its functions? Is the Treasurer satisfied that the operations of the industry in the Northern Territory are being adequately scrutinised to ensure the security of policy holders?

ANSWER

I am certainly satisfied that the Northern Territory Insurance Commissioner is carrying out his functions as laid down for him under legislation passed by this Assembly. It is quite clear that the Northern Territory Commissioner does not have powers or indeed resources to keep an eye on the Australia-wide insurance companies offering certain forms of insurance in the Northern Territory. I am certainly satisfied that he is doing that.

Rehabilitation of Rum Jungle

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Could the minister advise on the progress of plans to carry out further rehabilitation on the Rum Jungle uranium mine?

ANSWER

I can advise the honourable member that certain negotiations between the

Commonwealth and ourselves have been concluded. I am not aware of the details, but I will write to him and put them on paper so that he is up to date. If he would like to ring my office every month and remind me, I will send him a written report so that he does not get too far behind.

60-Mile Farm

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is it the intention of the government that the 60-mile farm be taken over by the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority and, if so, what is the reason for this?

ANSWER

I understand that the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority has an arrangement with the Department of Primary Production to position one of its operators at the 60-mile farm. It is establishing a house at UARES.

Bores in Humpty Doo Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the Water Division putting down exploratory or production bores in the Humpty Doo area? If so, what is the reason?

ANSWER

I do not believe that the department is sinking bores in that area at the moment.

Funds for Hydro-electric Scheme

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it the intention of the government to seek funds from the Loan Council later this month for a hydro-electricity scheme?

ANSWER

I will be making a statement later in the sittings on the total electricity strategy. The short answer to her question is no.

Hearing Damage in Pinball Parlours

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of the recent testing carried out by his department that indicates that both the users and employees of pinball parlours will suffer permanent hearing damage after a disturbingly short period of time, what is the minister going to do to redress the situation?

ANSWER

The honourable member raises an issue that is currently being examined by the department. I understand that an environmental health unit, which is comprised of officers of the Department of Health and the Department of Mines and Energy, has looked at several pinball parlours in the Darwin area and will examine others throughout the Northern Territory to establish whether the noise levels are injurious on a permanent basis to the people who use the pinball parlours and determine what should be done. I think the important factor is the amount of use given by any individual to a parlour at any one time. Certainly people employed in parlours must be at a disadvantage. However, they are there by their own choice and the degree of government control has to be examined. When the matter is finalised, I will be happy to advise the honourable member of the outcome.

Funding to Industry

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is the expected level of funding that the Northern Territory Development Commission will have made available to industry for the financial year 1980-81?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Development Corporation is running at a very high level of activity and honourable members will be aware that, in previous budgets, the government has chosen to increase funding to the Territory Development Corporation. Until April this year, the Northern Territory Development Corporation had allocated or committed $5.2m in new loans to primary industry, secondary industry and tourism. It is estimated that, by the end of 1980-81, the total will be about $6.9m and, compared with $3.6m for the previous year, that is an increase of some 92%. The government is determined that in general it will assist as a lender of last resort. That is not so in the case of loans to primary industry etc but, as far as general industry in the Territory is concerned, the government is determined to assist people to establish the infrastracture that is required to keep Territory people employed as far as possible and to keep the Territory's population explanding as fast as we can.

Project Farms

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Why were the number of project farms proposed for the Douglas Daly region reduced from 4 to 2, given a short list of 8 eligible farmers for the project?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, one of the constraints imposed on the operation of the authority was that of obtaining enough land to proceed with the original planning of the 4 project farms. The position is that 2 farms are presently being developed. We hope to secure a third and have it developed by the end of this year. I believe that the progress made by the chairman of the agricultural authority has been quite significant. The complete staffing of his Land Development Section has been completed. Land acquisition contracts should be signed this month. Of the 64 applicants, 8 farmers were interviewed and are on a short list. We shall be selecting those farmers in the weeks ahead. We hope that they will take up residence on the project farm in August or September. Some 600 hectares have been cleared with windrowing, bore development, water development and an airstrip alongside the Hot Springs road. Tenders have been let for 70 kilometres of fencing. There were 6 houses in the original order which are going up now: 1 at Upper Adelaide River, 3 at Douglas Daly and 2 on the 2 project farms that are almost ready. The other hopes and aspirations of the authority in the next year or so will be the establishment of a grain-receiving store in Katherine and, of course, a fertiliser seed store. I think the progress has been very good and tribute must be paid to the chairman of the agricultural authority.

Darwin Central Zone Sewerage System

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What action is the government taking to overcome the increasingly serious problems of the Darwin central zone sewerage system?

ANSWER

I believe that the department is taking some steps to improve the facility out at Ludmilla swamp. I will try to obtain a brief for the honourable member.

Magistrates in Alice Springs

Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is it true that Alice Springs will shortly be served by only 1 resident magistrate? Is it intended to retain 2 resident magistrates in Alice Springs in future given the current workload of the magistrates there and population trends in the Centre?

ANSWER

Some time ago, the Chief Minister carried out a survey of the workloads of the various Territotry centres and the need for magistrates to undertake those workloads in the lower courts. As a result of carrying out that survey, it was decided that there was a greater workload in Darwin and that there was insufficient work in Alice Springs at present to justify 2 full-time magistrates. The Chief Magistrate's proposal is that, should there be an accumulation of work from time to time in Alice Springs because of the transfer of the second magistrate from there to Darwin, a magistrate will be sent to Alice Springs to catch up with the backlog.

Annual Reports of NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it his intention to table the 2 overdue annual reports of the Northern Territory Development Corporation during the current sittings of the Assembly and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

During the sittings, I will be tabling the annual report of the Northern Territory Development Corporation for 1978-79. This document has only recently been completed. We received the Auditor-General's report on it. As I say, it has been completed in the last few days and the final work on the 1979-80 report could not commence until it was completed. However, it is proceeding now and will be tabled in this Assembly as soon as possible.

Education of Handicapped Children

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

The Northern Territory teachers Federation has recently criticised the provision made by the Department of Education for the education of handicapped children in the Northern Territory. Can he give any assurance that adequate provision is being made for these children?

ANSWER

From memory, the comment that the member refers to is the only comment that the Northern Territory Teachers Federation has made on the Green Paper. I find it rather disappointing, to say the least, that their first and only comment on that document should not only be a negative one but a completely inaccurate one. The fact is that this government, since it assumed responsibility for what is called special education, has increased the number of teachers in that field by 100%. We have doubled the number in the short period that we have had responsibility. Indeed, approximately 14% of Northern Territory teachers are now involved in one way or another in the field of special education. We have a very sophisticated system. In that particular field, it is probably one of the best in the country. In fact, we have established a council under the Education Act to advise the minister and action is being taken on recommendations made by that body. While I appreciate that the comment made by the Teachers Federation was one of its rare ones that actually related to kids, it is most unfortunate that it was not true.

Northern Territory Teaching Service

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the abolition of the Commonwealth Teaching Service and the former conditions of service enjoyed by Northern Territory teachers altered the Northern Territory government's decision to establish and maintain a teaching service for the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I wonder if that question is prompted by my giving notice of an amendment to the Teaching Service Act. I hasten to point out to the honourable member that there is no relationship between the 2. Nonetheless, he does raise a very interesting point. The cornerstone of the arrangements between this government and officers in the public employ has been a government guarantee of conditions of service equal to or at least not worse than those as at the date of transfer. That is a very important phrase of course: 'as at the date of transfer'. This government accepted in part the proposition for the establishment of an independent teaching service with its own commissioner on the basis that all teachers to whom I spoke, not just the federation executive, perceived very strongly that an independent commissioner was a condition of service as at the date of transfer, I wonder what advice the Teachers Federation might offer me.

Local Products Promotion Campaign

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Which company prepared the local products promotion campaign for the Northern Territory Development Corporation?

ANSWER

The local products display, which I have not yet had the opportunity to view myself, has been established in the foyer of the building that the Territory Development Corporation now occupies. It was manufactured in Western Australia by an international firm of design consultants called Industrial and Architectural Model Makers of Fremantle. These people were commissioned by the board of the TDC to provide, design and construct the display case and panels which incorporate an aluminium frame on which the company holds the Australian patent. Whilst it is true that the individual components of the display could have been manufactured separately in the Territory, what could not be supplied was the industrial designer to take the project through from conception to construction incorporating modifications which were required from time to time as the project evolved. The display cases and panels are incidental to the items displayed which are obviously all local products. As a result of this exercise, the NTDC is now attempting to encourage a fully-qualified industrial display expert to establish in Darwin so that in the future local materials and local tradesmen can be fully utilised in this specialised area of trade promotion. Whilst it is a fairly competitive field interstate, it is new to the Territory. It was unfortunate that the NTDC found it necessary to have a first-class display presented to the public in showcases which were made interstate. We hope that it will be the last time that it has to happen.

Closure of Dump Road Crossing in Alice Springs

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

What action has he taken over the Australian National Railways' closure of the dump road crossing in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

My department has written to the Australian National Railways to have that particular section reopened.

Crocodile Sightings near Public Swimming Areas

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

What is being done about crocodile sightings near public swimming areas, particularly yesterday's sightings of a crocodile at Vesteys Beach?

ANSWER

In relation to crocodile sightings generally and in relation to crocodiles being sighted near areas frequented by the public, the Conservation Commission has undertaken for quite some time a program of trapping or netting crocodiles and then either removing them to an area of less danger to the public or giving them to the operator of the local crocodile farm. I understand that at present there is 1 team of 3 crocodile catchers operating and that a further team of 3 is under training. These 2 teams will operate mainly in the Darwin area but also from time to time at Nhuounbuy. The Conservation Commission has established a crocodile hotline. I think the press has given prominence to telephone numbers so that people can report sightings of crocodiles to the Conservation Commission and prompt action be taken to attempt to trap the crocodiles. The problem that arose yesterday at Vesteys Beach was that a 1.6 metre crocodile was sighted at about 10 am by a person from the Ski Club. The Conservation Commission sent a team to the area to attempt to capture it. Unfortunately, the crocodile had been frightened by sightseers and the team was unable to get close enough to it. They were there for about 2 hours but it finally disappeared. They went out again last night looking for the crocodile but after about 3 hours were again unsuccessful. They will probably have to wait on further sightings from the public to locate it. It appeared to be a young female and these apparently move about a fair bit. Another team went to Middle Arm last night to check for crocodiles. Other officers of the Conservation Commission are trapping crocodiles over a 12-mile stretch upstream and downstream from the Daly River reserve and the public picnic area. Another team of rangers left for Maningrida this morning after a reported sighting.

Special Purposes Leases Alice Springs

Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will the application for special purposes leases for transient and permanent residents in Alice Springs lodged by the Tangentyere Council and other incorporated bodies before the minister's statement of 22 May be approved?

ANSWER

The question should be directed to the Minister for Lands and Housing who handles the processing of applications for land by any party in the Northern Territory. My statement was associated with a general policy laid down by Cabinet on the subject of camping areas in towns. That is why the statement emanated from my office. However, questions on the subject of individual applications, their processing and whether or not they fit into the policy of the government should be directed to the Minister for Lands and Housing.

Special Purposes Leases Alice Springs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I redirect the question to the Minister for Lands and Housing.

ANSWER

I do not have a clear picture of which lease applications the member refers to. If he wants a definitive answer to his question, it would be better for him to put it on notice because the Tangentyere Council and most of the councils down there seem to scatter applications around like confetti. There are 3 applications before me at the moment which are recognised by the government as being legitimate. There is one on South Terrace and it has been indicated to

the people in Alice Springs that that lease will be made available to them. There is also the Larapinta Valley application, which I understand is almost ready for handing over, and also the Old Timers needs claim. Those will be issued as soon as possible. I do not know which other claims the honourable member refers to.

Assistance to Rural Development

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does the Territory Development Corporation provide assistance for rural development?

ANSWER

The Territory Development Corporation does provide a range of assistance to people for rural development. By the term 'rural development', I understand the honourable member for Tiwi to mean agricultural-type pursuits or pastoral-type pursuits. Under the provisions of Territory Development Corporation policy and procedures at the moment, assistance is provided by way of farm improvement under the rural adjustment scheme and under the provisions of a cropping development scheme. The government introduced this scheme 2 years ago and has continued with it. Aid is also provided under the Territory Development Corporation's general guidelines for assisting the development of industry without specifying particular industries. The farm improvement component of the rural adjustment scheme provides assistance to eligible applicants to develop their holdings into an economic unit by improving the effective use of a farm without adding to its area. Advances can be made for plant, livestock, carry-on expenses and further property development intended to restore the economic viability of the farm. That is the principal area where a person with an agricultural pursuit would make application to the Territory Development Corporation. The rural adjustment scheme applies to all agricultural, horticultural and pastoral industries and has a strict eligibility criterion which restricts assistance to existing farmers only and requires that an applicant must have good prospects of long-term viability. The Territory Development Corporation's general guidelines for assisting industry can apply to a range of areas for a range of purposes. Indeed, the Territory Development Corporation has been a very busy body for the last 3 years in the Territory providing assistance to industries to maintain the pace of economic growth.

Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students in the Northern Territory are in receipt of aid under the tertiary education assistance scheme and how many are on full allowance?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask that the question be placed on notice.

Papunya Health Service

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

The minister made a statement that 'Papunya-type health services' are a failure and that the facts demonstrate this. Could he advise the Assembly what services he describes as 'Papunya-type health services' and what are the facts that demonstrate they are a failure?

ANSWER

Before self-government, the Papunya health service was run as a community health operation by the Department of Health. Before the transfer of that department to the Northern Territory, the Papunya operation was transferred within the Commonwealth to the Liappa Congress for administration by that congress.

Funds were to be provided to the Liappa Congress by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for a community-based health system. The philosophy of this sort of thing sounds very nice, but it contains problems which are compounded throughout the community. It is not possible to have a community-based health system that is not related to the overall health system in the Northern Territory. As was proven in the Papunya incident, the first requirement of the Papunya health service was drugs, then the aerial medical service, then the normal backup services that every community health system in the Territory requires from its nearest major hospital. Therein lay one of the flaws: they could not be an independent medical service providing a full medical service to the Papunya people because they did not have the backup system. One of the difficulties was a problem of maintaining continuity of staff. This is not a new problem to the Northern Territory; we all have it in various fields. Again it is a problem that is compounded for the Papunya organisation or the Liappa Congress because it is so small; it has no greater resources to draw on in times of emergency to replace staff. One of the advantages of the present system is that, if staff are removed from or leave of their own choice a certain area in a remote place, there are several hundred other sisters in the system who can be called upon in an emergency to replace them. The same goes for doctors and other members of the medical fraternity.

I received a report from the Department of Health in November 1980 outlining what it believed was a deterioration in the operation of the Papunya Health Centre per se, the standards of health and hygiene and the overall health of the children in the community as measured by the admissions to the Alice Springs health system. I was so concerned with the content of the report that I took it to the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and suggested to him that there needed to be a review of the Papunya situation in light of the report, if only to confirm or deny what was contained in it. The federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has had his people looking at it but I do not know that any action has been taken. I have also raised the matter with the federal Minister for Health because it is a matter of concern to me that this situation may continue and possibly deteriorate. I would be more than happy to let the honourable member see the report. I regard it as confidential at this stage but, if the honourable member would like to read it, I am more than happy for him to do so.

About 12 months ago, I had planned a trip to Papunya. Quite contrary to reports I read in the press that I have been invited a dozen times, I had to invite myself through the Director of Health, Dr Gurd, who made arrangements for us to travel. However, an election was pulled on and the visit was postponed. I have not had an opportunity to make the visit even though it is my intention to do so. The government's view on independent health services is that it is more than happy to see them working in tandem with the Northern Territory's medical service. It becomes extremely difficult when, for their own reasons, they decide to become independent and then call on the department for every other service that is required in the community. There is a certain amount of give and take required in both services if it is to work. I would hope that the new health funding arrangements will mean the entry of general practitioners into areas like Papunya, Yuendumu and any other communities that want to have them. I do not think that that is an unreasonable extension at all but it is a matter for the community. I realise that the principle might be anathema to some members but nevertheless some people are used to doing things in that way and that is their right. I will leave the invitation open to the member to peruse the report on Papunya. If he needs any further information on it, I will endeavour to provide it for him.

Financial Assistance to Primary Producers

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Can he give me an approximation of the extent of financial assistance to

primary producers this financial year?

ANSWER

By 30 June 1981, the Northern Territory government will have provided loans and assistance to the extent of about $585,000. This covers carry-on finance, fertiliser, freight subsidies, advances against crops by way of pre-payment and various other services such as marketing and harvesting assistance. The government has also provided assistance to other aspects of primary industry for drought relief, brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication programs and other extension research services. These services will total over $6.5m by the end of the financial year.

Control of Antibiotics in Stockfeeds

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

When will he introduce legislation to control the quality of stockfeeds, particularly the use of antibiotics in same?

ANSWER

I expect to give notice of the legislation tomorrow.

Penalties for Non-attendance at Schools

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action, if any, is being taken to enforce penalties under the Education Act for the offence of non-attendance at schools?

ANSWER

The member's question raises one of the most difficult subjects that I am faced with at the moment. The answer in short is that no action is being taken. That does not mean to say that I am of the view that some action ought not be taken. There is quite clearly prima facie evidence that that provision in the Education Act is being quite consciously breached in a number of places. However, establishing that to the satisfaction of the court is quite another matter because it becomes a matter of parental judgment as opposed to the 'system's' judgment. I think a prosecution would be extremely difficult. Nonetheless, in a couple of instances, I am so concerned that I may be moved to discuss the matter with the Attorney-General once I have collected a little more information. I will perhaps seek his advice on the advisability of trying a couple of test cases. It is not an easy matter to define just what is an action by a parent which is deliberately against the interests of a child. The provision in the act was designed mainly to prevent exploitation. That is not the type of instance that I have before me. By exploitation, I mean such things as making the child work in a shop rather than sending him to school. Nonetheless, I have evidence of one instance of what could clearly be regarded as neglect. In the other instance, the problem arises because a parent does not happen to like the principal even though that principal is an excellent teacher and has excellent staff. It resulted from a job application. That is quite unacceptable as a reason for not sending a child to school. Perhaps I should not say any more because I may pre-empt what may become a matter before the courts.

Poker Machines in Alice Springs Casino

Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will he reverse his decision to allow the installation of poker machines in the Alice Springs Casino as a result of the continuing expression of protest by the residents of central Australia?

ANSWER

I will not reverse the ministerial discretion allowed me under an act of

this Assembly to approve games of chance to be played in casinos in the Northern Territory. The expressions of protest that he refers to are genuine expressions of concern but I believe that they do not fairly take into consideration all the aspects of the matter and the nature of poker machines themselves. To date, I have certainly heard no good argument why I should reverse my decision.

Palm Leaf Beetle - Biological Control

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

When is a decision likely to be made on whether or not to introduce a parasite to control the palm beetle?

ANSWER

The question of introducing a biological control to contain the spread of the palm leaf beetle is certainly one that the government is considering. A decision will not be taken lightly; many tests have to be undertaken. It would be senseless to introduce a predator to eat a predator and find that we have something beyond control. The question is being examined and I will have more information in due course.

Dick Ward Drive Intersection with Ross Smith Avenue

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he received the traffic consultant's study on the Ross Smith Avenue Dick Ward Drive intersection which was commissioned by his department and, if so, what are its recommendations?

ANSWER

I have not received the study yet.

Outbreak of Strangles

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What program have the veterinary officers of the Department of Primary Production initiated to combat the recent outbreak of strangles in horses in the rural area?

ANSWER

Last night, there was a meeting between government and private veterinarians. Their concern has been to allow the continuation of horse events. They have agreed on control measures which I will read to the Assembly: 'All infected premises will remain in quarantine for at least 14 days after all obvious clinical signs of infection have abated. The only exceptions will be groups of horses on affected properties which are isolated from clinical cases for 14 days and show no signs of disease during this period. As a general recommendation, horse owners are advised not to move unvaccinated horses to any horse event or gathering of horses. All horse events should be adequately supervised and all animals examined for signs of infectious diseases prior to entry. These measures will also allow people to get their horses vaccinated. The outbreak has been contained and only 2 cases of strangles have been confirmed. There have been 100 cases of mild upper respiratory tract infection which is generally a mild disease'.

Auction of Houses in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

During the last sittings, the minister indicated that the Housing Commission would auction 3 Housing Commission houses in Nhulunbuy. Could he say when and under what conditions these auctions will be held?

ANSWER

I do not have the information but I undertake to give it to the honourable member some time today.

Outpatients Fees

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why does it cost $40 per consultation for Outpatients treatment when a private doctor costs about $10.50 and he makes a profit?

ANSWER

Our hospitals are not structured on the same lines as general practitioner operations. They are built as high cost areas of treatment for people who are very sick. We have casualty units and primary care units that could better be operated in another way but, for our own convenience, they are operated within the hospital. Consequently, all the overheads and costs of the hospital, particularly the buildings and infrastructure of the Outpatients areas, are much greater than you would find anywhere else in the community. Compared with what a private practitioner would use to do much the same job, they are quite out of this world. The $40 fee that we estimate it costs us to see a person in Outpatients in the Northern Territory is an average cost throughout the Territory. The cost varies from hospital to hospital as does the bed cost. It is a yardstick that we use to obtain a measure of efficiency. As some people have already said, there are cheaper ways of doing it. For instance, the congress in Alice Springs operates for about $12.50 and private people provide a service for about $10. That is just the nature of the beast. I cannot give an indication that that level of expenditure will be reduced; it is just a fact of life.

Northern Territory Trade Symbol

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does the NTDC hold a copyright of the Northern Territory trade symbol and, if not, who holds the copyright?

ANSWER

I do not believe anyone holds the copyright. If I understand the situation correctly, the government does propose to introduce legislation on this subject to enable the Territory Development Corporation to hold copyright on the use of the Northern Territory trade symbol and to approve its use only for specific purposes. At present, I do not believe anyone does.

Crocodile Sightings near Public Swimming Areas

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): In further elucidation of my earlier answer on crocodiles, I have a late extra bulletin that has just been brought to me. I have just been informed that one of the catching teams has returned to Berrimah with a crocodile captured in the vicinity of Vesteys Beach. I have no further particulars as to whether it is a young female crocodile or otherwise, but if it is a young female crocodile, no doubt it will soon be happily placed with a large team of other crocodiles of both sexes at the crocodile farm.

Crocodile Farm Problems

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Could the Chief Minister advise the Assembly whether the problems that were being experienced at the crocodile farm have been resolved.

ANSWER

I understand that they have been resolved.

Funding of Women's Centres in NT

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the Commonwealth provide 75% of the running costs for women's refuges in the Territory with the Northern Territory making up the shortfall as occurs elsewhere? Can he inform the Assembly what funding allocations women's refuges will receive in 1981-82?

ANSWER

The Leader of the Opposition has asked me for details of an agreement that existed before self-government. I will need time to seek the details. I do not have in my head the specific figures he requires for current funding arrangements with women's centres in the Northern Territory. I would appreciate it if the member would put that question on notice.

Sale of Poisons

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the minister intending to proceed with the introduction of legislation during these sittings to improve the control of the regulations governing the possession and sale of poisons such as strychnine?

ANSWER

I am aware that the poisons legislation has been through Cabinet. I cannot say whether it will be introduced into this Assembly in this sittings but it is certainly ready.

Coastal Surveillance

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In the interests of coastal surveillance off the Northern Territory and having regard to the importance of the Northern Territory in the illegal importation of drugs into Australia and the number of disused airstrips in the Top End, is it a fact that radar surveillance is not continuous for 24 hours from the RAAF Base? If so, could the Chief Minister use his powers of liaison to discuss the situation with the Minister for Defence?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure what powers of liaison are but I will certainly attempt mentally to define them to myself. If I find that they are of any substance, I will attempt to use those powers. I guess what the member means is that I should take this subject up with the Minister for Defence whom I have found in the past to be often a hard-hearted man. On the question of surveillance generally, the Northern Territory considers that the present position is quite inadequate. Deficiencies of current provisions - in the view of the Northern Territory Police Commissioner especially - include the following: a reliance on civilian operations, lack of sufficient resources, inability to respond to intelligence and sighting information, absence of capacity for ad hoc patrols, fixed rates and insufficient localisation of activity. We believe that future arrangements which should apply for coastal surveillance should involve the establishment by the Commonwealth government of a coastguard authority. I have written to the Minister for Transport, Mr Hunt, who presently has responsibility for coastal surveillance, listing the deficiencies with a statement of the Territory's views and recommendations. Our view is that a well-trained and highly disciplined service is required. As I said before, this should be achieved by the establishment of a specialist coastguard authority. But it could be achieved by either of the following methods: an expansion of defence force capability or an expansion of police capability. We prefer the establishment of a specialist coastguard. There needs to be, however, close cooperation between defence forces, any coastguard authority that is formed and the police force. I do not know for certain

how long the radar facility at the Darwin Airport is manned. I believe that it is only manned for about 8 hours a day. I will obtain that information for the honourable member. She may rest assured that the Northern Territory is already pressing the Commonwealth government, not through the Minister for Defence but through the Minister for Transport, for a reassessment of the current position.

Public Drunkenness

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

When does the Chief Minister intend to make a statement in this Assembly concerning proposed legislation on public drunkenness?

ANSWER

I would have thought that if an honourable member wished to make any comment on the documents released by the government over the last couple of weeks, he could have done so in adjournment debates. In fact, a couple of the so-called matters of definite public importance that we have seen this week - health funding particularly - could have been equally well handled in an adjournment debate. The documents have been disseminated by the government for public comment and I circulated the documents to all honourable members. At present, it would be premature for the matter to be debated in a formal sense in this Assembly. Certainly, the government has not made up its mind. It is very difficult for us to express a firm attitude until we gauge public reaction and feedback. I believe that the appropriate time for debating the measure will be if they do indeed come to fruition and if there is legislation. I am open to persuasion on this matter but I believe that members can constructively criticise the documents in the course of the adjournment debates in these sittings.

Rice Production

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What action is to be taken to reintroduce commercial rice production in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would like to be able to give that a very short answer and say that commercial rice production is a viable proposition. The position is not so simple. We made an announcement late in March which indicated that the government had deferred its plans to set up a project rice farm. This was most unfortunate but the establishment cost would have been in the order of some $800,000 over a 3-year period. There was the problem of water storage which was alluded to by the member for Victoria River and there were also problems of testing and further research in that particular area. Thus, the government will not be able to reintroduce the idea of establishing a project farm in the near future. However, a rice task force has been established by the department. We now have 3 rice agronomists on the staff. Future research is being undertaken by the Department of Primary Production in concert with CSIRO. It is hoped that firm steps will be taken towards the next commercial season.

Ministerial Decision on Crown Lease

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he take steps to reverse the decision to offer a Crown lease on Northern Territory portion 1097 which has been demonstrated to be subject to a claim under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act?

ANSWER

I will be addressing myself to that question this afternoon but the short answer is no.

Differential Rating of Properties of City Area

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is the government considering proposals to enable the city council to provide differential rates for properties in the city area?

ANSWER

The government, in consultation with the city council in Darwin, is considering a proposal to amend the Local Government Act to enable differential rating in the city area. The subject rose principally because of the advent of the high-rise car-park in the centre of Darwin and the examination of ways in which contributions may be put towards that car-park by properties which benefit from it. Much of the development in the central business district in Darwin has been done on the basis of waiving car parking requirements under the Planning Act. Those waivers have been in the interests of development. In some cases, they were not requested to put up car-parks to suit the size of the buildings that were built. These systems are not uncommon in other cities around Australia where there are high-rise car-parks. Contributions through rating or other formulae are paid towards the maintenance and cost of high-rise car-parks. Contributions are drawn from those businesses which are specifically benefiting from it. To answer the question, the government is studying this matter at present and I hope to be able to submit proposals to Cabinet in the near future.

Yulara Tourist Village

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What is the approximate value of the government's investment to date in Yulara Village tourist development?

ANSWER

I am not qualified to give an answer on this particular matter. I suggest that the honourable member place the question on notice and direct it to the Chief Minister.

Electricity Connections in Rural Area

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In November 1978, the government introduced a scheme for power connections in rural areas which provided for NTEC to fund up to $2,000 of the cost of an extension for a consumer. In view of the considerable increase in the cost of electricity connections since that time is the government considering increasing the amount by which a consumer may be reimbursed?

ANSWER

There is no proposal before me at the moment to have the level of the subsidy increased. One thing that would affect the cost of connection or a subsidy increase would be the number of people taking advantage of the electricity supply.

Jury Trial Prosecutors

Mr D.W. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I refer to page 12 of the Northern Territory Department of Law Second Annual Report. What success has been gained in recruiting and training of experienced jury trial prosecutors?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for his question which certainly indicates his dedication to the detail of departmental reports. I am informed by the Department of Law that it is extremely difficult to recruit experienced jury

trial prosecutors to work in the Northern Territory. According to my informants in the department, there seem to be 2 major reasons for this. Firstly, an experienced prosecutor in most other jurisdictions in Australia appears before a jury or an appellate court almost every working day whereas in the Northern Territory it is extremely rare for there to be more than 2 jury trials running simultaneously. In fact, this only occurs when the Supreme Court is sitting in Alice Springs as well as in Darwin. Perhaps it is not a scene which appeals to experienced jury trial prosecutors in that they may feel that they could not sufficiently keep their hand in. The Federal Court, which sits in Darwin twice a year, does not offer much experience or scope to an experienced performer from the south because in most southern cities there are more regular sittings of the Federal Court. Basically, the Department of Law believes that it is difficult to recruit experienced men because they feel perhaps there is limited opportunity for their professional development in the Northern Territory. I do not believe that is necessarily so, but it is often difficult to convey to people in the south through the medium of an advertisement that there are indeed greater opportunities. Another difficulty is that of the level of salaries. Salaries offered by the Department of Law are reasonable, but often it would be necessary to offer virtually double the going salary by way of loading to attract these people away from the southern cities because either they are happy in their work in the Crown Law Office in the particular state or they could go to the private bar in the same place and probably earn double or treble the money. It is a big problem. We do attempt to recruit good people who are trained in the course of their experience here. Often people leave the Territory after they have gained a measure of experience which then goes to benefit some Attorney-General's Department or Crown Law Office elsewhere in this country.

Accommodation for Outback Students

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he considering establishing, or assisting some other group to establish, residential accommodation in Darwin for secondary school students and apprentices whose homes are outside Darwin?

ANSWER

I would very much like to be able to provide precisely what the honourable member for Nightcliff mentions. We are aware of this need which goes beyond school age children to students at the Darwin Community College and, hopefully, at a university. The honourable member would be well aware of the expense of doing this. At the moment, in conjunction with other agencies of government, the department is examining a number of options to provide such accommodation. I think we would be foolish if we did not examine such possibilities as private construction and lease-back arrangements with options to purchase. In fact, we should examine any option. I know that this need is not confined to Darwin and its environs. There is a great demand in your own area, Sir, and of course in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. There is a limit to how much we can produce in a given time. I believe that the government must address itself to this problem and certainly we intend to do so.

Medibank Agency at TIO

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

I understand that Medibank is shortly to cease the agency arrangement it has had since the beginning of the Territory Insurance Office. Can he inform me of the latest position?

ANSWER

The Territory Insurance Office has operated an agency for Medibank. In recent times, it has become a lost operation as indeed has the whole operation of health functions. Discussions were commenced some months ago with Medibank

either to subsidise the Territory Insurance Office to continue to run the agency or to take it over itself. In view of the forthcoming changes to health arrangements, Medibank decided that it would prefer to run its own branch in the Northern Territory. Another factor influencing the Medibank decision was that it is about to go on line with an Australia-wide computer system. It felt that the difference between its own and the TIO computer equipment would present technical problems. There will be no reduction in the services provided in the Territory to Medibank clients following this cessation of the TIO's agency arrangement. The staff wishing to remain with the Territory Insurance Office will have the opportunity to do so while those wishing to work in the Medibank office will be able to do so without loss of benefits. It is understood that Medibank will open an office in the Centrepoint building by the end of June.

Health Funding

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

The minister stated during the debate on health funding that Queensland was able to obtain its extra $16m as a result of a large body of statistical evidence which the Territory did not possess. Could be advise what he is doing to redress this situation?

ANSWER

I was referring to historical information that related to charges that were already being levied through medical benefit funds in Queensland for people who were in public hospitals. We have had a situation in the Northern Territory where it has been in the patients' interests not to belong to a medical benefits fund because there was a free hospital service; there was no point in paying a medical benefits levy. We do not have any base data which gives a true indication of the number of people in the community who have medical benefits cover or even the number of people who use medical benefits. In my own instance, one member of my family, who is covered by medical benefits, went to hospital and gave the wrong answer at the counter about whether he was in the fund. He was treated free of cost when in fact the fund should have been sent a bill. That is the sort of information that we do not have available to us in the Northern Territory to use to argue a point. Queensland, by virtue of its different system, was able to make evidence available to the Commonwealth.

Dam Site on Upper Adelaide River

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

If a dam site is chosen on the upper Adelaide River, will the water in this dam be reserved for agricultural development or is it planned to be used to augment Darwin water supplies?

ANSWER

If such a dam were constructed, I believe it would be for both agricultural and domestic purposes.

Yulara Tourist Village

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What guidelines have been laid down regarding the height of buildings at Yulara Tourist Village?

ANSWER

The development of Yulara Tourist Village comes under the Conservation Commission. As such, it is under the purview of the Chief Minister. I refer the question to the Chief Minister.

Yulara Tourist Village

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What guindelines have been laid down regarding the height of buildings at Yulara Tourist Village?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Catering and Hospitality Courses

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How successful are the food and drink waiting courses at Gillen House Alice Springs in regard to gaining employment for the students?

ANSWER

With the advent of the hotel-casino complex in Alice Springs, there will be considerable demand for staff in the catering industry. The record to date has been very encouraging. In fact, it is high time that we made known to the public throughout the Territory the services available and the benefits to be gained from a course at the school of hospitality and catering at Alice Springs. Six students recently completed an 11-week fulltime course in commercial cooking at the Gillen House and they have all entered employment or have been offered employment. Two students have already been employed by Federal Hotels and 1 by Yirara College. Two have received offers from 2 motels. Two food and drink courses have already been offered. Seven students took up the first course and all gained employment as a result. One student dropped out of the course prematurely to accept employment. This of course is a dilemma that students face: half way through the course they realise that they are able to get a job and as a result they do not complete the course. I find it regrettable that they do not complete the course prior to obtaining employment. In that industry, it is quite obvious that employment will be there at the end of the course, although I can understand the apprehension that young people may have. The second of these courses had 7 students and has only just been completed. One student has already been employed at the Oasis Motel while the remaining 6 are currently being interviewed by the new industry opening up down there.

Enrolment of Aborigines on Electoral Roll

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What action is being taken by the government to ensure that Aborigines of 18 years of age and over who are currently not on the electoral roll are so enrolled to ensure compliance with the Northern Territory Electoral Act?

ANSWER

I do not have the details to hand. I suggest the Leader of the Opposition place the question on notice. I will ensure that he receives detailed reply.

Todd River Causeway

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The cost of the causeway across the Todd River from the town of Alice Springs to the casino is being shared by his department and Federal Pacific Hotels Pty Ltd. What proportion of the bill for the causeway across the river is being paid by the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer the honourable member precisely. I will obtain information and provide it to him later during these sittings.

Shipment of Yellowcake from Nabarlek

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What progress is being made on the shipment of yellowcake from the Nabarlek project?

ANSWER

Queensland Mines' Nabarlek operation continues to be the subject of industrial action by its employees. Production of yellowcake has been affected by members of the Seamens Union and the Waterside Workers Federation. This has also had an injurious effect on the shipment of yellowcake. The transport of yellowcake to Darwin ceased in April as storage at the Darwin warehouse reached capacity. All subsequent production has been retained at the mine site and production has now ceased. The treatment plant which has been operated by the staff since early this year has been placed in a holding situation. Queensland Mines has met its contract of sales for 1981 and proposes no further overseas deliveries for this year. Union bans on overseas shipments are still in effect and it is my hope that common sense will prevail between the parties to bring about a lifting of the bans before long. Negotiations are continuing on the mine site dispute. The Arbitration Commissioner's recommendation made on 27 May has not been accepted by the employees who have decided to remain out until the commissioner visits Darwin on the 9th of this month to give a determination on isolation allowances.

Dollar-for-Dollar Subsidy Scheme

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

As we are almost at the end of the financial year, what is the situation regarding the government's dollar-for-dollar subsidy scheme? Specifically, how much of the $500,000 has been committed? If there is a remainder, what will happen to it?

ANSWER

In the Northern Directorate of an amount of $375,000 which was set aside for that directorate for the purposes of the dollar-for-dollar subsidy scheme, the sum total of $358,516 has already been made available. In the Southern Directorate a sum of roughly $75,000 was set aside and $74,019 has been made available. The department informs me that it expects the full amount as appropriated by this Assembly to be used for the purpose. I understand also that, contrary to all the howls and wails that come from various sectors over the policy behind the proposal, it has been extremely popular with parents if not with detractors.

Railway Survey

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

What contribution is the Department of Mines and Energy making towards the Alice Springs Railway survey?

ANSWER

The department will be contributing the services of the Northern Territory geological survey in 3 phases of the railway project. Its geologists will be working in conjunction with the Australian National Railways, the Surveyor-General's Department of the Commonwealth and our own Department of Transport and Works. Phase 1 will be the determination of the route. This work has begun and involves geologists in studies of published geological maps, ground location studies and airborne reconnaissance surveys. As the work becomes further defined, detailed geological mapping will be done of a corridor some 5 to 12 kilometres wide. This is a major and time-consuming exercise and has already been commenced between Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. The other 2 phases involving

the geological survey will follow. These are the search for railway building materials and the investigation of subsurface characteristics at bridge sites and cutting sites. This will involve engineering geologists in geophysical surveys of specific sites where they will use both seismic and electrical methods. It will also involve them in investigative drilling for the design of bridge foundations and an exploration for and testing of materials for building the railway. Quarry site investigations have already commenced. Apart from the railway work, the geological survey is presently engaged on a long-term program of airborne geophysical surveys. These are currently being done in the Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Darwin regions and will provide a spin-off benefit to the railway exercise in that they will be particularly useful in the definition of rock types along the route. This will help in identifying useful materials and suitable foundation. In all, the geological survey will be involved to the degree of using 10% of its staff resources for a period of 2 years on the survey project.

Auction of Houses in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he say when and under what conditions auctions of Housing Commission houses will take place in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

I indicated to the honourable member that I would find out why the auction of the 3 houses had not taken place. The answer is that a legal difficulty, at least in the minds of Nabalco, has prevented it from transferring a sublease to the Housing Commission in order for the auction to go ahead. It would seem that that legal difficulty is involved with the Tenancy Act. The Tenancy Act provides that, if not in a written form then by implied covenant, certain things are and remain the responsibility of the lessor. That includes such things as maintenance, insurance and so on. If it was to be held that the Tenancy Act applies to land transferred by Nabalco to the Housing Commission and subsequently sold to a third party, then Nabalco as sublessor would logically remain responsible for certain things relating to a premises which had been sold to a third party. There is a meeting scheduled for Friday for the Attorney-General and myself to try to sort it out. It is very possible that we will have to come back to this place to solve the problem.

Darwin Trader

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What arrangements have been made with the federal government for the continuation of the Darwin Trader service after September this year?

ANSWER

Negotiations are being carried out with the federal Department of Transport and also with the board and directors of ANL. At this moment, we are unable to determine whether the subsidy will be continued. However, I believe that the federal minister has given an indication that he will support the Northern Territory's bid for a further subsidy to the Darwin Trader to continue to September 1982. We will not know whether we will receive that subsidy until the federal budget is handed down. There are other options that are being looked at by the Northern Territory Department of Transport and Works. Other people have expressed an interest in providing a service on the eastern seaboard. Negotiations and discussions are taking place with these people in case the Darwin Trader is not subsidised by the federal government.

Ross Park Primary School

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it true that a student of the Ross Park Primary School in Alice Springs on being sent by his teacher to the Assistant-Principal for disciplinary action threatened that Assistant-Principal with legal action if the Assistant-Principal caned him?

ANSWER

It is a pity a school has been named. I am not certain that it was that school anyway. It has been brought to my attention that this did indeed occur. While anyone is entitled to the protection of the law and legal representation, one normally assumes that happens after the event rather than before it. What this really raises is not so much an educational matter but the question of the type of use to which Aboriginal Legal Aid is being put in many cases. There is many a policeman who would probably feel the same way about the threat of this type of action. It is not that people really fear appearing before a court and being found to be guilty of civil liability for an action in tort. What they say to themselves is: 'This will cost me a fortune', and it would cost them nothing. Rightly or wrongly, it tends to prevent people taking the actions that they would normally take. I am not saying that this happened in this case. I am merely indicating what I think must be the basis of the question. I have had these expressions of concern put to me, some from within the Department of Education itself. I do not know that there is an easy solution to it. I have heard of the incident occurring in a school but I am not certain that it was the one named.

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Does the government intend to incorporate the land adjacent to the reserve formerly occupied by the Fannie Bay golf course into the East Point Reserve?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Discipline on School Buses

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware of the discipline problem with some high schoolchildren on school buses? If so, would he consider some form of inspection or monitoring on school buses in the interests of social welfare and safety?

ANSWER

Again, it is one of those problems about which I have head stories but nothing specific. The complaints are not only about disciplinary problems but also about the school bus services themselves. It is very rare to be given a specific time and date of an incident which would allow me to follow the matter through. If the member could assist us by investigating, we might have some basis upon which to act. I point out that there is a limit to the resources of any government to constantly employ additional people and then deploy them in the field. The plain fact of the matter is that there are many buses carrying schoolchildren around the Northern Territory. If we were to provide a supervisor in every one of those, I would like the member to tell me from which classrooms we would extract the teachers. We clearly cannot afford it.

Internal Review of Community Health Service

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the internal review of the community health service been completed and,

if so, is he in a position to pass any of the details of that review to the Assembly?

ANSWER

As I indicated at the last sittings, a departmental review was being carried out of the staff levels within the community health service, particularly in the Darwin region. A great deal of concern was expressed at the time that there would be arbitrary reductions in this area. Well that has not proven to be the case. I can advise members that a committee - chaired by Dr Reid, the Acting-Secretary of the department, and comprising Dr Wilson, the Matron of the rural section and the sisters in charge of the respective Community Health Centres in Darwin - has met on several occasions to assess and review staff levels within the Darwin area. It was decided by that committee that the community nursing service could afford to give up 2 sisters. These were transferred to the de-toxification unit at the Darwin Hospital. We have departmental reviews taking place on all aspects of the medical services that we offer to the public. I believe that it is a continuing process. If members would like information on particular reviews, we are keen to provide that information. There is nothing to hide. We think it is prudent to review from time to time what we are doing. There is no doubt that if you lose interest in what the staff are doing, the staff will very quickly get into a very comfortable rut. It is human nature; we all do it.

Crocodile Tracks at Rapid Creek

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister's attention been drawn to concern within the community regarding crocodile tracks near the public park off Rapid Creek Road near Solomon Street? Has the Chief Minister asked the Conservation Commission to investigate the matter and made appropriate recommendations?

ANSWER

My attention has not been drawn specifically to the presence of crocodile tracks in the public park opposite Solomon Street, Rapid Creek. I know the park fairly well because I once represented that area. I am aware of the reported presence from time to time of crocodiles in Rapid Creek because I have 2 sons aged 9 and 7 who seem to find that Rapid Creek has a magnetic influence which draws them each afternoon. When I was a youngster in north Queesland, Mr Speaker, I used to spend all my spare time on the river there. I can understand why my sons and many other kids in the neighbourhoud like to go down to play at Rapid Creek. I will certainly bring this reported sighting of tracks to the attention of the Conservation Commission if it is not already aware of it. I believe that it does pay attention to Rapid Creek from time to time. In fact,my wife keeps me fairly active in that regard.

Stott Terrace Alice Springs

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

When will the decision to resume or not to resume the land along Stott Terrace, Alice Springs, be made?

ANSWER

I doubt that I can give the honourable member a definitive answer. The Department of Transport and Works and the Department of Lands presented the Alice Springs town council with a proposal to provide a western access to the central business district of Alice Springs which, in our view, would have satisfactorily coped with known projections of traffic growth for quite a long time without the necessity for any acquisitions. At the moment, the town council disagrees with the best advice available to myself as Minister for Lands. I understand that the town council requires that the acquisition go ahead. It seems to be rather an odd thing to acquire business property at a cost of some $1½m simply because of a gut feeling of a now retired engineer and without any traffic studies or in-depth thought about traffic flow difficulties in that town. On the best advice available, the problem certainly could be solved without the necessity for very expensive and disruptive acquisitions. Nonetheless - and this is the reason I say it is difficult to arrive at a conclusion as to when the decision will be made - the situation is now somewhat complicated by the signficant problems posed by the Aboriginal people of the area through the Central Land Council and their other councils as to the existence or otherwise of sites of significance in the proposed Sadadeen industrial location.

If the claiming of sites of significance under the various pieces of legislation which govern them, particularly the federal act, is such as to prevent the establishment of an industrial subdivision in the east, then quite clearly the industrial subdivision will have to be in the west. Of course, we have no guarantee that sites of significance will not be found suddenly, or are not in existence, in the western alternative which is to the south-west of the existing abattoir site in Smith Street Alice Springs. As would be obvious to all members who have read the Alice Springs urban requirements study, that study holds the firm view that the new residential emphasis should be placed on the eastern sector of the town. If that is to happen and the industrial area is to be in the west, then there will be a cross-town traffic problem which does not currently exist. That would completely alter forward planning as to the requirements

of trunk routes which go through the central business district. The whole thing is somewhat up in the air at the moment. I am quite anxious that we overcome these difficulties as to the establishment of this very important industrial area in the east in consultation with the Aboriginal people.

The question of the continuation of Stott Terrace Road across the new bridge to the east is also on the mind of the member for Alice Springs. The point is that that road was to service the new east side, both the industrial and residential sectors. It is on the design list and we hope to have that road constructed through Stott Terrace in the 1981-82 financial year. Regrettably, that road also goes through the valley which is subject to claims of sites of significance by the Aboriginal people in that area. Thus, that whole trunk road is now in question in addition to the future siting of the industrial area. All of that has bearing on trunk road designs which go from east to west and right through the heart of the central business district. It is a real dilemma.

Tempe Downs Grazing Licence

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that on or about 20 May 1981 a letter was sent under the hand of the Acting Assistant Director Lands Allocation Branch to Messrs Duncan and Gillman of Tempe Downs Pty Ltd stating that the Tempe Downs grazing licence over Northern Territory portion 1097 - already the subject of debate in this Assembly - would not be extended beyond 30 June of this year because it was subject to claim under the land rights act?

ANSWER

No.

Airlines of Northern Australia

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is there a formal agreement between the Northern Territory government and Airlines of Northern Australia setting out the obligations of the airline in respect to the provision of services and, if so, will he table the agreement in the Assembly?

ANSWER

At the moment, we are functioning under a letter of agreement with Ansett Transport Industries for the operation of Airlines of Northern Australia. The agreement is with the solicitors of the department and those of ATI. Until such time as the document is presented to me, I am unable to proceed with it through Cabinet for its ratification, neither am I in a position to give that undertaking to the member.

Outpatients Consultations

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

If it costs $40 for an Outpatients consultation at Casuarina Hospital - something which a general practitioner could do for $15 or less - why doesn't the government put general practitioners on contract to do the same work?

ANSWER

The matter of the government contracting this sort of work out to the private sector has not been addressed. Certainly I have not considered it at this stage. I am aware that in some places, such as New Zealand, it is a very common practice. Perhaps it would be a suitable practice in some parts of the Northern Territory. It does raise the question, however, of the number of services the government should provide in terms of primary health care. There is a body of opinion that believes that the government should play an important

role in providing Outpatients services of what we regard as a GP nature to the public at large. If this attitude prevails, our hospitals will continue to provide the service even at the greater cost because there will be people who will prefer not to go to a GP but rather to their local public health system for treatment. While it is an obvious conclusion for some people to draw that we should push as many people as possible onto the private practitioner to save the government money, I think a great deal more thought needs to be given to the matter before we take such a decision.

Cropping Development Committee

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is it the intention of the minister to ensure that an appropriate fee is paid to farmers who are members of the Cropping Development Committee given its increased status as an advisory body to the minister?

ANSWER

The committee is a fairly loose and floating one which does provide advice to me through the departmental head. The position is that members are reimbursed for costs of travel, meals and so forth. As far as its legal status is concerned, it has none, and we have always looked at it in that light. It has not been the practice to pay a statutory sitting fee as we would pay members of tribunals and boards. The matter is constantly under review but I do not see that any move needs to be made at present.

Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority

Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

The membership of the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority is all male even though female anthropologists are employed. What action is the government taking to ensure that Aboriginal women's sites, which should not be discussed by men, can receive appropriate consideration and protection?

ANSWER

I can only say that 7 members of the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority were nominated to the government by the relevant land councils. Therefore, I would suggest that the honourable member might correspond with the land councils rather than direct the question to me.

Overcrowding in NT Prisons

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What steps are being taken by the government to overcome the continued overcrowding in Northern Territory prisons?

ANSWER

There are a number of irons in the fire in regard to the overcrowding of Northern Territory prisons. I point out also that overcrowding in prisons is certainly not unique to the Northern Territory. Almost every state in Australia has a similar problem. At present, the government has decided to install 2 additional 20-man cell blocks at Berrimah Prison. These are expected to be completed about October this year and action is in hand to seek approval to recruit additional prison officers to man those additional cells.

In addition, the government has deferred the operation of a work release centre that is attached to the Berrimah Prison and has converted the facility temporarily to a women's prison. This does not mean that the government has abandoned plans to implement work release programs in the Northern Territory from the Berrimah Prison. We are examining alternative proposals while this work release centre is being used as a women's prison. We are examining work release programs which may be more cost effective than the facility at Berrimah although

it was in fact designed for that purpose.

The effect of the 2 moves - the finding of an alternative for work release and the building of the 20-man cell blocks for Berrimah - will increase the capacity of Berrimah Prison by about 50%. In addition, special funds have recently been allocated: $90,000 to enable the relocation of ward 12 from the old Darwin Hospital to Gunn Point Prison Farm where it will be used to provide dormitory accommodation for between 40 and 50 additional minimum security prisoners. This step will alleviate some of the problems that we have at present and will assist us to use Gunn Point Prison Farm more effectively. It is a fairly substantial area which has been very successful in providing rehabilitative programs for low security prisoners in our system. The government believes that institutions like Gunn Point where prisoners themselves produce much of the food for prisons throughout the Northern Territory have been successful. It will continue to support expansion of the food production activities at Gunn Point. It is interesting to note that they are about to harvest or may have actually harvested a very fine crop of peanuts. It is hoped to realise some $150,000 from that crop. The work has been done in consultation with the Department of Primary Production so that it has been carefully monitored. This procedure has been adopted so that the Territory in general can benefit from the information gained about small-scale agriculture.

Airlines of Northern Australia

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is Airlines of Northern Australia within its rights in ceasing to operate 2 Fokker flights daily between Alice Springs and Ayers Rock?

ANSWER

The answer is no. Last week, there were problems relating to the Alice Springs-Ayers Rock run with Airlines of Northern Australia. The government has informed ATI, the parent company, that the Northern Territory government insists that the levels of service as originally designated to them be maintained.

The honourable member opposite is aware of the negotiations that were carried out earlier this year with ATI and the particular schedules of service that it intended to operate. This was 14 flights to Ayers Rock from Alice Springs a week, maintenance of a Centre run and runs from Darwin to Gove and Groote Eylandt. It was unfortunate that that particular aircraft had some maintenance problems and the service was downgraded. At the same time, I believe that the loadings on that sector have not been great in the last couple of weeks and ATI has asked us to look at the numbers of passengers that it would be able to carry in the F27. We said that we would review it in 6 months time. It was unfortunate that Airlines of Northern Australia had that problem last week but we believe Sir Peter Abeles' assurance will enforce the ATI operation in that area.

Malathion Spraying

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

The minister will be aware of further public criticism of the use recently by Darwin city council of malathion against mosquitoes. Is the minister satisfied that no health hazard is posed by the use of malathion and will the practice continue?

ANSWER

The use of malathion is a matter of great debate not only in the Northern Territory but throughout Australia. The Department of Health takes its advice on the use of such chemicals from the National Health and Medical Advisory Council. This esteemed body of doctors and scientists gives advice on the suitability of using drugs and chemicals and a great many other matters. I am aware

that this matter is about to be discussed again at a national level but I cannot give the honourable member any information as to which way the discussion is likely to go. Until we receive some advice that the practices that we are currently involved in are not in the interests of public health, we will continue to implement them. If the honourable member has any information that would suggest that these practices are not particularly prudent and there is a better way of overcoming the problem, I would be pleased to hear from him.

Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Until a decision has been made on whether or not to introduce a parasite to control the palm leaf bettle, will the government commit itself to continue a program to control this pest?

ANSWER

I think that commitment is fairly clear. We dropped the eradication program because the spread of the insect was too great for our resources. Action will still be taken to assist where possible.

Government Accounts in Alice Srpings

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is the government doing to provide a payment service in Alice Springs to process government accounts?

ANSWER

The question of a centre in Alice Springs to process government accounts rather than doing this through Darwin has been under consideration for some time. I expect the approval will be given in the forthcoming budget for such a centre to be operated as an arm of the Treasury in Darwin. Whilst I do not have specific details as to when such a centre may operate, it is recognised that the issue of cheques for government accounts in Alice Springs would be speeded up somewhat even though there is a fairly efficient system of communication and transportation of government accounts up and down the Territory. Obviously, this does not replace the need to have someone on the ground in Alice Springs to whom people can refer in relation to the very large volume of government accounts that are handled. I would hope that such a facility will be established well before Christmas and will be connected to Treasury in Darwin through various computer links so that information can be obtained down there instantly.

Education Funding for Migrant and Refugee Children

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the government received the $115,000 in extra federal funding that the minister was seeking for the education of migrant and refugee children?

ANSWER

One would expect that I would not be so remiss as not to know the whereabouts of $115,000 but I do not. I do not know the answer to that question. The funds are paid on a quarterly basis and, as such, it really is not relevant whether it is paid at the beginning or the end as long as the quarterly payment is made.

Douglas Daly Agricultural Development Scheme

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What is the purchase price for the area of land to be used for the Douglas Daly Agricultural development scheme?

ANSWER

The purchase price has not been finalised. We are still waiting for the valuers to come up with a price under the formula that was agreed upon. As soon as that price is available, we will certainly let it be known.

Douglas Daly Agricultural Development Scheme

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has a final decision been made regarding the selection of the 2 farmers for the Douglas Daly area?

ANSWER

I understand that the final selections have been made. Those names have not been made available publicly because I believe that 1 of the farmers still has current commitments and he prefers that the matter be kept confidential for the time being. We will be able to make a statement in the very near future and give full details.

Poker Machines in Licensed Clubs

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the government at any time in the future intend to allow the introduction of poker machines in licensed clubs in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

It is impossible to give any definite commitment in this regard because one does not know what change in circumstances may occur. The government has never received any formal application for the installation of poker machines in licensed clubs in the Northern Territory. There have been 2 or 3 fairly vociferous club managers who see poker machines as some sort of solution to the financial problems of the licensed clubs. There is general agreement in the Territory community that there are rather too many clubs for the size of the population which they service. I strongly advocate some rationalisation of the licensed club situation. In Darwin there are a number of different categories of clubs that could probably very usefully amalgamate and provide much better services to their members with a much higher standard all round. Before any application from licensed clubs for poker machines could come forward, the clubs in question would need to canvass very carefully the views of their members. I do not believe it would be simply a decision that could be taken at the level of club manager or even a club committee. I know of several club managers who advocate the introduction of poker machines but I do not know of any particular club committee that does. I therefore have not really had to address myself to the problem at this time. I do not foresee any proliferation of poker machines in the Territory as advocated by the members for Fannie Bay and Nightcliff the other day. At present, it is certainly the government's intention to maintain the status quo.

Airlines of Northern Australia

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does the new 2 airline agreement give the Ansett subsidiary, Airlines of Northern Australia, the right to withdraw from those Territory services which it considers to be uneconomical?

ANSWER

The answer is no. I would hate to go back to the drawing board to try to find another airline to operate in our regional areas. It seems that Airlines of Northern Australia have performed quite well so far. I believe that the northern region is satisfied with the level of service that has been provided to it and that the people of Tennant Creek, Katherine and Alice Springs are happy

with the services of Airlines of Northern Australia. There is one blot on its copybook: the early stages of the Alice Springs-Ayers Rock run. I was assured by Sir Peter Abeles that it was not likely to happen again and I must believe him.

Four local charter operators have been given the work around the regional areas of Arnhem Land. The communities are satisfied with the arrangements that have been made. In fact, we have received letters of praise for the services now being provided. Up until about 6 months ago, there were complaints from Arnhem Land regarding the air services that were provided to those regions. I believe that, with the local charter operators and Airlines of Northern Australia, the airline needs of the Territory are being served.

Stock on Rural Roads

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of the increased sightings of stock on rural roads, about which I have written to him recently, has he initiated discussions with officers of the Department of Community Development regarding the establishment of a large animal pound, even if only on an ad hoc basis?

ANSWER

I am very aware of complaints about stock wandering onto rural roads on the outskirts of Darwin and of the recent tragic death of a motor-cyclist who collided with one such animal. I am aware also that at present there are no pens suitable for holding large animals in a formal sense in the rural area. I have asked the department to investigate the full extent of the problem in the rural area and to recommend possible solutions. If the problem is that widespread one solution could be the establishment of several pounds. As she has expressed a very genuine concern in this area, I shall undertake to keep the member informed of advice from the department. It is, however, a problem that needs to be examined carefully because it should be resolved on a long-term basis and not simply by an action designed to get the odd stray animal out of the way for the time being. The problem involves a number of areas aside from the collection of stray stock. I will keep the member informed on the matter.

Green Paper on Education

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Would he advise the Assembly of the public response to the Green Paper on education?

ANSWER

The way that the question is worded, one would expect that I can answer in terms of the number of people who have responded. I certainly cannot. If the member refers to whether or not I found the response to be satisfactory, I dealt with that earlier in this sittings. The honourable member attended an education function where the Green Paper was discussed and he would be well aware of the success of that particular gathering. The public meeting held in Katherine to discuss the Green Paper on education was one of the best attended public meetings seen in Katherine apart from those on land rights. The public meeting which was held to discuss the education bill some years ago attracted only 2 members of the public. Both of those were CLP people who wanted to talk to me about a decision I had made relating to land. Some 40 people turned up in the area of Katherine to discuss the Green Paper. A committee of the representatives of the department, the Teachers Federation and parent bodies has been set up to examine written submissions on the Green Paper and report back to me in due course. The idea has been very successful; it certainly has people thinking about the issues of education in the Northern Territory, particularly the future of upper primary and secondary education.

Mining Display

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the minister aware of correspondence between the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and the Director of the Museums and Art Galleries Board with reference to an outdoor mining display adjacent to the Museums and Art Gallery complex? If he is, can he inform me why the proposal put forward by the institute is not being proceeded with?

ANSWER

I am aware of the correspondence and, at this stage, can say that I have to examine the matter further to decide on the reasonableness or otherwise of the decision taken by the Museums and Art Galleries Board not to establish this mining display. I believe the display involved pieces of equipment which would be established in such a way that it could be workable for demonstration purposes. The subject came to my attention only recently and I have not had time to look at it closely. I do not regard the matter as having been closed. However, when one talks about the style, shape and placement of heavy machinery as an external exhibit to the museum, quite clearly such a display would have to be done in a tasteful and acceptable manner. I would not like to pass judgment on the matter until I have undertaken further investigation.

Morgan Poll on Poker Machines

Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the Northern Territory government commission the Morgan poll on poker machines on which the government based its new poker machine policy and, if not, who did commission the survey?

ANSWER

The government commissioned a poll on matters relating to gambling and gaming in the Northern Territory through the Racing and Gaming Commission.

Bus Timetables

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In the interest of the convenience of the travelling public in the rural area, why can't government bus drivers carry copies of bus timetables applying to the rural area to distribute on request?

ANSWER

As far as I am aware, bus drivers normally carry timetables for their particular route. Probably one of the reasons why they do not have a full stock of every timetable, not only for rural areas but for other areas, is the amount of paperwork that bus drivers are asked to do today. I believe that timetables are available at the bus terminal in the city area and they are also available at the Coolalinga and Humpty Doo stores.

Steps on Buses

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the minister received complaints that the first step on the new buses is too high for elderly or infirm people to manage adequately? If he has received such complaints, is he endeavouring to see that a drop step will be provided so that they can mount the buses without difficulty?

ANSWER

I will have the matter investigated.

Child Care in Katherine

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can the minister outline the steps taken by his department to meet the need for child care in Katherine?

ANSWER

Following the closure of an illegal child care centre in Katherine last year after an unfortunate accident, the Katherine corporation applied for funds from the Department of Social Security office of child care to employ a children's services research and development officer for a 6-month period to examine the question of child care needs in Katherine. A grant of $10,000 has been approved and the research is now being undertaken. The immediate needs for the children of meatworkers in Katherine have been temporarily met by the shared use of O'Keefe House, a departmental family home, by the Homemakers Service and the Northmeat Child Care Cooperative. The establishment of permanent facilities in Katherine is under consideration by these groups and no doubt a report by the person undertaking the study of child care needs in Katherine will make recommendations on solutions to the problem in the future.

Horticulture in the Northern Territory

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Given the importance of the horticultural industry to the Northern Territory and the high possibility of the commercial success of such an industry, can the minister inform the Assembly when the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority will commence work on the required infrastructure for this industry in the Territory?

ANSWER

The honourable member will be aware that at this stage the ADMA is basically looking at cropping as a priority. Some work is being undertaken with horticultural projects but, in the main, the department will be the sponsor for horticultural development in the Northern Territory. In that regard, it has boosted its staff to 8 and has recruited rather successfully interstate. I believe that there is much potential for horticultural development here. In recent times, we have had Mr Vennard, a very successful mango grower from Bowen, over here. I understand that he is looking to take up permanent residence in the Northern Territory if he can obtain a suitable block of land for his purposes.

Funding for Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What indication has the government received as to the extent of future financial support from the federal government for the ADMA scheme?

ANSWER

The question has not been considered recently. I cannot remember the last answer we gave the member on long-term finance. Obviously, the long-term financing of the ADMA scheme will come under scrutiny in terms of the development of the project farms. It is in this context that the Commonwealth is assessing the program to date.

Cultural Centre in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What steps have been taken to implement the proposal for the establishment of a cultural centre in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The Araluen Arts and Cultural Trust established by the government under an act of this Assembly is constituted to construct a proposed multi-purpose art centre in Alice Springs. With funds provided by this government over the past 2 years, it has engaged a consultant to conduct a feasibility study and prepare a complete design brief for an Araluen cultural facility. The report that has been received recommends the construction of a theatre, art and craft studios and galleries. The government has recently allocated a further $70,000 to the Araluen Trust which is preparing detailed planning and cost estimates for the entire project in association with the Department of Transport and Works. I hope that when those are available, they will include plans and a model of the proposed facility for display in Alice Springs so that public comment can be considered.

Racing and Gaming Commission Poll

Mr BELL to TREASUER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

I preface my question by drawing the attention of honourable members to the questions in the poll instituted by the Racing and Gaming Commission on whether poker machines in casinos should be legal or illegal? Will the Treasurer make public the other questions in this poll?

ANSWER

No.

Education for Refugee Children

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Recently there has been an influx of refugee children into the Northern Territory. Is the minister able to inform me if adequate educational provision is being made for these children and, if so, is this placing other programs in jeopardy?

ANSWER

The answer is yes and no in that order. The member may not be aware that early last week I issued a detailed press statement on this matter. I also dealt with it at some length at question time last week. I refer my colleague to those sources rather than waste the time of the Assembly.

Financial Assistance to the Farming Community

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

When will the government announce revised plans for financial assistance to the farming community and does it intend to have discussions with all interested parties before a final decision on the most appropriate means of financial assistance is made?

ANSWER

Rural financing is a very serious matter. The Agricutural Development and Marketing Authority has prepared a report on rural finance in the Northern Territory. We see this as one of the most important areas of crop and agricultural development in the Territory. We will obtain views from all and sundry. The Territory Development Corporation, the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority and the Cropping Development Committee have complementary roles in this area.

Toilets at Civic Centre Bus Terminal

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who has responsibility for the maintenance and cleaning of toilets at Darwin's main bus stop at the Civic Centre?

ANSWER

I presume the honourable member has asked me this question because one of our local identities was locked up in this particular toilet for a few hours recently and no one knew she was there. She was asleep presumably. In answer to the honourable member's question, the Department of Transport and Works has responsibility for cleaning the toilets and if the honourable member has any problems or knows of any happenings occurring there that should not be occurring, I will have them investigated.

Recreation Lake in Alice Springs

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to a statement in the Northern Territory News that the Chief Minister is to reopen negotiations with the Central Land Council on the siting of the recreation lake in Alice Springs. Can he tell the Assembly whether the Northern Territory government still wishes to site the lake north of the town in the position that was unaceptable to the Central Land Council or are other sites to be investigated as suggested by the land council?

ANSWER

The government still wishes to site the lake to the north of the town. Originally, the government had the consent of the Central Land Council for the siting of the recreation lake in that area and, subsequently, that consent was withdrawn before other sites were investigated. I believe that there is only one other feasible site which is some 80 miles from Alice Springs. In my opinion, it is too far from the town to represent a facility of which the townspeople could avail themselves readily. I have instructed officers of my department in the Aboriginal Liaison Unit and officers in the Department of Lands to reopen negotiations with the Central Land Council to see if there is any way around the impasse. Yes, it is certainly the government's wish, if at all possible, to proceed with the construction of the dam which will create the lake to the north of Alice Springs.

Needs of Aged Persons

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The issue of the needs of aged persons and the co-ordination of services to aged persons was raised in a report from the Board of Inquiry into Welfare in the Northern Territory. What action has been taken or is likely to be taken by the government in regard to aged persons as a result of that inquiry?

ANSWER

The needs of aged persons is a matter in which the Northern Territory government has a strong commitment. The Pensioner Concession Scheme, although providing services to a wider group than just aged pensioners, provides important concession and rebates to the elderly of the Northern Territory. However, the government recognises that an extensive examination needs to be made of the requirements of aged persons in the Territory and, just as importantly, a congruent examination of the most effective and efficient delivery of services and resources to the aged. Therefore, the government commissioned a survey of aged persons' needs and services which began in April 1980. An officer, Ms Ann Brennan, who is renowned as a key Australian expert in relation to aged persons, was seconded from the Department of Social Security to conduct the survey and prepare the report.

Extensive discussions and consultation have been held with all related Northern Territory and Commonwealth departments and interested individuals and organisations throughout the Northern Territory. The first draft of the report has been completed and is being examined by Northern Territory government departments. It will be similar in format to the review of handicap services in the Northern Territory and the process of consideration of the report will also be similar to that utilised in relation to that review. Therefore, consideration of the report and action emanating from it will be subject to widespread departmental and community input before the report is considered by the government as to its implementation or otherwise.

Lease of Carpentaria College

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The legal tenants of Carpentaria College have been issued with notices by

the Lands Branch determining their lease. As there are no immediate plans for either demolition or occupancy of the building by any other group, could the honourable minister explain why these notices have been issued and undertake to review them?

ANSWER

It is one of those questions that are the most difficult to address one's mind to, particularly at a time when we all recognise there is not exactly an abundance of premises available in Darwin for the type of people who occupy that sort of accommodation. The member says that the tenants are legal tenants and that is quite correct. The termination of the lease is equally legal. I do not think anyone is disputing that. The whole purpose of the exercise is to make the building safe. On the best advice available to me, the people who are living there do so at some peril. It is for that reason principally that the decision was taken.

The people have been represented by legal counsel through the Australian Legal Aid Service and I understand that, for some reason or other, there has been a breakdown in communication through that service to them. When the extension was granted, I was under the impression that that was with the concurrence of the people presently occupying the premises. It was an agreement entered into between my office and their legal representatives. I have had no contact that I am aware of from any of the occupants of those buildings, either via their solicitors or personally through them, requesting a change. It seems that the honourable member for Nightcliff is now a substitute for the legal representative of the occupants. In accordance with normal practice, any representation made by the people, either directly or through their solicitors, naturally would be looked at in the same manner as would an application by anyone else for accommodation. I cannot add to that until such time as I receive an application or a submission.

Queensland Coal for Power-station

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the government negotiated coal contracts with Queensland coal suppliers to meet the demands of Darwin's new power-station?

ANSWER

I think it would be fair to say that negotiations and discussions with quite a few parties in Queensland have been under way for some time. For the information of honourable members, about 12 months ago, I had the opportunity to discuss with the former Queensland Minister for Mines and Energy, Mr Camm, and his electricity trust head, the possibility of the Queensland government supplying, through its electricity commission, coal for use in the Northern Territory. I am also aware that NTEC and officers of the Energy Division have been holding talks with various suppliers of coal in Queensland to ascertain what tonnages could be supplied, when they would be available and what price we would be looking at in the future for the supply of coal for our new power-station.

I would make the point that the most important factor for us to consider in the purchase of coal is not necessarily the price but the quality of the coal. We are looking for the best grade of coal that we can get to use in a power-station that we hope will be one of the most efficient coal burners yet produced in the world. I think members will appreciate that coal technology is changing drastically and will continue to change as prices fo oil and coal soar. People who are using a product such as coal are now looking for the best burning and heat qualities that they can get from that product. We will be doing the same thing. While we may have several people to talk to about the supply of coal, an important criterion that we have to consider is the quality of coal that is available to us and the capacity of a particular supplier to provide it for the Northern Territory. I am not sure whether members appreciate that the greatest

problem which will confront the coal industry in the Northern Territory in the next 10 years will be providing the amount of coal that the world wishes to burn. We have coal in the ground. Our difficulty is the infrastructure of getting it to the seaboard and then into ships. Very clearly there is a great problem in this and other countries: to provide the infrastructure in the time available. The Northern Territory is no different. We will have to fit in with the coal-miners, railways and port facilities. That is another aspect that NTEC and the government will have to consier in the course of time. I shall be happy to brief the member from time to time on what is happening in this particular area.

Production Bore at Coastal Plains Research Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Why was the cost of a production bore at the Coastal Plains Research Station taken off the current estimates in view of the necessity of his independent water supply for the continued success of the experimental, commercial and horticultural program out there?

ANSWER

I am not aware that the item has been taken off the estimates. I understand that it is a very important item and it is hoped that the supply of water at this place can be funded in the forthcoming budget. Obviously, I would not wish to pre-empt what the Treasurer might say later.

Construction of Non-airconditioned Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

There seems to be some confusion in the public mind as to the government's policy on constructing schools which will not be supplied with airconditioning. Could he advise the Assembly exactly what are the department's plans?

ANSWER

The question is almost impossible to answer in this format. I would be happy to supply the honourable member with a detailed written answer because there is quite a lot implied in it. Basically, it is a matter of funds available for education and the need to maximise the sensible use of those funds. We are all very much aware of the enormous cost of provision of electricity for air-conditioning. The aim is the best utilisation of the taxpayer's dollar to achieve the objective of educating children. Certainly the building should be designed in a manner that maximises the use of natural cooling to ensure adequate cross-ventilation so that the inside temperature of the classroom will be no hotter than the ambient temperature. By using ventilation techniques, a breeze can be created artificially by a venturi effect because warm air has the habit of floating upward. If these techniques are used in architectural design, the cooling effect of the moving air takes over. The best advice that we have from an architect is that this has been successfully achieved in the buildings proposed for Karama, Leanyer and Humpty Doo schools.

Geothermal Resources in NT

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has a decision been reached on the arrangements by which exploration for geothermal resources in the Northern Territory might be undertaken?

ANSWER

The Department of Mines and Energy is still assessing the best way we might go about accommodating people involved in geothermal exploration. It is not simply a matter of geothermal exploration which is really regional geology using alternative techniques to those we are using now, such as satellite and infra-red detection. It raises the question of whether we should be encouraging our

mining companies also to move into regional exploration because these 2 things are quite similar in their principle and their aim. We are most interested and are trying to encourage the concept of geothermal energy detection in the Northern Territory because, though it has not been proved, it is something that could be of vital use in our particular environment. I would hope that, before the end of the year, I will have a proposal for the Assembly that will accommodate geothermal exploration and the possibility of regional exploration which will have a great deal of appeal to many companies.

Northumberland Insurance Company

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Regarding the Northumberland Insurance Company collapse, has he been able to get the Commonwealth to agree to contribute towards the claims that are still the subject of settlement? When I asked the question at the last sittings, he said he was negotiating with the Commonwealth to that effect.

ANSWER

I do not have information to hand, I will seek it and, if possible, provide an answer during the course of this day.

Youth Sport and Recreation Directory

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for SPORT and RECREATION

I understand that there is a youth, sport and recreation directory being compiled. Can the minister advise what stage the preparation has reached?

ANSWER

I believe that the directory is almost compiled. It will include the names and addresses of the presidents of the various associations and their involvement in particular sport and community activities. It is ready to go to the printer. We will be circulating it to organisations without cost. The department hopes to upgrade that directory each year.

Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Eradication

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

I ask the question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Who will pay for the eradication of tuberculosis and brucellosis in feral animals on the 28% of Northern Territory land owned by Aborigines?

ANSWER

The government's attitude would be that there will be general funding through the budget to pursue the eradication of tuberculosis and brucellosis. There are encouragements being provided by the federal government, such as tax concessions, and anyone who is running stock should be able to avail himself of that. That program will be complementary to the central effort of the scheme being undertaken through my department.

Sydney Legal Firm and NT Government Work

Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that the Chairman of the Northern Territory Development Corporation has recently had discussions with principals of a major Sydney legal firm with a view to that firm establishing an office in Darwin and doing the more complex government legal work? If he is aware, can he explain why the Department of Law is not doing the work? If he is not aware, can he have the matter investigated and report later?

ANSWER

I ask that he place the question on notice. However, I will comment on his reference to the Department of Law not doing all the Territory Development Corporation's legal work. It has been arranged in some cases for a number of authorities of the government to have at least some of their legal work done by the private sector. There are some classes of work where it has been requested that they continue to use the Department of Law but, as far as commercial-type activities are concerned, the authorities are free to use the private sector.

Instruction to Authorities Concerning Solicitors

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

When granted access to the private sector for their legal work, are authorities instructed or advised to use local solicitors rather than interstate solicitors?

ANSWER

If the Leader of the Opposition wants to pursue the questioning of government policy in relation to the use of legal firms and the Department of Law, such questions should be addressed to the Attorney-General whose portfolio covers that area.

Capital Works Subsidy

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

When will a 3-to-1 subsidy for use in capital works be implemented?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, I cannot provide him with a definite date when this particular scheme will be implemented. However, the information I can provide to him is that the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation is providing additional information that I have requested. I was not happy with the first draft regarding the proposal because it was not explicit enough. When the department has provided me with information, I shall take it to Cabinet for its approval regarding implementation of the subsidy.

Instruction to Authorities Concerning Solicitors

Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

With regard to those statutory authorities who are given approval to use private firms for their legal work as opposed to the Department of Law, are those statutory authorities advised or recommended that they should use local legal firms rather than interstate legal firms?

ANSWER

Those authorities which have the approval of government to engage private practitioners generally speaking have clearance only to engage them in relation to work of a commercial nature. Any work of a policy nature is still referred to the Department of Law. These statutory authorities are encouraged in fact to use private firms of legal practitioners which are locally based. I believe that by and large they have always done so. In the law, as in every other profession and field of endeavour, there are areas of expertise where the local practitioners are not sufficiently forward in the field and advice is needed. In some of the transactions in which the government becomes involved from time to time, there are many complications and, obviously, it is necessary for the Department of Law itself to engage specialist legal advice from outside the Territory. For instance, the Department of Law engages a southern Queen's Counsel to represent the Northern Territory in national wage cases. We have engaged, through the Department of Law, a Sydney firm to represent us from time to time in things such as the conference convened by the Chairman of the Con-

ciliation and Arbitration Commission, Sir John Moore. In relation to the original agreement with Federal Hotels on casinos, the Department of Law employed its own resources through the Crown Solicitor and used a Sydney firm which, I think, was either Freehill Hollingdale and Page or a firm that is currently represented in Darwin by the former Crown Solicitor, Abbott Tout Creer and Wilkinson.

I happen to know something of the question that the honourable the Leader of the Opposition asked of my colleague the Treasurer earlier. I was informed in a circuitous fasion that another large national firm, Allen Allen and Hemsley, has thoughts of establishing an office in Darwin. I think it is Allen Allen and Hemsley; if it is not Allen Allen and Hemsley, it is Stephen Jacques and Stephen. I see the establishment of offices by these firms in the Territory as a sign of the growth and advancement of this Territory. Recently, we saw Perth and Sydney firms establishing in Singapore. I welcome the Sydney firms that want to establish in Darwin as I welcomed firms from Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. It has never caused a ripple within the legal profession because I believe that these people do not establish here unless there is sufficient work to go around. They bring a certain expertise which improves the professional qualities of the local legal profession. In my experience, the legal profession in Darwin has never believed in a local parochial sense that it has a monopoly on wisdom. We have brought to the Territory on many occasions outstanding counsel to plead before the Territory bar when it has been necessary and other people with wisdom and expertise in commercial fields to assist clients where required.

One might ask what this is doing for the Department of Law. It has been the policy of this government - and I think it has been plainly displayed - that it wanted to bring the Department of Law to a high professional standard. The government has sought to engage people,from the Solicitor-General down, who are of high professional capacity. As I understand it, the Department of Law is expanding, not in a spectacular way perhaps, but certainly there is continuing growth within the professional side of the department. I do not see the influx of firms from other parts of Australia as being anything but beneficial to the legal profession, anything but beneficial to the government and lastly but most importantly, beneficial to the people of the Northern Territory. I can certainly say that to my knowledge no inducement to Allen Allen and Hemsley, or any other firm, has ever been extended to persuade them to establish in Darwin.

Aboriginal Teaching Assistants

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the government given any further consideration to the problem of replacing Aboriginal teaching assistants who are going to Batchelor College?

ANSWER

Indeed we have. We are exploring every possible avenue to try and overcome the problem. It is a dilemma. We set up a program, which the member recognised as being a very good program, and a very extensive new facility at Batchelor. The moment we tried to implement the actual course work, we triggered off difficulties elsewhere. We recognise that. We do not believe that it is within the capacity of the Northern Territory government to go into massive training exercise of this sort without assistance from the Commonwealth. We are making approaches through the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs, through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and through the various schemes which are available for adult training and adult improvement and looking at avenues available to us to overcome as far as possible any shortages which might exist as a result of the training program at Batchelor. I would say, in fairness, that all Aboriginal schools are staffed vastly better than any European school. Notwithstanding the absence of Aboriginal teaching assistants at Batchelor, those schools still remain better staffed than any other schools in the Northern Territory.

Government Statistician

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does the Northern Territory government employ a statistician and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

I am used to 'if not, why not questions' coming from the other side of the Assembly, not my own. We do not have a statutory position of government statistician but we do have a nominal appointment in the Department of Treasury. By arrangement with the Commonwealth, we use its statistician to collect and collate data for the Northern Territory as is required by our government. To date,the system has worked quite well. The Commonwealth statistician has responded to the requirements of the Territory government and has a range of programs for collecting data which was not collected prior to self-government. This information is absolutely vital to government. To continue to operate, a very reliable and regular collection of statistics is needed. If the honourable member feels that useful information of a statistical nature from time to time is not available, I would be pleased to hear from her or any other member on this matter. We could then examine the question of whether additional statistics should be collected, or indeed collated from existing collections, for the use of members and the community generally.

Aboriginal Health Worker Training Programs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In the light of the federal health cuts, will he guarantee that Aboriginal health worker training programs will be maintained at the current level of funding?

ANSWER

The member is asking for a commitment that needs to be considered as part of the full budget of the Northern Territory. I would make this point to the member. The Aboriginal health worker training program was established by the Commonwealth some 5 years ago by the now officers of the Northern Territory Department of Health. I believe the program is an excellent one. Since self-government, we have increased activity in this area, not just in terms of numbers and manpower by the introduction of initiatives such as the health worker training program for dental work. I cannot give the honourable member a promise that expansion will go on ad infinitum in this area, but he can rest assured that the government is sympathetic towards the program. We fund it out of our health resources, as has been done in the past, and will continue to do so at a level we believe we can afford. I think this is the responsible way to approach it.

I make the point that we do not receive a special consideration from the Commonwealth government in this particular regard. It is an initiative that we wish to continue. No state has a similar program and no other state receives any special consideration from the federal government for conducting such a program. I believe it is one of the great initiatives of the 1970s. I hope the honourable member will appreciate that the government has a very sympathetic attitude towards the program and will endeavour to see that it is always maintained at a maximum level.

Northern Territory Port Authority

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he indicate when he will be making appointments to the present vacancies on the Northern Territory Port Authority?

ANSWER

In the near future.

Darwin Power-station

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the site of Darwin's proposed coal-fired power-station yet been determined?

ANSWER

If the honourable member reads the paper I circulated the other day, she will find the answer there.

Water Reticulation in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the Water Division have a rational plan of water development, including reticulation, for the rural area?

ANSWER

The department has already considered the matter. It does not intend formulating a water development plan for the entire Darwin rural area because of the widely dispersed population in the area. Nevertheless, it believes it is technically feasible to reticulate water throughout the rural area and a plan will be drawn up.

Emergency Accommodation

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I preface my question to the Minister for Lands and Housing by drawing his attention to a report in the Centralian Advocate dated 29 May 1980 in which he announced government plans to make available emergency accommodation in 4 Territory hostels. What is the progress on the plans announced last year?

ANSWER

Negotiations are still proceeding with the people who have taken up contractual leases in respect of those properties. We have come unglued following the Lynch committee's activities which resulted in the virtual dissolution of the Commonwealth hospitality and accommodation service and put us pretty well back to square one.

Darwin Power-station

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will he inform the Assembly whether a site for the Darwin coal-fired power-station has yet been determined?

ANSWER

I would advise here that the Electricity Commission has commissioned Merz and McLellan to do final evaluations of 4 sites in the immediate Darwin area for the provision of the power-station. I do not have in my head the particular riding instructions given by NTEC to Merz and McLellan. I can say that 3 of the sites are Cox Peninsula, Quarantine Island and East Arm. I cannot recall the fourth one. There is a fair amount of work to be done by the consultants on these sites before a final proposal is made to Cabinet.

Unattended Children at Casuarina Shopping Centre

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the minister aware of the problem of young children wandering around the Casuarina Shopping Centre all day having been left there by their parents in the morning? If he is aware of the problem, what are the officers of the Department of Community Development doing about it.

ANSWER

An allegation has been brought to my attention recently that some irresponsible parents in Darwin have adopted a practice - and I repeat it is an allegation at this stage - of dropping their children at Casuarina Shopping Centre in the morning and using the place as an informal child-minding centre until late in the afternoon. I have reported this matter to the director of child care in my department and asked if he could investigate and make recommendations to the government on the seriousness of the alleged problem and possible measures that the government might consider taking. If such allegations are true and the children involved are young, it is a most serious situation and any parents who undertake this sort of activity can only be regarded as irresponsible.

Accreditation of BA Degree at Darwin Community College

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does the Darwin Community College intend to seek again accreditation for its degree of batchelor of arts and, if so, when?

ANSWER

I am not certain to what extent the Darwin Community College has revamped its proposals. I know that quite a lot of work has been done on the type of staff required, course materials required, library facilities and so on. I believe that there is some difficulty as a result of the federal government's current attitude to funding courses. There is a degree of difficulty in persuading the Tertiary Education Commission, given those guidelines, that this course, no matter how structured, will be a sufficiently vocationally-weighted BA to receive Commonwealth funding. We will have to have the course accredited first and address ourselves to the question of funding later. I am most anxious for the course to be accredited nationally and then we will address out ourselves energetically to providing the funds to conduct it.

Security of Patient's Belongings

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are made to ensure the security of the belongings of hospital patients, for example psychiatric and geriatric patients, who are unable to care for themselves?

ANSWER

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

NT Remuneration Tribunal

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Given that Norm Campbell has recently been appointed to the Northern Territory's Remuneration Tribunal, can the Chief Minister inform the Assembly whether he has given Mr Campbell a reference of parliamentary salaries, allowances and conditions?

ANSWER

I have not at this stage given any reference to Mr Campbell or signed any document directing him to do anything. In fact, at this moment, I am uncertain of my powers under the Remuneration Tribunal Act. Certainly Mr Campbell's appointment has been made with a view to conducting a review of parliamentary salaries and the salaries of other office holders who come within the purview of the tribunal. I will take up with the Director-General of my department the administrative steps needed to enable the inquiry to commence in view of the fact that the Leader of the Opposition apparently attaches some urgency to it.

MacDonnell Ranges National Park

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I preface my question by drawing his attention to an article in the Centralian Advocate of 5 June 1980 in which he announced the proposed MacDonnell Ranges National Park. When will the MacDonnell Ranges National Park, announced with much publicity a few day before the Northern Territory elections last year, be gazetted?

ANSWER

I cannot say when the park will be gazetted. I know that the Conservation Commission is investigating this matter. As the member has given no forewarning of this question, I ask him to place it on notice.

Negotiations for Local Government in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of any negotiations between the federal government, Nabalco and the traditional owners of the Gove Peninsula for local government in Nhulunbuy and, if so, at what stage are the negotiations?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any negotiations between the federal government, Nabalco and the traditional owners in respect of local government in Nhulunbuy, but it would be misleading to sit down having said simply that. There have been negotiations between the Northern Territory government and Nabalco. I believe there have been negotiations between the Northern Territory government, Nabalco, the federal government and the traditional owners at some stage. Those are the 4 parties involved. I believe that local government has been the subject of discussion at certain stages but I do not think that the question of local government has been raised at all with the federal government, although that is my understanding only, not my absolute commitment.

Regulations under Education Act

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will regulations be introduced under the Education Act?

ANSWER

I speak from memory but I think the projected target date is about August.

Negotiations for Local Government in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

At what stage are the negotiations between the Northern Territory government, Nabalco, the traditional owners and the federal government?

ANSWER

The negotiations are at a very early stage. They have not gone very far at all. The Northern Territory government could gear-up for the introduction of local government in Nhulunbuy within 6 months provided that the various preconditions were met. I do not think the status of the land on which Nhulunbuy is situated has any effect on the town gaining local government status. Obviously the negotiations have to proceed with Nabalco and,as a matter of courtesy, with the traditional owners or the Northern Land Council because I do not think local government impacts on the status of the land there. However, I believe that there is a certain caution on the part of the company about local government. For instance, there are negotiations over the question of whether the company would continue to subsidise the housing of the employees of Nabalco as it does at present. I understand they enjoy what amounts to free housing with no rates,

electricity or other taxes or charges. Whether Nabalco would make a lump sum payment in lieu of rates and other local government charges direct to the local government authority, were it to be established in Nhulunbuy, would be of primary consideration. Obviously, there would be the matter of transfer of assets from the company to the local government authority. Certainly, there is goodwill on the side of the Northern Territory government and a desire which has been expressed many times to bring local government to Nhulunbuy. I believe too that there is goodwill on the part of the company, but there is a natural caution about moving from a position that it is familiar with to one which holds, as it sees it, many uncertainties. I believe that the negotiations may well take some time but I believe that the Northern Territory government could probably introduce local government into Nhulunbuy within 6 months of the satisfactory conclusion of these negotiations.

Mr ROBERTSON (Education)(by leave): As members will be aware, the Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Development and Minister for Community Development is absent chairing the Conference of Local Government Ministers. Any questions which normally would be directed to him may be directed to the Chief Minister who will do this humble best.

Tax-sharing Arrangements

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What effect, if any, will the Grants Commission recommendation released yesterday on tax-sharing arrangements between the states and the federal government have on federal government/Territory relationship?

ANSWER

I have not yet seen a copy of the relativities review report by the Grants Commission. I believe that a copy is on its way to the Northern Territory. Members will appreciate that it is a review of the relativities operating between the states. As such, I understand that it has no effect whatsoever on the Northern Territory's present position which is secured by the Memorandum of Understanding. Our base figure for general revenue funding will continue to be escalated in accordance with the formula provided in section 23 of that document. It could be that, in its applications to the Grants Commission, should they become necessary at any time, the relativities situation could impact on the Northern Territory, but my advice from the Treasury is that it foresees no impact on the Northern Territory as a result of this particular study. However, that statement is made without reading the document.

Housing Commission Blocks

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What guidelines does the Housing Commission use when determining whether or not a block of land is suitable for medium-density housing? Is there a minimum size for blocks to be used for this purpose?

ANSWER

The Housing Commission does not determine which blocks are suitable for R2 multiple and medium-density development. That is a matter for the Planning Authority. There are set plot ratios which govern whether or not one can build medium density on any given block of land. Members will be aware that there is an idea floated at the moment through the Town Planning Authority of which, incidentally, I was unaware as the Planning Authority is completely independent of government. The number of units which can be built on a given area of land is determined under those guidelines and not by the Housing Commission.

Means Tests for Public Hospitals

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he in a position to advise the Assembly yet if the government intends to introduce a means test so far as public hospitals are concerned in the Northern Territory. If so, will it be based on the same levels as recommended by the federal government?

ANSWER

So far as the department and the government are involved, the criteria for establishing whether people are disadvantaged are those that have been set down by the Commonwealth. This is not terribly satisfactory as far as we are concerned. If the Northern Territory wishes to make a case for additional funds because of a weakness that we have perceived in the Commonwealth's attitude, it would not be in our interest to establish other guidelines and have other attitudes towards the criteria for working out who is disadvantaged and how they should be helped.

I am not saying that there should not be some degree of compassion in this matter but, if we wish to argue a case with the Commonwealth for additional funds, we have to do it on sound grounds. It has struck the ground rules; we will play the game by the ground rules and then demonstrate to it how very wrong it was.

Bagot Road Flyover

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the current estimated cost of the construction of the Bagot Road flyover and what was the original estimate?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide that information to the honourable member. I will provide it later today.

Tennant Creek Police Station

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Chief Minister investigate the level of manning in the Tennant Creek Police Station in the light of some officers at the station recently being required to work 3 successive shifts?

ANSWER

Yes.

Northumberland Insurance Company

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise yet whether the Commonwealth will contribute towards the claims which are still the subject of settlement regarding Northumberland Insurance Company. The honourable Treasurer undertook to provide a reply at this sittings.

ANSWER

I do not think so. However, I can find the answer without much delay and I will let the honourable member know today. I trust that she will excuse my colleague, the Treasurer. We sat until fairly late yesterday and he had to dash off immediately to a function which he was to host for the visiting Local Government Ministers from all around Australia and New Zealand. He is chairing that meeting at the Civic Centre today.

Alice Springs Industrial Area

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

The minister is well aware that there is a proposal for an industrial area to be set up in the east side of Alice Springs and that the prevailing winds in Alice Springs blow from the east. What action is being taken to prevent any industrial odours coming across the residential area?

ANSWER

The proposed industrial area for that location is not of a noxious nature. It is a service industry site. It is the same as other light industrial areas around Alice Springs, none of which have ever given rise to complaints of that nature.

Lock-ups at Katherine and Tennant Creek

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the status of police lock-ups at Katherine and Tennant Creek been changed to allow for confinements for up to 28 days and, if so, why?

ANSWER

I am not aware of such a situation. I ask the honourable member to place his question on notice.

Abattoir at Katherine

Mr LEO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is the minister aware of the possible closure of the abattoir in Katherine at the end of the current season? What action will be taken to prevent the possible closure of the abattoir, given the importance of the operation to the local economy?

ANSWER

It is my experience that the abattoir in Katherine closes every year. I would not find it at all unusual if the abattoir closed this year.

Rural Planning Authority and Palmerston Development Authority

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What input will the Rural Planning Authority have with the Palmerston Development Authority?

ANSWER

Formally none, but on the other hand, I made quite clear at the time of release of the Palmerston development proposal that any person who considers he has an interest in that area or that he will be in any way affected by what happens through the development of Palmerston is more than welcome to make any input.

Aboriginals and the Electoral Roll

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he yet in a position to inform the Assembly what action the government proposes to take to ensure that all Aborigines of 18 years of age and over are placed on the electoral roll?

ANSWER

I believe that it is the intention of the Electoral Office, over the course of the next several years, to embark on enrolment campaigns and voter education campaigns, but I am not in a position to give precise details of those matters.

Length of School Terms in the Northern Territory

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Why do children in the Northern Territory now attend school for up to 2½ weeks less than children in other states because of shorter term times and why is the situation being allowed to continue under the semester system to be introduced in 1982?

ANSWER

Certainly that is not my understanding of the number of school days put in by Northern Territory students. I will certainly check the honourable member's figures but I think she will find she is wrong.

Overseas Visit of Minister for Transport and Works

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In respect to his forthcoming 1-month visit overseas, would he please inform the Assembly which countries he will be visiting and the purpose of his visit to each place?

ANSWER

I shall be going to the United Kingdom to attend a water industries conference in London and Brighton. From there, I shall proceed to European ports to inspect the railroad facilities. Whilst I am in London, I will be attending all sessions of that water conference. I will then be going to Germany for an international trade fair on waste disposal and a sewage and refuse symposium, which should make the member for Fannie Bay happy. Whilst I am in the United States, apart from various ports that I intend visiting, I shall be asked to officiate at a keel-laying ceremony for a warship which is to be named after the city of Darwin: HMAS Darwin. It is the first warship to be thus named and I deem that a great honour. Upon my return, I will provide the Assembly with a copy of the report of the trip.

Housing Commission Blocks

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I would like to ask the same question that I asked before but I will preface my remarks by saying that I refer to Housing Commission blocks that can be purchased by public servants. What guidelines does the Housing Commission use when determining whether or not a block of land is suitable for medium-density housing and is there a minimum size for blocks that can be used for this purpose?

ANSWER

The rephrasing of the question has made it more confusing than it was in the first place. I really cannot follow what my colleague wants. If he would like to talk to me later, I will be able to get the information he obviously needs.

Ross River Fever

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has he had any success with his attempts to have Ross River Fever renamed?

ANSWER

I can advise the member that our efforts have not fallen on deaf ears. In fact, it is quite a complex procedure to have viruses renamed because there are international connotations. We have spoken to Australian authorities responsible for such an activity. They have agreed to support our proposal. It now has to run the gamut of international considerations. I hope that it will be renamed within a year.

International-standard Indoor Stadium

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for YOUTH SPORT and RECREATION

Is the government considering building an international-standard indoor stadium in Darwin?

ANSWER

A feasibility study is being carried out for such a proposal. I hope to be able to present to Cabinet a submission relating to that exercise. Most members would be aware that the Commonwealth government has made an announcement that it is prepared to provide $25m for sporting facilities throughout Australia on a dollar-for-dollar basis. I would be very interested to try to obtain some of those funds for such a facility in Darwin. Discussions have taken place with the various sporting organisations which could use such an indoor facility. The requirements that the federal government has put on the dollar-for-dollar grant relate to its being an international-standard facility. We do not have one in the Territory. I believe that we would have a very good chance of obtaining a dollar-for-dollar subsidy from the federal government providing that the Northern

Territory government was in a position to get these sporting organisations together. I refer to basketball and other indoor sports such as judo and gymnastics. The submission will be presented to Cabinet in the near future and we will be in a position to make an announcement regarding the proposal shortly.

Pathology Laboratory at Darwin Hospital

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the future of the pathology laboratory at Darwin Hospital? Has the minister considered the use that is made of that facility by other departments, such as the Department of Primary Production?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to put his question on notice.

Northern Territory Lottery

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Racing and Gaming Commission or any other government agency been asked to conduct a feasibility study into running a Territory lottery and, if so, what was the result?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes. I think the Treasury rather than the Racing and Gaming Commission - but I could be wrong - was asked to conduct a feasibility study. I think it has conducted more than one. One was conducted in 1978 and it was reviewed fairly recently. This matter bears upon a similar comment in an adjournment debate by the member for Tiwi that the Territory should have its own lottery. The government would be quite happy with the proposition. Governments run lotteries in Queensland and South Australia and other states. Due to the size of the Territory population and the flood of lotteries which are operated here, apparently the Treasury study indicates that a lottery in the Territory would not be feasible. It would have to be kept open for an unreasonable length of time - from memory, I think as long as 12 months - and the interest people would have in buying tickets that would not be drawn for 12 months would be negligible. One of the most popular games sweeping South Australia and the Northern Territory at present is the South Australian invention called Instant Money. I doubt that a 12-month lottery would be in the sweepstakes with that.

Venereal Disease

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the incidence of venereal disease in young people in the Territory?

ANSWER

The information which he is seeking should be found in the Health Department's annual report. I would summarise it by saying that, in 1980, in the 15 to 19 year age group, 81 persons had gonorrhea and 93 had syphilis; in the 20 to 24 age group, 216 had gonorrhea and 109 syphilis; in the 25 to 29 age group, 145 had gonorrhea and 100 with syphilis; and in the 30 to 34 age bracket, 117 gonorrhea and 44 syphilis. Additionally, during 1980, 8 cases of gonorrhea were notified in people of less than 15 years of age and 23 cases of syphilis for the same age group.

Katherine Rural Education College

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Katherine Rural Education College been transferred to 15-mile Katherine Experimental Farm?

ANSWER

There is a requirement for further demountables to complete the shift. I received a very clear message when I was in Katherine last weekend from parents who are interested in the Katherine Rural Education Centre that the entire operation ought to be based at the 15-mile farm and not split as it is at the moment. I accept what they say. Every effort must be made to make a success of the Katherine Rural Education Centre. It is quite clear that it needs a home of its own and steps will be taken to achieve that end.

Northern Territory Development Corporation Annual Report

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it still the intention of the government to table at this sittings the Northern Territory Development Corporation Annual Report for 1978-79?

ANSWER

I cannot answer that question. I can make inquiries right away, of course, but I am not aware whether the 1978-79 report is ready or not. I will certainly find out.

Northumberland Insurance Company

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister)(by leave); While I am on my feet, Mr Speaker, I will reply to the honourable member for Nightcliff in respect to the Northumberland Insurance Company.

It appears that the Treasurer sought the information yesterday because this minute to him from the Treasury is dated 10 June. Apparently, we have had no response so far from the Commonwealth to representations to the Department of Home Affairs to have the Commonwealth accept responsibility for some proportion of the claims against Northumberland Insurance Company. I understand that the advertisements which were put in the paper some time ago asking people to indicate potential claims drew a likely quota of about $150,000. The Treasurer's minute states that the latest advice from the Department of Law is that further action should be delayed as there is a possibility that the Commonwealth will meet all outstanding claims whether or not there has been a court decision. All I can say is that, after this time, I think that whoever in the Department of Law gave that advice to the Department of Treasury must be a wishful thinker. We will do something about processing the claims that we have.

Lecturers for Students Seeking Seamanship Tickets

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Following the introduction of the Maritime Bill, has he taken steps to recruit people for the Darwin Community College who are adquately equipped to lecture students seeking varying degrees of seamanship tickets?

ANSWER

I have no doubt that the question was well meant. However, every time something goes wrong with the community college, I am instructed or asked by this Assembly to order the college to do something or other. Each time it is inconvenient for honourable members or for some other reason they do not want me to do anything, they say that I am interfering politically in the affairs of an autonomous institution. The fact is that I cannot win. The answer is that it is entirely a matter for the Darwin Community College, unless members of this Assembly want me to change the act.

Sites of Significance in Proposed Alice Springs Industrial Area

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

Earlier this sittings, the minister outlined some difficulties in establishing the east-side industrial area in Alice Springs due to claims for sacred sites in the area. What efforts did the Department of Lands make to ensure that it was aware of any sites of significance in that area prior to drawing up the plans?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for the question; it is a good one. As is implicit in his question, great cost has been involved in getting to the stage we have with the planning of the east-side subdivisions, both industrial and residential. From memory, the first study in relation to that area was the Alice Springs Urban Development Study in 1975 which was commissioned by the Department of the Northern Territory as it then was. The areas where we are currently trying to establish both residential and industrial subdivisions on the eastern side of Alice Springs were identified in that plan. Nothing came up at that time in relation to sites of significance. In 1978, the Department of Lands specifically requested the Central Land Council and, I understand, our Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, to identify specifically any sites of significance in the eastern section of town. They were able to identify 2 which were widely known as sites of significance. My department was not satisfied that the information was necessarily all there was to the story and subsequently involved the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Sacred Sites Authority. Another 2 sites were then identified, and nothing further. Since work has started in the area, particularly in the industrial subdivision, the entire valley is claimed to be a site of significance.

In fairness to the Central Land Council, it said at the time that these were the only known sites and further research was needed. However, the problem is that the Central Land Council, and indeed Aboriginal people in the area, quite freely admit to the Department of Lands that sites will not be disclosed until such time as all the work is done and - to use the land council's terms - the sites are threatened. Of course this places the government in an absolutely impossible position. We cannot plan around the sites of significance because we do not know they are there and the land council will not tell us until we start with the bulldozers. This involves enormous delays and tremendous cost to the taxpayer. I do not know what the answer is. It certainly seems as if there is a great deal of reluctance on the part of the Central Land Council to cooperate with the Department of Lands in the interests of all.

Senior Secondary College

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Department of Education abandoned the proposal to use Casuarina High School as a senior secondary college as was stated at the seminar and is the proposal now to build a new facility?

ANSWER

I intended addressing myself to that subject last night in the adjournment. The contents of the Green Paper are for the purpose of public discussion. The policy which arises out of that is a matter for myself and Cabinet. I can assure this Assembly that no such decision has been taken by the government.

Education of Seamen

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In introducing his Marine Bill the honourable member stated: 'Facilities are to be set up for the training, education and examination of seamen to ensure they have every opportunity to gain basic qualifications or to upgrade existing

qualifications'. Where are those facilities to be set up and by whom will they be staffed?

ANSWER

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

Alice Springs Airport

Mr BELL to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has he an assurance from the federal government that the Alice Springs Airport will be upgraded to international standard within 10 years?

ANSWER

To get an assurance that anything will be upgraded to international standard within 10 years would be surely a meritorious feat. Should I achieve such greatness, I will no doubt make an announcement.

Government Criteria for Funding Cultural Activities

Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the Northern Territory government have a policy on the arts which guides it in the allocation of money for artistic and cultural activities and, if so, will he outline that policy in the Assembly or table a copy of it?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice for my colleague.

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?

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?

From 25 November 1980

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 $1,071,588 in the grants and subsidies section?

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?

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?

Elsey and Hodgson Downs Pastoral Leases

126 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What efforts are being made to have land excised from Elsey 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?

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?

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?

From 3 March 1981

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 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 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?

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?

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?

From 2 June 1981

Mining Royalties Paid to Aborigines

178 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he advise -

1. The amount paid to Aborigines in the NT from mining royalties in (a) 1978, (b) 1979, and (c) 1980?
2. What level are these mining royalties expected to reach in 1981?
3. What funds the Aboriginal Development Commission has to invest in the NT in 1980-81?
4. Are mining Royalties paid to Aborigines considered as taxable income?

Special Assistance Loan to Northern Meat Exporters

179 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What are the terms and purpose of the Special Assistance Loan made to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd by the Commonwealth and taken over by the NT Development Corporation? (See answer to Question 103).

Generators at Elliott and Newcastle Waters

188 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What is the current rating of (a) the 3 generator sets at Elliott and (b) the generator at Newcastle Waters?
2. What is (a) the rating and (b) the cost of the proposed generator installation at Newcastle Waters?
3. Are any other projects to be deferred or abandoned to allow for the proposed generator installation at Newcastle Waters?
4. What was (a) the original design level of the generator set pad and, if the original design has been altered, (b) what is the new level?
5. What is the highest recorded flood level in the region in which the proposed generator is to be placed?

Demountable for Katherine Rural Education Centre

193 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What are the reasons for the delay in providing demountable buildings for the Katherine Rural Education Centre at the 15-mile Experimental Farm, Katherine?

NTDC Loans

194 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

1. When were the following outstanding loans taken up by the respective organisations -
   (a) a special assistance loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd;
   (b) a special assistance loan to Alice Springs Abattoirs Pty Ltd; and
   (c) a special assistance loan to Carba Australia Ltd?
2. When will the above loans be fully paid out?
3. How many loans in the following categories remain outstanding -
   (a) sale of bores (drought relief);

(b) flood relief loans;

(c) Darwin business relief loans; and

(d) Primary Producers Board loans?

4. How many of the recipients of loans in the above-mentioned categories have defaulted?

5. What course of action is NTDC undertaking to recover such funds?

Interest Rate on Loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

195 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What rate of interest is being charged on the $1.4m special assistance loan granted to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd?

Travelling Allowance for Ministers

196 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

For each minister, how many days travelling allowance has been paid from 1 January 1981 till 1 May 1981?

From 9 June 1981

Ministers' Travel

197 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many days travelling allowance have been paid to each minister from 1 January to 25 May 1981?

2. What was the cost of travel undertaken by aircraft charter by each minister from 1 January to 25 May 1981?

3. How many overseas trips have been undertaken by ministers on official business from 1 January to 25 May 1981?

4. What has been the total cost of these overseas trips?

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service

198 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the present staffing of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Centre? Are there plans to increase the staffing levels and, if so, what positions?

2. What are the functions and duties of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service?

3. During the 6 months to 31 May 1981, (a) how many Aboriginals have been treated per week by AIMS, (b) what are the major categories of illness, and (c) where do the Aboriginals, in the main, come from?

4. How many Aboriginal liaison officers are attached to Casuarina Hospital; what hours do they work; and are there plans to increase the numbers?

5. Are any Aboriginal liaison officers to be employed at Darwin Hospital?

Hospital Advisory Boards

199 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the composition of the various hospital advisory boards in the Northern Territory?

Refugees at Tamarind Centre

200 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many refugee families are now at Tamarind Centre?
2. How many have obtained employment?
3. How many have moved from the hostel into the community?
4. How many adults are undertaking English lessons?

Student Assistance in NT

201 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students in the Northern Territory are, (a) receiving assistance under the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme, and (b) how many are in receipt of the full allowance?

NTPS Disabled Employees

202 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many disabled are employed in the NTPS, what are their positions, and with which departments?
2. How many disabled have been employed in the NTPS in 1981?

Funding of Women's Centres in NT

203 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Does the Commonwealth provide 75% of the running costs for women's refuges in the Territory with the Northern Territory making up the shortfall as happens in the states?
2. Can he say what funding arrangements will apply to women's refuges in 1981-2?

Aborigines on Electoral Roll

204 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What action is being taken by the government to ensure that Aborigines, 18 years of age and over, who are currently not on the electoral roll, are so enrolled to ensure compliance with the Electoral Act?

Medical Practitioners Servicing Community Health Centres

205 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many doctors have been servicing community health centres, and how many of these are private practitioners?

Public Housing - Out-of-turn Allocations

9 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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?

ANSWER

1.

Number of requests received	453
Number of requests rejected and not presented to committee	285
Number of cases presented to committee	168
Number of cases approved by committee	29
Number of cases rejected by committee	139

2.

Applicants approved	29
Supporting parents	6
Unemployment benefit	2
Other pensioners	5
Medical	9
Evictions	4
Welfare	3
Applications not approved	424

*January 1980-August 1980

Supporting parents	82 applied
Unemployment benefits	17 applied
Other pensioners	26 applied
Employed	171 (single and combined income)

* Source of income figures are not available prior to January 1980.

3. Statistics are not kept on the type of accommodation the applicant is currently occupying.

4. The non-approved applicant is advised in writing that a re-assessment can be requested if their circumstances change. The staff refer the unsuccessful applicant to specialised community organisations who will carry out follow-up assistance.

5. Applicants are referred to community organisations -

Salvation Army	Council on the Ageing
YWCA	Government Hostels
YMCA	CWA
Community Development for bond assistance	Silas Roberts Hostel.

6. Records have not been kept in relation to the location of accommodation in the private sector in many instances, however, they can only advise

of accommodation available, they cannot compel the applicant to pursue the assistance offered.

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?

ANSWER

1. Current usage of the above level crossing is in the range of 12,000 to 14,000 vehicles per day dependent on the time of the year.
2. Yes, these lights will be installed at the new crossing location after construction of the standard gauge railway terminal and road is completed.
3. Decision-making powers relevant to the Alice Springs standard gauge railway planning are set out below. It is pointed out however that the decisions were made after consultation with the interested bodies.

   (a) The Northern Territory government has the powers to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Territory as vested to it by Section 6 of the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act including for land use, planning, development and acquisition, town planning and regulation of surface transport. Existing Northern Territory laws have not, however, provided the Northern Territory government with much power to directly influence arrangements for the railways.

   (b) The Alice Springs Corporation's powers are basically as provided under the Local Government Act which effectively give it very little decision-making power over future railway arrangements in Alice Springs. However, the corporation does derive some further powers through the Planning Act's provision for local representation on the Northern Territory Planning Authority.

   (c) The Australian National Railways Commission, through the Commonwealth Railways Act, has powers to acquire land necessary for a railway. These powers are subject to other provisions of that Act and to other Commonwealth legislation, including the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act.

   The Australian National Railways has the powers to determine where the railways goes, to obtain the necessary land and to construct the railway and its ancillary requirements. This, however, has to be considered in the context that for the Alice Springs railhead there were only two minor acquisitions required by Australian National Railways. Both were to improve the road situation not

the rail. Other acquisitions associated with the railhead were to provide necessary improvements to major south-north and east-west road links and allow other necessary improvements to the central business district. These will be facilitated by release of railway land and modifications to its railhead design.

4. Yes, in a legal sense. However, in practice, consultation took place between the Australian National Railways, the Alice Springs Corporation, the Northern Territory and Commonwealth government before a final decision was made on the location of the railway. The corporation's views were given careful consideration in arriving at the location.

5. There is ongoing liaison between the Department of Transport and Works, Commonwealth Department of Transport and the Australian National Railways Commission on a range of matters. I presume the honourable member is interested in meetings in the past 2 years specifically relating to the location of and design parameters for the Alice Springs railhead.

Participants	Items Discussed
30 October - 1 November 1978	
Australian National Railways Department of Transport and Works Department of Lands and Housing Commonwealth Department of Transport Commonwealth Department of Finance	- Met oil company executives - Reviewed earlier evidence presented - Town Planning Report - Met Corporation representatives
13 - 14 December 1978	
Australian National Railways Department of Transport and Works Department of Lands and Housing Commonwealth Department of Finance Northern Territory Treasury	- Draft report to Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments
16 and 30 March 1979	
Australian National Railways Department of Transport and Works Department of Lands and Housing NT Electricity Commission	- Technical design problems and town planning needs
28 November 1979	
Australian National Railways Corporation of the Municipality of Alice Springs Department of Transport and Works Department of Lands and Housing (informal meeting)	- Town planning needs

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?

ANSWER

1. Prior to inviting private developers, the government had completed engineering survey of the approved plan of subdivision. Engineering design had commenced but was not substantially advanced. All engineering survey plans were made available to developers. The present situation is that a Town Land Subdivision lease for Sadadeen Stage 1 (270 lots) was granted to a private developer, Arian Investments, in early October and detailed engineering design and documentation are now proceeding. The developer intends to call tenders for construction next month and commence site work in January.

2. The developer is committed under the Development Deed, to turnoff blocks for the government and for private sale in 3 stages commencing in April and finishing in September next year.

The 3 stages are:	April	69 government	9 private
	July	39 government	44 private
	September	balance	([109] nominal)

These block numbers (total 270) include 2 large blocks zoned for higher density development and the developer has expressed the intention of further developing these blocks concurrently with normal single residence allotments.

3. $12,500 per block.

4. The government encourages developers to make optimum use of local resources. The successful applicant indicated that he proposed maximum involvement by the local work force, local engineers, local builders and local agents. His actions to date in engaging a local engineering consultant and real estate agent have borne out this expressed intent.

5. The government has adopted the principle that government involvement in subdivisions tends to become increasingly bureaucratic and less cost effective in the process. We are committed to development in all areas by private enterprise wherever possible.

The Department of Transport and Works will necessarily continue to be involved to a significant degree in the provision of external headworks for subdivisions and in the construction of subdivisions in smaller centres.

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?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. Not in the formal manner but the proposal has been seen by the Planning Authority.

3. No. In such cases sporting bodies will be required to surrender all or part of their leases in exchange for a new lease. Any development on surrendered land would be under short term Crown leases issued by the government approved developers.

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

111 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many trips were undertaken by the Honourable 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 names of the charter company used?

(a) Date	(b) Cost	(d) Charter Company	(a) Date	(b) Cost	(d) Charter Company
4. 7.79	1,600	Tennantair	11. 2.80	740	Tennantair
9. 7.79	748	Tennantair	21. 2.80	3.187	Tillair
3. 7.79	1,557	Airnorth	23. 2.80	716	Tennantair
6. 8.79	1,300	Tennantair	10. 3.80	1,440	Tennantair
15. 8.79	5,013	Tennantair	13. 3.80	2,820	Tennantair
24. 8.79	1,150	Tennantair	24. 3.80	2,566	Tennantair
27. 8.79	4,490	Tennantair	30. 3.80	1,380	Tennantair
30. 8.79	4,470	Tennantair	10. 4.80	1,064	Tillair
15. 9.79	2,091	Tennantair	18. 4.80	474	Tennantair
1.10.79	3,177	Tennantair	9. 5.80	3,840	Tennantair
5.10.79	386	Arnhem Air Charter	12. 5.80	400	Airnorth
24.10.79	3,760	Tennantair	16. 5.80	2,646	Airnorth
30.10.79	4,588	Tennantair	20. 5.80	1,114	Airnorth
6.11.79	1,748	Tennantair	24. 5.80	9,908	Tillair-Tennantair
12.11.79	2,380	Tennantair	14. 6.80	1,010	Tennantair
24. 1.80	1,242	Tillair	17. 6.80	538	Tennantair
26. 1.80	2,178	Tillair	25. 6.80	1,418	Tennantair
9. 2.80	432	Tennantair	27. 6.80	2,677	Airnorth

(c) All of the above travel was for official business.

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?

ANSWER

1. Yes. I have recently given consent to transfer of the leasehold comprised in Robinson River Station.

2. No. The conversion of a pastoral lease held by an Aboriginal organisation to Aboriginal Freehold is processed under Commonwealth legislation

known as the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act and applications may be lodged with the Aboriginal Land Commissioner as soon as the leasehold title is registered with the Northern Territory Registrar-General as owned by an Aboriginal organisation.

3. Yes. Land claims have been lodged in respect of 8 pastoral leases owned by Aboriginal interests and the Aboriginal Land Commissioner has made recommendations in respect of pastoral leases Utopia, Chilla Well, Willowra and Ti Tree.

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?

ANSWER

Parents are required to sign indemnity forms prior to their children participating in interstate or intrastate excursions. Written parental permission is also required for any school educational activity in which pupils participate away from the school grounds.

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 known 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?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. I am advised that there is no substance in the allegation.

   Some 3 years ago the Finke River Mission was concerned about the large cattle stocks in the area. At the same time there was an awareness of pending land claims thus creating concern regarding the capacity of people to cope with overstocked herds.

   Advice was sought from the then Animal Industry Branch who confirmed the overstocking and recommended reduction to a manageable level. Acting on this advice the mission trucked off some 6,000-6,500 head of cattle over 2½-3 year period resulting in gross sales of around $660,000.

   The proceeds from the sale of cattle have been utilised to reimburse the mission's costs, that is, reimburse restocking in the early 70's, payment of maintenance, fencing projects and aerial counts.

   In June-September 1980 the mission handed over all of the remaining cattle including assets at an estimated current value of $800,000 to the 5 main Aboriginal land owners in the area. Part of this arrangement is for the mission to fund fencing of these areas upon completion of a proper survey, and on request from the individual groups concerned.
3. I will advise the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs that my inquiries indicate there is no substance in the allegation.

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?

ANSWER

School authorities are obliged under the policy outlined in the Northern Territory Department of Education Handbook to first contact the parents of an injured or sick child in order to ascertain the parents' wishes as regards the most appropriate course of action. If the parents cannot be contacted or if the school authorities (the head teacher or his delegates) are of the opinion that the child's condition requires immediate medical or hospital treatment, then the school authorities will be regarded as acting on behalf of the parent in obtaining that treatment. The parents are of course fully informed of the action taken as soon as practicable.

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?

ANSWER

Cost of salaries, wages and recreation leave fares for NT public servants during 1979-80:

Salaries	$ 152,333,205
Wages	$ 15,502,930
Fares	$ 2,339,619
TOTAL	$ 170,175,754

Department/Authority	Salaries	Recreation Leave Fares	Wages
Chief Minister	$ 3,372,000	$ 39,490	--
Community Development	$ 8,329,841	$ 168,982	$ 29,800
Conservation Commissioner	$ 4,916,792	$ 146,063	--
Education (includes Industry Training Commission)	$ 43,517,799	$ 258,208	--
Port Authority	$ 1,169,242	$ 39,440	--
Health	$ 41,182,312	$ 756,067	--
Housing Commission	$ 3,390,000	$ 63,000	--
Lands	$ 4,939,005	$ 126,613	--
Law	$ 3,925,660	$ 69,666	--
Legislative Assembly	$ 260,442	$ 7,203	--
Mines and Energy	$ 2,506,761	$ 63,986	$ 483,503
Museums and Art Galleries	$ 272,740	$ 4,784	--
Development Corporation	$ 566,115	$ 18,327	--
Emergency Service	$ 278,375	$ 5,976	--
Liquor Commission	$ 169,735	$ 2,200	--
Ombudsman	$ 216,746	$ 2,380	--
Police (Admin. only)	$ 1,803,705	$ 23,446	--
Primary Production	$ 5,310,141	$ 124,027	--
Public Service Commissioner	$ 2,230,350	$ 50,181	--
Racing and Gaming Commission	$ 225,184	$ 10,467	--
Treasury	$ 2,195,064	$ 42,453	--
Tourist Commission	$ 568,626	$ 8,553	--

Department/Authority	Salaries	Recreation Leave Fares	Wages
Transport and Works	$ 20,986,570	$ 231,195 [(Industrial) [$ 76,822 [(Other Staff)	[$14,721,427 [(Including [Trust [Account)
TOTAL	$152,333,205	$2,339,619	$15,502,930

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?

ANSWER

This question has to do with drilling for water, rather than for geological appraisal, and I would ask that it be redirected to my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works.

Snell Street 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 1980?
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?

ANSWER

1. The damage to the Northern Territory Electricity Commission's property on 5 January 1981 was to its switchyard at the corner of Stuart Highway and Snell Street. The gas turbine installation was not damaged. The full cost of repairs has not yet been calculated, since some work remains outstanding, but it is approximately $9,500.
2. The Commission believes that the damage was caused by flying roofing iron from the ABM Concrete Pty Ltd works on the adjoining block.
3. Initially the Commission will meet the cost of repairs but it is obtaining the advice of the Department of Law as to whether a recovery action might be successful.

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?

ANSWER

Monitoring of the purity of the water supply at Jabiru is carried out by the Water Division of the Department of Transport and Works and I would ask, therefore, that this question be redirected to my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works.

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?

ANSWER

1. The upgrading of the Tanami Road from the Stuart Highway to Yuendumu was originally planned in 3 stages, each of 90 kilometres. The first stage was committed for commencement of construction in 1979.

   Following more detailed planning, later stages were rescheduled in shorter sections. My department's present 5-year program recommends that construction continues in annual 30 kilometre stages commencing in 1983-4.

   The first stage of 90 kilometres was completed on schedule in November 1980.

2. With any construction project the local supply of suitable materials is of paramount importance. It is particularly so on this project where supply distances are so great.

   The Yuendumu Mining Company is one firm which may have the capacity to provide roadbuilding materials for the project. Preliminary discussions were held with the company representatives regarding their future involvement. When works are undertaken in their area, the company will be able to compete for materials supply through our normal tender procedures.

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?

ANSWER

1. The percentage of sales tax attributable to freight is calculated by expressing freight charges relating to taxable goods over total taxable sales for 1979-80. The percentage is then applied to the actual amount of sales tax paid from 1 July 1980.

2. For the purpose of this subsidy all freight and handling charges involved in getting goods into the wholesalers warehouse are used in the calculation.

3. No. It would be extremely difficult to make this differentiation.

4. Information on importers with respect to sales tax is held by the Commonwealth government and is not available to the Northern Territory government. The Territory telephone directory lists 15 importers.

5. There would be some importers who would compete with Northern Territory wholesalers. For example, in the wood furniture and car market.

6. No.

7. The Northern Territory government is not aware of any overseas importers who are disadvantaged by this scheme. The government would consider the situation if evidence could be produced demonstrating such disadvantage.

8. Treasury officers check and verify the relevant records of potential recipients before a subsidy payment is recommended.

9. Before the percentage of sales tax attributable to freight may be determined, all relevant records are verified by Treasury officers. All firms participating in this scheme have cooperated to the fullest extent in this process on a confidential basis.

   Whilst a percentage has been determined for 1980-81 for individual firms this will be subject to review as necessary.

Numbulwar - Housing

149 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the need for houses for 72 families of Aborigines at Numbulwar?

2. If so, will he make representations to the Federal government to house these people or hand over the responsibility for housing them to the NT government?

ANSWER

1. My attention has been drawn to the need for houses for Aboriginal families at Numbulwar and at most other communities. There is a serious and longstanding backlog which the government has estimated to be in excess of 2,000 units. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs acknowledges that there is a severe housing shortage at Numbulwar and the fact that there are approximately 70 families without adequate housing is not disputed by that department which also affirms that the same situation applies in respect of many Aboriginal communities throughout the Northern Territory. The department adds that the operations of the Numbulwar Housing Association have recently improved and the department hopes to be able to make available some additional funds in the present financial year. An expanded program for the coming year will be a matter for the Aboriginal Development Commission.

2. The strongest representations have been made by the NT government with a view to gaining transfer of the responsibility for housing from the Commonwealth along with adequate funds to overcome the backlog.

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?

ANSWER

1. Freight rates place a strain on all communities in the Northern Territory. The more isolated the community, the greater the freight burden tends to be. The rate of 60¢ per kilo from Darwin to Numbulwar is not the general freight rate; it is the rate on freezer-chiller cargo. For some time this rate has been subsidised by the general freight rate. With the need to purchase new freezer-chiller units, it has become inappropriate to continue this cross-subsidy. The last increase in freight rate was in August 1978 and of course costs have increased substantially since then. Freight consignments to Numbulwar are very small and therefore providing the service is costly.

2. It is cheaper to freight goods to Numbulwar from Cairns than it is from Darwin. This is a commercial matter and it is not possible to state categorically what the reasons are. However, the Queensland company providing barge services is a much larger company than the Northern Territory operators and operates a transhipment service in the Gulf. It is likely that this is a far more cost-effective operation than long haul barge services which the Northern Territory companies provide.

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?

ANSWER

Mrs P.M. Davies, Mr P.A.E. Murphy and Mr D.J. Sweetman.

I am currently considering a replacement for Mr Collins from 3 persons nominated by the Corporation of the Municipality of Katherine.

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?

ANSWER

(a) Funding: 7 public libraries are funded by the Northern Territory government.

(b) & (c) Names and Locations of Territory Public Libraries:

Darwin City Public Library
Gallery Level
Smith Street Mall
DARWIN NT

Nightcliff Public Library
Pavonia Place
NIGHTCLIFF

Casuarina Public Library
Bradshaw Terrace
CASUARINA NT

Nhulunbuy Community Library
Nhulunbuy High School
NHULUNBUY NT

Katherine Public Library
Katherine Terrace
KATHERINE NT

Tennant Creek Public Library
Regional Office, Windley Street
TENNANT CREEK NT

Alice Springs Public Library
Cnr Leichhardt & Gregory Terraces
ALICE SPRINGS NT

(d) Staff Employed by the Public Libraries:

Darwin City Public Library	9 full-time
Nightcliff Public Library	2 full-time
Casuarina Public Library	15 full-time
Nhulunbuy Community Library	2 full-time
Katherine Public Library	1 full-time
Tennant Creek Library	1 full-time, 1 part-time
Alice Springs Public Library	8 full-time

(e) Bookstock - as at 20 February 1981:

Darwin City Public Library	24,419
Nightcliff Public Library	10,192
Casuarina Public Library	48,903
Nhulunbuy Community Library	7,676
Katherine Public Library	6,050
Tennant Creek Public Library	8,342
Alice Springs Public Library	24,114

(f) Book Loans over the 12 Months Period Ending 31 January 1981:

Darwin City Public Library	52,208
Nightcliff Public Library	51,116
Casuarina Public Library	264,268
Nhulunbuy Community Library	36,697
Katherine Public Library	23,885
Tennant Creek Public Library	15,656
Alice Springs Public Library	88,370

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?

ANSWER

1. As at 28 February, 404 permanent officers and 40 persons on limited tenure were employed in Water Division. In areas other than Darwin approximately 92 personnel are employed by Operations Division carrying out activities on behalf of Water Division.

2. There are 11 projects currently in progress throughout the Territory related to domestic or town water supply schemes with a further 4 of an agricultural or recreational nature. Numerous other projects related to potential future water supplies for domestic, agricultural or industrial use are current. Water supplies in the major centres are continually under investigation and review.

3. Normally each project is the direct responsibility of one professional engineer or hydrogeologist who will co-opt technical resources from the division as required. Virtually all professional and technical staff would at some time or other have input to water supply investigation work.

   Numbers of professional and technical staff in Investigation Branch are as follows:

	Professional	Technical
Ground water	5	9
Surface water	10	37
Laboratories	7	12
Environmental	9	24

   (This does not include industrial staff and the group responsible for operation and construction activities).

4. There are 6 vacant professional positions in Water Division. Four of these have been or are about to be advertised.

5. There are 90 clerical and administrative positions in the Water Division. These include staff in the business undertaking, the general administrative services group and the technical sections.

South Australian Symphony Orchestra Visit

171 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the 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?

ANSWER

The final cost of the 1980 tour of the Northern Territory made by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra was $40,881.

The Northern Territory government guaranteed the shortfall and the amount was paid from the Grants-in-Aid (Arts and Cultural Affairs) allocation.

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 members can be increased?

ANSWER

The provision of additional staff to the Alcohol Dependency and Treatment Unit at Darwin Hospital to enable them to operate on a 24 hour basis will be achieved by reallocation within the Department of Health.

Teacher Shortage 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?

ANSWER

1. Shortages of Teachers as at 28 February 1981, in:

   (a) Specific Subject Areas: Home Economics 3; Technical Studies 2; Teacher Librarians 3; Maths 2; Music 1.

   (b) Age/Grade Levels: Transition 2; 1 Teacher Schools General Primary Primary 6.

   Total (a) and (b) = 19.

2.(a) Areas Affected by Shortages as at 28 February 1981:

Pigeon Hole - Primary Teacher; Victoria River Downs - Primary Teacher; Papunya - Teacher/Librarian, Primary Teacher; Amanbidji - Primary Teacher; Haast Bluff - Primary Teacher; Braitling - Transition Teacher; Bradshaw - Transition Teacher; Yirrkala - Teacher/Librarian, Primary Teacher; Maningrida - Technical Studies, Home Economics Teacher; Tennant Creek Area School - Home Economics Teacher; Elcho Island - Home Economics Teacher; Milingimbi - Technical Studies Teacher; Alice Springs High - Teacher/Librarian; Casuarina High - Music Teacher; Nightcliff High - Maths Teacher; Darwin High - Maths Teacher.

(b) Positions not Filled as at 23 March 1981:

Pigeon Hole - school not yet opened, offer made; Victoria River Downs - offer made; Papunya - Teacher/Librarian not filled; Amanbidji - offer made but rejected, not filled; Haast Bluff - offer made; Yirrkala - offers made but rejected, not filled Teacher/Librarian, Primary Teacher; Maningrida - Technical Studies/Home Economics to be filled on 21 April 1981; Darwin High - offer made.

The main reasons for these teacher shortages are:

(i) a high rejection rate of offers to applicants to serve in isolated communities, particularly to one-teacher schools;

(ii) a national shortage of teachers trained in specialist secondary teaching areas (maths/science, home economics, technical studies, teacher/librarians and pre-school teachers); and

(iii) the total number of replacement teachers required is not known until the first week of the school year because some resignations are not lodged until the final day of school holidays.

Feral Animals Committee

177 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. When was the Feral Animals Committee formed?
2. What is (a) its composition, (b) the names of members, and (c) their appointment dates?
3. What is its charter?
4. What is the length of term of membership?
5. How many meetings has it held since its appointment?
6. Can the minutes of these meeting be made available?

ANSWER

Responsibility for the Feral Animals Committee was transferred to the Conservation Commission on 18 August 1980.

Flood Insurance for Katherine Area

180 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

Will he ask the Territory Insurance Office to make an immediate statement on flood insurance availability for the Katherine area?

ANSWER

TIO has for some time had under consideration the matter of providing flood insurance cover for residents of Katherine. It recently decided to provide this insurance as an extension to the fire and householders policies currently issued by the office.

The additional premium payable for this risk is $3 per $1,000 on building and contents.

Protection is available immediately through all branches of the Territory Insurance Office.

Resource Centre for Bamyili School

181 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the resource centre proposed for Bamyili School received ministerial approval?

ANSWER

The government has approved the inclusion of a resource centre for Bamyili Primary School on the 1980-81 Design List.

The project will be recommended for inclusion on the 1981-2 Capital Works Program and will, of course, be subject to budget Cabinet deliberations.

Important Ceremonies in Schools

182 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Will the flag day, arbor day, wattle day, Gould bird-lovers day and other formerly important ceremonies be instituted in NT schools?

2. Will school children be encouraged to attend civic ceremonies, such as the bombing of Darwin, Anzac day and Remembrance day, as an essential part of their education?

ANSWER

1. The list of possible days for 'commemoration' is quite large. Schools are constantly being asked to bring a multitude of 'occasions' to pupils' notice. It would be too disruptive of a school's normal learning program to feature them all. So principals generally choose those 'days' or 'events' which they consider most relevant to their students and concentrate on these.

   Where organisations connected with various 'days' request it, the department does provide schools with information on the 'day' and does distribute any materials that may be provided.

   The more significant dates in the Australian calendar such as the anniversary of the bombing of Darwin, Anzac and Remembrance days are brought to the schools' attention and suggestions made for their observance.

2. There is no instruction that school children should attend civic ceremonies associated with various commemorations. Once again this is left to the individual school to institute whatever program is considered best for its children.

Road to Edith River Farms

183 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the road into the Edith River farms be upgraded to all-weather standard?

ANSWER

The Edith River farms road has a very low priority for upgrading and is not included in any current proposals.

Youth Sporting Activities in Katherine

184 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

1. Is he aware of the lack of interest in rugby league in Katherine this year?
2. Will he appoint a recreation officer in Katherine to encourage the youth of the town to engage in sporting activities rather than frequent pinball parlours?

ANSWER

1. Yes, I am aware that Katherine will not be participating in Darwin rugby league competition this season. I understand that Katherine entered the league on the proviso that they field an 'A' grade as well as a reserve team. Katherine has been unable to do this and thus were asked to withdraw from the league competition. Attempts have been made to generate interest but the community, whose responsibility it is, is unwilling to become involved.
2. The department is currently liaising with the Corporation of the Municipality of Katherine with regard to the appointment of a recreation officer. The task of this person will be to develop a comprehensive youth service for the young people of Katherine. This may involve some sporting activities but also the more recreational and social activities desired by young people. Negotiations with the corporation for financial assistance through the grants-in-aid scheme are continuing.

Oral History Program

185 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the oral history program of the Chief Minister's Department and ask -

1. Is material now being stored in the Commonwealth Archives Building as foreshadowed in answer to Question 956 in November 1979?
2. If so, what controls are exercised over the removal of this material from the building?
3. What is the current membership of the Oral History Committee?
4. Is the Museums and Art Galleries Board represented on the committee and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

1. All necessary arrangements have been made for the material collected by the Oral History Committee to be stored in the Australian Archives

Building on behalf of the Northern Territory government and the basis for consultation between the archives and the Committee for access has been carefully established. The first completed oral history tapes and transcripts which have been indexed have been transferred to the archives together with a number of photographic and other documentary collections. Further material will be transferred as the necessary checking and indexing by the History Unit is completed.

2. The normal arrangements for access to archival collections will be applied by the Officer in Charge of the Australian Archives in Darwin.

3. The current membership of the Oral History Committee is: H.C. Giese (Chairman), Dr F.H. Bauer (representing NARU), Dr Alan Powell (Darwin Community College), Mr P. Spillett (Historical Society/Historian), Mr R. Davis (NT Library Service), Mr V. O'Brien (Historian), Dr I. Hunter (Oral History Association), and a representative of the National Trust.

4. Where, as a result of the oral history program, museum-type collections have been located the Board has been advised. The Museums and Art Galleries Board is not at present represented on the Oral History Committee.

Museums and Art Galleries Board Interest in Modern NT History

186 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Does the Museums and Art Galleries Board have a staff member responsible for the area of modern NT history (i.e., since European settlement) and, if not, why not?

2. If so, what are his or her qualifications?

3. Is it intended that the NT Museums and Art Galleries Board establish collections in this field?

4. What is the relationship between the NT Museums and Art Galleries Board and the NT oral History Committee?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. A Curator of Territory History having both practical experience and academic qualifications (Batchelor of Arts degree majoring in history) is employed by Northern Territory Museums and Art Galleries Board.

3. Yes.

4. The parties are presently discussing their respective roles and how they relate.

William Gove House in Nhulunbuy

187 Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Which department is responsible for the management and administration of single persons accommodation at William Gove House, Nhulunbuy, blocks 6 and 7?

ANSWER

Currently the Department of Community Development is responsible for the management and administration of blocks 6 and 7 at William Gove House.

A joint review team consisting of representatives from the Public Service Commissioner's Office and the Housing Commission is, however, investigating

the feasibility of establishing a permanent office of the Housing Commission at Nhulunbuy early in the 1981-2 financial year.

Establishment of the permanent office will provide for the transfer of the management and administration function to the Housing Commission.

NT Pastoral Leases

189 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is (a) the name and or number and, (b) the area of each pastoral lease in the NT not at present being worked?

ANSWER

To give a list of pastoral leases not at present being worked would require that all pastoral leases had been recently inspected (patently impossible) and would require also a definition of 'being worked'.

On the basis of reports resulting from the most recent inspections, and 'being worked' defined as having a resident manager and/or staff, the list is as follows:

No.	Name	Area km^2	Comment
588	Gurner	795	Owner recently deceased
640	Beetaloo	7,110	No recent turn-off, under Aboriginal land claim
665	Maryfield	4,105	Mortgagee sale
668	Gimbat	2,996	Problems with land status, although purchaser available
700	St Vidgeon	6,812	Under forfeiture
705	Eva Valley	2,927	Under forfeiture
760	Chilla Well	2,613	Abandoned by Aboriginal owners.

Tillage Technique for Top End Agricultural Conditions

190 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What work is being done to develop a suitable minimum tillage technique for Top End agricultural conditions?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has recognised the importance of developing suitable minimum tillage techniques for Top End production.

Recently I approved the Department of Primary Production and the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority entering into a joint project with the CSIRO Division of Tropical Crops and Pastures to research and develop minimum tillage techniques. Funds have been provided by our 2 organisations to CSIRO to build a test minimum tillage planter and an agricultural engineer is being recruited by the department for the project.

Initial research and development studies will be conducted at the CSIRO Katherine Research Station in the last dry season 1981, and the 1981-2 wet season, with follow-up studies on research stations throughout the Top End in subsequent years.

Some work has already taken place, notably by CSIRO at Katherine, but also by my department at Upper Adelaide River and Douglas Daly Experiment Stations. Although the project is only in its infancy, results to date are encouraging.

Minimum tillage techniques have the potential of reducing the costs of crop sowing, improving the reliability of crop establishment, increasing the time available for farmers to sow their crops, and reducing soil erosion risks.

Development of minimum tillage techniques not only involves testing and selection of suitable sowing machinery, but possibly also adjustments in fertiliser practices, weed control methods, seeding rates and timing of operations.

Electrical Stimulation Method of Tenderising Beef

191 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has his attention been drawn to an inexpensive electrical stimulation method of tenderising beef and, if so, will he encourage use of this method particularly in the Top End?

ANSWER

I am aware of the electrical stimulation method of tenderising beef as well as the 'tender stretch' method and the 'cryovac' method of producing tender beef.

These are all worthwhile methods of producing more tender beef for the quality table beef trade but of no value for the third grade manufacturing US export trade which most Territory beef is consigned to.

Both the 'tender stretch' method of hanging carcases and the 'cryovac' method of packing whole cuts of meat have been, or are being, introduced into at least 5 major Territory abattoirs.

Effect of Low Price Paid to Cattlemen

192 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What effect is the low price being paid to cattlemen by meatworks having on the live cattle trade?

ANSWER

Low prices being paid to cattlemen by meatworks appears to be having little effect on the live cattle trade.

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service *294
Aboriginal Health Worker Training Program 275
Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority, female field worker 260, *292
Aboriginal teaching assistants 274
Aborigines -
   electoral roll 253, 282, *295
   essential services *290
   mining royalties *293
Accommodation for outback students 251
Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority, funding 266
Airlines of Northern Australia 259, 261, 263
Alcohol Treatment Centre, funding 308
Alice Springs -
   airport 287
   closure of dump road crossing 241
   cultural centre 266
   Golf Club 299
   industrial area 281, 286
   magistrates 240
   recreation lake 269
   special purposes leases 242
   Stott Terrace 258
   traffic and railway 297
Antibiotics in stockfeed 245
Bag limits, NT fishermen 233
Bagot Road flyover 281
Bamyili school, resource centre 310
Beatrice Hill Research Station 236
Beef, tenderising method 314
Buses, steps on 265
Bus terminal at Civic Centre, toilets 267
Bus timetables 265
Capital works subsidy 273
Carpentaria College site 233, 269
Casuarina Shopping Centre, unattended children 276
Catering and hospitality courses 253
Cattlemen, effects of low beef prices 314
Coal for power-station 270
Coastal Plains Research Station, production bore 271
Coastal surveillance 248
Collia Tin Mine *288
Commonwealth Insurance Commissioner 237
Community Health Centres, private practitioners *295
Community Health Service, internal review 256
Crocodile Farm, problems 247
Crocodile sightings 242, 247, 258
Cropping Development Committee 260
Crown lease, ministerial decision 249
Cultural activities, criteria for government funding 287
Dam site, Upper Adelaide River 252
Darwin air terminal 236
Darwin Central Zone Sewerage System 239
Darwin Community College, accreditation of BA degree 277
Darwin Hospital, demountables 235
Darwin power-station 276
Darwin Trader 255
Department of Community Development -
   advertisement in NT News *288
   grants-in-aid *289

Department of Transport and Works Water Division 307
Dick Ward Drive, intersection with Ross Smith Avenue 246
Differential rating in city area 250
Dollar-for-dollar subsidy 254
Douglas Daly Agricultural Development Scheme 262, 263
Drunkenness in public places 249
East Point Reserve 256
East West Airlines *291, *292
Edith River Farms, road 311
Education Act, regulations 278
Education funding for migrant and refugee children 262, 267
Emergency accommodation 276
Farm at 60-mile 238
Feral Animals Committee 309
Fire Station at 14-mile, staffing dispute 235
Geothermal resources in NT 271
Government legal work 272
Government statistician 275
Generators, Elliott and Newcastle Waters *293
Green Paper on Education 264
Gunn Point, cement manufacture from coral 234
Handicapped children, education 240
Health funding 252
Hermannsburg Mission 301
Hodgson Downs Station, bores 303
Horticulture in NT 266
Hospital Advisory Boards *294
Hospital patients, security of belongings 277
Housing Commission -
  medium-density blocks 280, 283
  out-of-turn allocations 296
Humpty Doo, bores 238
Hydro-electric scheme, funding 238
Indoor stadium 283
Industries Training Commission *292
Industry, funding 239
Instant Money Game 234
Jabiru, water supply contamination 303
Jury trial prosecutors 250
Kakadu National Park 234
Katherine -
  abattoir closure 282
  child care 266
  Community Welfare Office *289
  flood insurance 310
  High School, cleaning tender *289
  Rural Education College 284, *293
  Water Supply *289
  Youth Sporting activities 311
Koerner, Richard *289
Local products, promotion campaign 241
Lock-ups at Katherine and Tennant Creek 281
Lottery for NT 284
MacDonnell Ranges National Park 278
Malathion spraying 261
Medibank, TIO agency 251
Mining display 265
Minister for Mines and Energy - air charters 1979-80 300
Minister for Transport and Works, overseas visit 282

Ministers -
travel *294
travel allowance *294
Museums and Art Galleries Board, interest in modern NT history 312
Nabarlek, shipment of yellowcake 354
Nhulunbuy -
auction of houses 246, 255
negotiations for local government 278
Northern Airlines, replacement by TAA *292
Northern Meat Exporters -
interest rate on loan *294
special assistance loan *293
Northern Territory Development Corporation -
annual reports 240, 285
loans *293
Northern Territory Fire Brigade, director 237
Northern Territory Government, audit 233
Northern Territory Pensioners Concession Scheme *289
Northern Territory Planning Authority, Katherine representative 306
Northern Territory Port Authority 275
Northern Territory Public Service -
costs 302
disabled employees *298
Northumberland Insurance Company 272, 281, 285
Numbulwar -
freight costs 306
housing 305
Operational Grant Subsidies Scheme *288
Oral History Program 311
Outpatients fees 247, 259
Palm leaf beetle 246, 262
Papunya Health Service 243
Pastoral leases 313
Pastoral leases, Elsey and Hodgson Downs *289
Pathology laboratory at Darwin Hospital 284
Pinball parlours, hearing damage 238
Poisons, sale of 248
Poker Machines -
Alice Springs Casino 245
licensed clubs 263
Morgan poll 265
Project farms 239
Primary producers, financial assistance 244, 267
Prisons, overcrowding 260
Public Hospitals, means tests 280
Public libraries 306
Racing and Gaming Commission, poll 267
Railway survey 254
Refugees, Tamarind Centre *295
Remuneration Tribunal 277
Robinson River Station 300
Ross Park Primary School 256
Rum Jungle Mine, rehabilitation 237, *290
Rural area -
electricity connections 250
water reticulation 276
Rural development, assistance 243
Rural Planning Authority 282
Rural roads, straying stock 264

Sadadeen -
  High School, link courses *292
  Subdivision 298
Sales Tax Rebate Scheme 304
School buses -
  discipline on 256
  tenders *290
Schoolchildren -
  hospitalisation of injured 302
  indemnity forms 301
Schools -
  building of non-airconditioned 271
  important ceremonies 310
  penalties for non-attendance 245
  term lengths 282
Seamen, education 286
Seamanship tickets, lecturers 285
Senior Secondary College 286
South Australian Symphony Orchestra, visit 308
Strangles outbreak 246
Student assistance *295
TAA, bid for Connair *291
Tax-sharing arrangements 280
Teacher shortage 308
Tempe Downs Station, grazing licence 259
Tennant Creek Police Station 281
Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme 243
Tillage techniques in NT 313
Todd River causeway 253
Tradesmen for remote areas *288
Trade Symbol of NT 247
Transecutive pilots *292
Trotting in NT 237
Tuberculosis and brucellosis eradication 272
University Planning Unit 236
Venereal disease 281
William Gove House, Nhulunbuy 312
Women's Centres, funding 248, *295
Youth Sport and Recreation Directory 272
Yuendumu Road 304
Yulara Tourist Village 250, 252, 253

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.

Palmerston Contracts

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Have the firms of Kern Development Pty Ltd and Henry and Walker Pty Ltd been given the option to take on the first 2 subdivision contracts for Palmerston? If so, what has been the response of the companies and when does the government intend to officially announce the awarding of the contracts?

ANSWER

The honourable member's information is precisely correct. I would anticipate that the offers of lease will be signed today by a person holding my delegation as Secretary of the Department of Lands. The 2 offers put forward by those companies are brilliant in concept and in value for this region of the Northern Territory. I would be more than happy to make the details of the proposals available on a confidential basis to the Leader of the Opposition.

Allegation in Darwin Star

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he seen a report in the Darwin Star of 12 August 1981 which said: 'Surely that wasn't a Cabinet Minister's wife telling all interested at a cocktail function about who will get the nod to develop Palmerston's first 2 subdivisions. Surely not'. If the Chief Minister has seen that report, has he sought from each of his ministers a denial of that allegation made in that press report and, if so, can he inform the Assembly of the outcome of those inquiries?

ANSWER

I have not seen the report. If I were to believe all the scurrilous things that are said about honourable members on both sides of the Assembly in the pages of our esteemed press, I would be conducting non-stop investigations into their background. I believe that ministers in this Assembly are responsible people who are undertaking their duties in accordance with the highest traditions of the Westminster system. I do not see any need to carry out investigations simply because of anonymous reports in the gossip columns of second-class rags in the Darwin area.

Health Insurance for Aboriginal Communities

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has he taken any action to ensure that Aboriginal communities are aware of the need to take out health insurance to cover patients who are not classified as disadvantaged because charges will be raised for the provision of hospital and health services as from 1 September?

ANSWER

The answer to the honourable member's question is yes. Late in June, I wrote to 46 of the Aboriginal councils throughout the Northern Territory explaining to them the Commonwealth policy of 'user pays' and what impact it will have for people in the Northern Territory. I also asked the councils to address themselves to the matter of the people within their communities and to find out whether, as councillors, they would like to wash their hands of any responsibility in the matter of health payment for their members or whether they would like to use royalties, local government funds or perhaps consult with medical benefits funds to enable the communities concerned to take out a bulk policy with a fund that would cover the whole community. Strangely enough, I did not get much response but from those people who did respond, I found the results very encouraging. In fact, some councils wrote back and said they were about to receive their first royalty payment for one thing or another and were interested in taking out bulk cover for the community. They requested advice in this matter.

We have also started a program where regional medical officers visit all Aboriginal communities to explain the impact of the new policy on the communities and what they can do to help themselves. I believe that members have been offered a seat on the plane when medical officers are travelling to their electorate to meet with the councils to explain the ramifications of the new policy.

Mr Speaker, I have also sent a follow-up letter in the last week advising the communities that there is a great need to follow this matter up and do something positive. I have not had a response to that. I do see a need in the future for some councils, particularly those that are pretty flush with funds, to make a generous offer to Aboriginals in less fortunate circumstances throughout the Northern Territory. They could perhaps use royalty funds that are available from some projects to help offset medical costs for Aboriginals who have no source of income at all from that area. That is something for another day. I think that it is a suggestion that is well worth following up in the months to come.

Darwin-Ambon Yacht Race

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he authorised any person to attend in Ambon to represent the Northern Territory government at the completion of the Darwin-Ambon Yacht Race in an official capacity? If the answer is yes, does he still intend that that person should go having regard to recent events in which a news team has been prevented from entering Indonesia because of its alleged bias against that country?

ANSWER

For the last 2 years and certainly again this year, I have requested the honourable member for Port Darwin to represent me in Ambon at the finish of the Darwin-Ambon Yacht Race. To the best of my knowledge, the member for Port Darwin is representing me again this year.

Mr Speaker, the honourable member tells me that he is not. I cannot therefore advise the Assembly at this stage whether anyone will be representing me on this occasion. I will make inquiries and advise the Assembly if anyone is representing me.

I would say in response to the balance of the honourable member's question that I believe that it would be shortsighted of the Northern Territory, and indeed shortsighted of Australia, if we were to adopt the attitude that, because of the viewpoint of a particular Indonesian government, the people of Australia and the people of the Northern Territory should cut off ties, contacts, cultural visits, exchange schemes, not necessarily with the government of Indonesia although certainly we work through the representatives of the government of Indonesia, but with the Indonesian people. It is the people of Australia and in particular the people of the Northern Territory who must strive to build up our contacts with the people of Indonesia so that there can be better understanding in Indonesia of Australia's point of view and in Australia perhaps of the Indonesian point of view or the point of view of the Indonesian people. I certainly would not propose to snub Indonesian invitations because of practices of a government of Indonesia that is transitory. I believe it is important that the Northern Territory continue to build up and maintain the good relations that have existed up to date with Australia's nearest neighbour, a country of over 100 million people. We cannot ignore them. If their methods of government are different from ours, we must put our point of view forward and I would certainly always put my point of view forward about things that I do not like the Indonesian government doing. However, I do not believe we should cut off all contact with them because that is simply throwing them in the way of people by whom we would not want them to become unduly influenced. I would certainly propose that we continue to maintain all reasonable contacts with Indonesia. Quite frankly, I had understood that someone was representing me at the conclusion of this race in Ambon this year but I will check that.

Ownership of Mudginberri and Munmarlary Stations

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the current position of the ownership of Mudginberri abattoir and station and Munmarlary station?

ANSWER

The question is rather like one that was put to Lord Palmerston last century when he was asked to explain to the House of Lords the Schleswig-Holstein question, and just as difficult. He said: 'I understand it but I have forgotten it and there is some European prince who did understand it and he is in a lunatic asylum now and there is someone else who understands it and he is in Berlin and he is not going to tell you'. Getting back to Mudginberri, I am not sure that I fully understand the position of ownership. We have sought advice in various quarters as to the correct position in relation to land tenure in that area of the Northern Territory. Although our advice some 12 months ago was that the land had not been acquired validly by the Commonwealth, it would appear now that the land has been validly acquired by the Commonwealth and therefore Mudginberri station is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia and all responsibilities in relation to the operation of any abattoirs on that land, unless there is some subsidiary agreement between the Commonwealth and another party, would rest with the Commonwealth of Australia. I have made approaches to the Northern Land Council and am continuing to do so. I had informal discussions with the land council on this subject last week. I understand that the Northern Land Council will be attempting to operate, either directly or through contractors, Mudginberri abattoir for the next season.

Henry and Walker Shares

Mr BELL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I preface my question by drawing his attention to previous questions in relation to land development at Palmerston. Did he see a report in southern and Territory papers of the questioning of Henry and Walker shares by the stock exchange and did he cause an inquiry to be made of the company's share listing and has he satisfied himself that the run on the shares of Henry and Walker was not caused by inside information?

ANSWER

I should first of all draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that the company to which he refers is in fact a public company listed on the stock exchange in South Australia and perhaps in other Australian states. It was certainly floated in South Australia and therefore it is beyond my jurisdiction to take any steps to investigate activities that may occur on the stock exchange in Adelaide. It is the prerogative of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs and the Attorney-General of South Australia. I understand that the number of shares involved in any run was very small and I am certainly not aware of any insider trading in relation to the shares.

Car Parking Strategy for Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will he be introducing a bill during these sittings to enable the city council to carry out its parking strategy?

ANSWER

I believe not. I have been negotiating with the city council as to the policies to be incorporated in any amendment to the Local Government Act to enable it to charge some form of levy to recoup the costs of operating a multi-storey car park in Darwin and its entire car parking strategy in the city of Darwin. Unfortunately, the problem is somewhat complicated and I think the city

council has had a little difficulty in reaching a resolution on all the matters involved in establishing a formula for the contribution of business premises towards the car park. Since I have not received information back from the council, I have not been able to submit a final proposal to Cabinet to have legislation prepared. Unfortunately, this means that the introduction of any amendments has to wait until the next sittings. This places the corporation in a difficult position inasmuch as the car park is due for completion probably before Christmas. However I will be having talks with the corporation at the earliest possible date to see if we can resolve the problem.

Air Fares Increase

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Given that in June of last year the government made the then Northern Airlines withdraw a 5% fare increase because it had failed to seek approval under regulations of the Northern Territory Aviation Act, why did he allow an 'automatic flow-on' - they were his words - of the 8% increase in domestic air fares announced on 12 August? How can he justify such an increase on economic grounds, given that he described the increased costs facing the domestic airlines as resulting from the airlines poor industrial relations record, simply being passed onto the travelling public?

ANSWER

The agreement signed with Ansett Transport Industries on behalf of Airlines of Northern Australia in part relates to there being an automatic flow-on of national fare increases. At the same time, we signed another document which set up the Northern Territory Review Board so that, in future, any applications made by Airlines of Northern Australia would be investigated by the Northern Territory government. In view of the fact that the Commonwealth had processed the applications by both TAA and Ansett and Northern Territory government officials had satisifed themselves that the flow-on was in order, I made a statement that the fares would increase on 12 August. It was more or less a catch-22 situation in that I still thought that, after the industrial disputes caused in the airline industry, the Australian travelling public was still forced to try and pick up some of that loss by an increased rate. Nevertheless, there was a catch-22 situation in that the federal government had already authorised the increase of the 8%. It naturally flowed on to the Northern Territory.

There was one particular point that I made that the Leader of the Opposition neglected to point out: the air fares between Alice Springs and Ayers Rock will remain as they were prior to 12 August.

Air Fares from Alice Springs to Ayers Rock

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is that an admission by him that the air fares from Alice Springs to Ayers Rock were artificially high?

ANSWER

It is common knowledge that the air fare from Alice Springs to Ayers Rock was higher than the national formula. This was because Northern Airlines were trying to subsidise some of their routes to try and get themselves out of trouble. It was inflated. At a meeting between tourist operators in Alice Springs on 17 July, it was decided to request the government that any future increases should not flow on to the Alice Springs-Ayers Rock run. I put that case to the ATI people at the time and said that under no circumstances would the government accede to an 8% flow-on on that route. There was an understanding that they would not submit an application for a fare increase for 6 months on that route.

Strike by NTEC Employees in Katherine

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he advise the reason for the current strike by NTEC employees in Katherine? This question is asked on behalf of the member for Elsey.

ANSWER

I have some information relating to the strike. The strike is related to the recent agreement between NTEC and the unions for a 9-day working fortnight. To a great degree, this has been a very successful arrangement that has been arrived at by the management and the employees. Ostensibly, the problem arose from the fact that what are now 3-day weekends are being converted into 4-day weekends by some employees who are taking the spirit of the new agreement a little too generously. The facts of the matter, as I understand it, are that 2 employees were absent from work without approval from 23 July to 4 August, which did extend the 4-day weekend a little. The employees were ultimately terminated on 30 July for unsatisfactory service with 1 week's pay in lieu of notice. The FMWU advised on 10 August that it had medical certificates for the gentlemen concerned although NTEC had never sighted these medical certificates. The FMWU produced the medical certificates for NTEC and, although these were produced on 10 August, they were backdated to 2 August. NTEC employees in the FMWU, the AMW and SU, and the ETU, are currently on strike and have been on strike since 12 August. NTEC has stated that it is happy to discuss the matter before the Arbitration Commission as soon as the employees go back to work because it thinks that the spirit of the previous agreement has been breached and it would not like to see that continue. Essentially those are the facts of the matter and I understand that the dispute has spread a little into the Darwin region in the last 24 hours. I do not have any more up-to-date information on that, Mr Speaker, but I do think that it is something that both unions and management have good reason to sort out because the concept of the 3-day weekend every second weekend is something that is very popular and is working well to a degree. If abuse of the system can be curtailed in the early stages, it will augur well for good relations in the future.

Price of Land in Douglas-Daly Area

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What is the final agreed purchase price for land in the Douglas-Daly area for the ADMA farming scheme?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have the information the honourable member requires. It has been dragging on a little and we are seeking that information as quickly as we can.

Industrial Safety Staff in Department of Mines and Energy

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it the intention to reduce the number of staff who work in the area of industrial safety in the Department of Mines and Energy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the short answer is no. My colleagues say that that area is expanding.

Fees and Allowances for Aldermen

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the government reviewing fees and allowances payable to aldermen of the city council and, if so, is he able to give any indication when it is likely

that an increase in the fees and allowances to aldermen is expected?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, some time back the government received a request from the Darwin city council to have the fees and allowances payable to aldermen upgraded because they were set a considerable time ago. Much has changed with the evolution of the Darwin city council. It has grown to be quite a large business with a number of committees and subcommittees and so on. In considering the question of regional allowances for aldermen, the government decided it should look fairly closely at the relationship between the various municipal authorities throughout the Territory. Action has been taken recently to refer the matter to the Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal. Following the receipt of the tribunal's report or even before, there may need to be some amendments to the Local Government Act which I will be proposing at a later sittings to alter the method of setting fees and allowances for aldermen in the city council because at present some of those figures are established in the act itself. It would probably be administratively more convenient to have the regulations deal with this matter.

Acquisitions in Stott Terrace Alice Springs

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

Will the minister undertake to write to the landowners on the north side of Stott Terrace Alice Springs stating the government's position on the proposed acquisition of those properties?

ANSWER

I can inform the honourable member that I have already done so and the contents of that letter indicates that the government does not intend acquiring any land on Stott Terrace other than the possible truncation of 2 properties. There is just no way the government can justify the expenditure of $1.5m for the acquisition of private business when, in its judgment, that is not necessary.

Northern Territory Air Charter

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that Northern Territory Air Charter has recently retrenched staff? Is he also aware that allegations have been made relating to indiscriminate poaching of passengers within the charter industry in contravention of licences? I am told about it constantly and each charter company blames the other. What action does the minister intend to take to prevent such poaching through the powers vested in him by the Aviation Act?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware of the problems described by the member for Arnhem. At the moment, I have referred to the Law Department alleged infringements of the Aviation Act by a couple of the operators in the aviation industry. I am seeking legal advice on whether I have a prima facie case against them. I have also advised the operators who have continually infringed that 203 regulation route that I intend to prosecute if a case does exist and have instructed them to have discussions with me regarding their poaching of other routes some time next week.

Port Authority Tug

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The Northern Territory Port Authority's new tug was brought up overland from Western Australia. Could he advise why the tug did not come up under its own steam at considerable savings and why no quote was sought from State Ships to bring the tug up?

ANSWER

I am aware that the tug has arrived but I am unaware of the circumstances of its transport. I will provide the honourable member with that information during these sittings.

Housing Needs in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the minister commission a report on Nhulunbuy's housing needs which he is prepared to make public?

ANSWER

I am amazed that the honourable gentleman who purports to represent that area requires a report from my department on the housing needs of his area. One would have thought that, if he made a casual observation of his own electorate, he could find out for himself.

Industrial Safety

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Apart from the Safety Sam campaign and the activities of safety inspectors, what other involvement does the Department of Mines and Energy have in the area of industrial safety and accident prevention?

ANSWER

I think the most appropriate way to answer the member's question would be to have a paper prepared providing the information we have on the program.

Large-Animal Pound in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the current thinking regarding the establishment and running of a large-animal pound in the rural area?

ANSWER

Pounds have been giving me some difficulty lately. The department has conducted a review of the legislation for animal pounds. It seems to me that the legislation is outdated by 50 years and requires reviewing. To this end, I am having a submission prepared to seek approval for legislation changes which will in essence prevent the requirement of having a pound reserved as a specific area. The reservation procedures are tedious and do not provide much flexibility. I think that, in this day and age, we should be looking at declaring an area to be a pound without having many limitations. There would have to be approval for an area to be made a pound. The procedure should be simple and able to be changed from time to time. It is a matter that does concern the government because of the continuing complaints about stray animals which can cause danger to persons and property. I can only assure the member for Tiwi that I am aware of the problems in her electorate and I will attempt to deal with them as best as bureaucracy will allow.

Henbury Avenue Special School

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the latest estimated opening date for the Henbury Avenue Special School?

ANSWER

The Henbury School has been the subject of debate in this Assembly. It is under the auspices of the Department of Transport and Works that the construction is being carried out. A contractor almost went into liquidation but, to avoid

calling for other tenders, the department took the view that it would be easier to leave the contractor there to continue the work providing that he maintained a work rate that would enable the school to open for the next school year. My understanding is that the department is satisfied with the work rate of the present contractor. There is reasonable progress and all indications are that it will be completed this year.

Housing Needs for Nhulunbuy

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Apart from pouring my contempt on ...

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will ask his question.

Mr BELL: Will the minister answer my colleague's question in relation to ...

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable member will ask the question. The minister may reply or he may not reply. That is his privilege.

Mr BELL: Is there a report on housing in Nhulunbuy and, if so, will the honourable minister make it public?

ANSWER

Dear me, Mr Speaker, the new boy comes down from the back bench and takes over the responsibilities of another member.

Mr SPEAKER: Will the honourable member answer the question or decline to answer it.

Mr ROBERTSON: I have already answered the question.

Shop Trading Hours

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This question is asked as a result of the comments that have been made recently by the small traders about shop trading hours. Is the government inquiring into the issue of restricted trading hours and, if so, is he able to indicate what form the inquiries are taking?

ANSWER

The government is not specifically inquiring into the question of trading hours. Its policy has been expressed from time to time recently: it does not favour the regulation of shop trading hours in the Northern Territory. We do not believe that governments should be involved in telling people where and when they should be able to shop. There has been an organisation formed to press for legislative controls specifically aimed at preventing large retail operators in the Northern Territory from opening on Sundays. The organisation is called the Independent Small Business and Traders Association. It has had talks with the government and we continue to correspond on the matter without reaching a great deal of agreement. The government has also contacted the major retailers to ascertain their intentions about Sunday trading in Darwin. From the information we have, it appears that there are no plans in the immediate future for any of the major national retail chains to open on Sundays in Darwin. I think that the Independent Small Business and Traders Association is a little bit premature in some of its allegation about what would occur in Darwin if other businesses which currently do not trade on Sundays do trade in future.

Special Purposes Leases for Aboriginal Communities

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the Department of Lands or its officers advised pastoralists not to agree to special purposes leases for Aboriginal communities as I alleged in this Assembly on 2 June 1981?

ANSWER

No. It would certainly be contrary to the policy of this government if it were to do so.

Specialist Teachers in Primary Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the government's position on the provision of specialist teachers in primary schools?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Teachers Federation has indeed got its act together to launch a campaign for specialist teachers in primary schools. It is generating through school councils an interest among parent bodies for just that. I have an advantage over those parents in that I have seen the Northern Territory Teachers Federation's justification for specialist teachers in primary schools as a result of the core curriculum. The entire submission moves me not one iota. It is not an argument for the benefit of schoolchildren and their better education but a very thinly disguised submission for more time off for teachers. It is nothing more than that. The core curriculum was brought in partly as a result of overtures by primary school teachers to this government for guidance in their work and to help with consistency in their work. Not one primary school teacher I spoke to implied that it would involve them in more work. Indeed, quite the contrary is the case. It is a simple step by step guide on how to go about teaching the very subjects that those teachers are trained to teach. I find it remarkable that the Northern Territory Teachers Federation can insult its own membership by saying that they are not capable of doing the very work they claim they are professionally trained to do. The whole thing smacks of inconsistency. When one thoroughly examines the document, one must come to the conclusion that it is solely another vehicle to obtain more time off.

Mr Speaker, our system of education cannot afford constant applications and demands, however disguised, for less work for the same pay. When the Teachers Federation and educationalists can convince me and my colleagues that there is a sound educational reason why primary school teachers cannot teach what they are trained to teach, then we will review the situation. We are told that we require additional specialists for musical and physical education. I am the first to support the provision of specialist advice to teachers in very special areas, particularly physical education where a false approach can have catastrophic effects for life. I would see specialists in feeder high schools being made available to primary school teachers if and when those professional people want that help. If we say that primary school teachers are not capable of teaching physical education and music for which they were trained in part of their course, it would equally follow that science and mathematics are specialist fields in education. They are in secondary schools so what are we really arguing for: the abolition of primary school teachers and the creation of a system of specialisation from infancy up? If we were to do this, the cost of education would treble without any advantage whatsoever to the students because there are far more primary school students in a place like the Northern Territory than high school students.

Mr Speaker, this is an attempt by the Teachers Federation to abrogate the very type of responsibility it claims as its own. The role of primary school teachers is to have a direct association with a child in a class so that child identifies with the teacher and works through the various years of primary school education to equip himself for secondary education. This government will have no part of this surreptitious backdoor method of less work for the same pay.

Katherine Meatworks

Mr LEO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Did the minister have any foreknowledge of the change in employment policy of the Katherine Meatworks?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, over the years I have found when dealing with business people that they are fairly reluctant to offer much of the fine detail of their operation and management policies. I understand that the Katherine abattoir management has been concerned for some time about the cost of processing animals. The present position is a stalemate between the employees and the employers. What the final resolution of this particular problem will be, we have yet to find out but, the way prices are going in 1981, it would not surprise me if the abattoir remains closed until such a resolution is reached.

Department of Treasury Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER

When will the Department of Treasury accounting office in Alice Springs become operational?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Treasury accounting office in Alice Springs is in fact manned in a small way at present although it will not be fully operational until 1 January 1982. From that time, accounts will be paid directly from the Alice Springs office as well as salaries for government employees in that region. Government departments with offices in Alice Springs will receive separate ledger reports and be in a position to manage their own finances virtually wholly within Alice Springs within overall Treasury regulations. We hope that this move by the government to establish a Treasury accounting centre in Alice Springs - which was made purely in the interest of decentralisation and to provide additional local services - will help the local people to feel that they are getting service that is closer to home. There will be no further need to send accounts to Darwin and for cheques to be processed here and sent down to Alice Springs. That system really runs fairly smoothly and quite quickly under normal circumstances but in the event of disruption of postal or transport services - which seems to be a bit of a thing these days - accounts and cheques can be delayed substantially. The advent of an accounting office in Alice Springs will largely overcome those problems. We are pleased that the government has been able to see its way clear to establish this small centre in Alice Springs to provide that additional element of service to the people there.

Chicken Feeding Trials

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What has been the outcome of the recommendations of the chicken feeding trials conducted by the Department of Primary Production and what will be its implications for local suppliers considering local feeds were compared to feeds mixed interstate?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have the information at my fingertips. I will seek it and provide it for the honourable member at a later time.

Rehabilitation of Rum Jungle

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Could the minister advise the Assembly what progress has been made with the program to carry out further rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would ask the honourable member to put that question on notice.

Sales Tax Rebate Scheme

Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Given last night's budget which will increase the rate of sales tax levied and expand the commodities that attract sales tax, is it the intention of the Northern Territory government to retain its sales tax rebate scheme and, if so, how does it expect to cope with the additional outlets which will now attract the rebate?

ANSWER

The news of the federal government's moves in relation to sales tax has only been learned in the last 24 hours by the Northern Territory government. I am seeking a report on the implications of the budget upon the Northern Territory sales tax on freight scheme. I will be studying the report and, in the light of that, consider whether or not I should submit changes to the scheme to the Northern Territory Cabinet. At this stage, it is too early to accurately assess the effect because the federal government's budgetary moves in this area were fairly widespread. Until such time as we can collate all the figures, we will not really know how the Territory scheme will be affected. Therefore, it is premature to give any predictions on the scheme now.

Community Health Centre Charges

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise if charges will be made for consultations at Community Health Centres after 1 September 1981?

ANSWER

It was mentioned in the debate and also in the statement yesterday that consultations with medical practitioners at Community Health Centres will be paid for at a rate of $15 per consultation. There is some classification that needs to be enlarged upon so far as the health centres are concerned. I am happy to advise the Assembly that the health centres where these charges could be made will be Alyangula, Berrimah, Connellan, Darwin Central, Howard Springs, Jabiru, Katherine, Parap, Sanderson, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy and Nightcliff. Obviously, most of those health centres are in suburbia rather than in remote areas. That is the criterion on which the health centre classification has been determined. If the honourable member or other members of the Assembly need further information, I would be happy to provide it.

Aboriginal Community Health Centres

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the fact that the minister has already stated that Aboriginal communities will be invited to take out blanket health care, is it intended that Community Health Centres in Aboriginal communities will make the same charges or not?

ANSWER

Where a medical practitioner visits the Community Health Centre in a remote area and a person receives a GP-type consultation, there will be a fee of $15. In most of these centres that I have just mentioned, the presence of a GP is very regular and even full time in most cases. In remote areas, there is the occasional visit of a medical practitioner from one of the larger centres. Any service provided by nursing staff will not be charged for.

Donkey Camp Project in Katherine

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question concerns the proposed Donkey Camp project in Katherine to pump

water from the Katherine River. Will he explain why no environmental impact study has been carried out on this project?

ANSWER

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

Lottery and Gaming Legislation

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has any progress been made on the review of the Lottery and Gaming legislation?

ANSWER

A couple of months ago, it was announced that there would be a complete review by the Lottery and Gaming Commission of the Lottery and Gaming Act. At that time, it was announced that it was proposed to split the act - one piece of legislation for lottery and gaming and the other for racing and betting. The Racing and Gaming Commission sent out questionnaires to some 850 clubs and organisations throughout the Northern Territory seeking their views on the various forms of lotteries and raffles and limitations currently placed on them. Unfortunately, there have only been 169 replies to date. One would expect that all who intended to reply have replied. However, the time for replies has been extended in the attempt to obtain some more information from clubs and organisations on lotteries and gaming. The decision as to when to cut off the receipt of submissions is important in determining when legislation will be able to be introduced into the Assembly. We are hoping to have the matter considered and ready for introduction in the November sittings but there is a possibility that it may not be until the sittings after that.

Racing and betting is not in the same situation. We have now sent out 850 questionnaires to persons on that subject. We do in fact have a great deal of information. I do not see that there should be any delay in drafting legislation on that subject. Hopefully, complete reviews of the legislation on both lottery and gaming, and racing and betting will be introduced into the Assembly in November. However, there is a possibility that at least one bill will not be introduced until the following sittings.

Kakadu National Park

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he yet in a position to explain to the Assembly the changed arrangements, if any, which will apply to the management of Kakadu National Park?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, no.

Report on Mental Health Act

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it intended to table in the Assembly a separate annual report on the operations of the Mental Health Act in accordance with the requirements of section 41 of that act or is the inclusion of a short section in the NT Department of Health annual report considered to be sufficient?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place that question on notice.

Health Department Staff

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I preface my question by drawing the attention of the Assembly to the

minister's statement yesterday in which he referred to new procedures to be adopted as a consequence of the new health funding arrangements. Which categories of department's staff will receive training in these procedures and in which such procedures will the department's staff receive training?

ANSWER

I can only assume that the member is referring to the procedures that will be involved in processing patients admitted to hospital. There will need to be a fair amount of paperwork processed before they are admitted. If that is not what the member is referring to, perhaps he could let me know. In this particular instance, the staff of all the hospitals will need to go through a training period on the requirements of the government, the federal government and the Department of Social Security and, in fact, on what has to be done to enable payment to be made for services rendered. This concerns nursing and medical staff. That training period started some 6 to 8 weeks ago. It has been going on for some time and will probably continue through into the new year. We anticipate that the first 6 to 9 weeks after introduction of the new scheme could contain a few hiccups and a complete review of our operating procedures is planned to take place at the end of the ninth or tenth weeks of the new charge system so that any difficulties can be ironed out and staff can be advised how these difficulties can be overcome. If I have not answered the honourable member's question adequately, I would be happy to give him further information.

Repair Work on Arnhem Highway

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the program for repair work on the Arnhem Highway?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in answer to the honourable member's question, approximately 12,000 metres of pavement on the Arnhem Highway require repair. The department intends to surface as much as it can before the wet. As we have been unable to attract a contractor to do the job, there will be about $250,000 worth of work done by direct management. We will be inviting tenders shortly for repairs valued at $1.2m for the Arnhem Highway pavement.

Medical Fees in Aboriginal Communities

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

When there is a charge for services by a visiting medical practitioner to Aboriginal community, who will be expected to collect these fees?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it will be a circumstance by circumstance arrangement. In some cases, there will be clerical staff available to collect the fees and in other cases the department will be seeking the cooperation of nursing and medical staff to arrange for the collection of the fees.

Donkey Camp Project in Katherine

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

My question refers to the projected pumping of 30 million gallons of water per month from the Donkey Camp area of the Katherine River. What steps have been taken to protect farmers who need that water to continue the farming projects they have started along the banks of the Katherine River?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, when the decision was taken to exploit Donkey Camp to supplement the water supply to the township of Katherine, a committee was set up comprising farmers on the river and members of the department. It was hoped that this com-

mittee would establish the basis for pumping out of the river. I have not been associated with it since that time. I have been advised that people with new agricultural techniques in the region have elected to put bores alongside the river rather than pump out of the river. I understand there is a limit of what can be taken out of the river. I think that is an established fact.

Health Department Staff

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the answer to my previous question, does he believe that it is an efficient use of resources to use highly-trained medical staff to do the work of clerical staff in health institutions in the Northern Territory?

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable member is asking for an opinion.

Marina Proposals

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he able to inform me what stage the marina proposals have reached?

ANSWER

At the moment, a submission is being prepared by the Departments of Transport and Works and Lands to go forward to the Town Planning Authority for approval.

ADMA Scheme

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Given the recent difficulties of ADMA in obtaining land for its agricultural scheme, could he now advise the Assembly of the short-term future position of land that will be utilised under the scheme?

ANSWER

The member asks a question which would really necessitate a statement in reply. However, I did outline in an earlier sittings what the program was for 1981. We are not prepared to say any more at this stage. We are certainly hoping that we can get more land for more farms at a later time.

Dollar-for-Dollar Subsidy Scheme

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it the government's intention to continue the dollar-for-dollar subsidy scheme for schools during this financial year?

ANSWER

It is the government's intention to continue with this most successful program.

Donkey Camp Project in Katherine

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

As farmers along the Katherine River bank have been advised that, if they want to sink a bore, it is their prerogative and they have to pay for it, could he advise at what level will pumping cease from the Katherine River to protect their water supply?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Have any further reports been received by him as to whether or not the pro-

956.829—26

posal to introduce a parasite to control the palm leaf beetle in the Darwin area is able to be proceeded with?

ANSWER

The member for Port Darwin certainly exhibits a lot of interest in this particular problem. It is a very serious one in the urban area. He asked me 2 questions in the last Assembly about the palm leaf beetle. There has been very little improvement in the position. We are in a control phase. The eradication phase cost some $53,700. There are discussions about to take place with Queensland officers in respect of beetles that have been introduced to Samoa. We are awaiting with interest the result of these discussions and it may be that we can come to some arrangement with Queensland about the introduction of some predators. As I indicated in June, very strict controls would have to be mounted in respect of this particular aspect.

Casuarina Hospital Staffing

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Yesterday, in his statement on health charges and other health matters, he announced a planned reduction of 70 in the staffing of Casuarina Hospital. Can he advise which categories of staff will be included in this number?

ANSWER

I would need to seek information from the hospital administration. If the honourable members wishes me to do that, I would ask her to place the question on notice.

ADAMA Scheme

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Can he advise the Assembly if there has been any progress at all in the development of a third farm in the ADMA scheme?

ANSWER

The development of the third farm in the current scheme depends on acquiring some further land from a pastoral leaseholder.

Warrego Mine Redundancies

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Did he have any prior knowledge of the redundancies at Warrego Mine?

ANSWER

I received advice on the day that the public statement was made by the company. I received that advice from the chairman of Peko Wallsend on that day. I had been aware for some 4 to 6 weeks, as I think the whole community had been aware, that the company was certainly in a very difficult position so far as the Warrego smelter operation was concerned. They were looking very closely at what remedial action they would have to take to save their operation from going down the drain entirely.

Retailing at Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What procedures will be adopted in the establishment of shops at Jabiru to ensure that an undesirable monopoly situation does not arise with the prime consideration always being not only the shopkeeper's profit but the consumer's pocket?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure what procedures will be taken to ensure that a reasonable trading situation is arrived at in Jabiru. To some extent, it will be dependent on the actual size of the town and what sort of retailing operation it can support. I know that provision has been made in the construction phase to have a supermarket and 6 speciality shops and a bank. If the town becomes any larger than at present proposed as a result of other mines in the area gaining approval, I would imagine that an enlargement of the shopping facilities would be considered.

Horticultural Project for Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is it intended that the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority will eventually move to the Alice Springs area to help set up a horticultural project?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, stage 1 of the program does not provide that the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority will set up schemes anywhere else in the Territory. It is obvious that Alice Springs and Central Australia would be desirable places to further exploit horticultural development. To this end, we have strenghtened our horticultural section in the Department of Primary Production and that department will be responsible for any further developments in those areas.

Silting of Donkey Camp Area

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

As he will be aware, in the dry season, the Katherine River below the Donkey Camp area is quite shallow. What investigations have been undertaken by his department to mitigate the effects of the probable silting of that area which will result from the extraction of 30 million gallons of water per month in the dry season?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am unable to provide the honourable member with that information. However, I will do so during the course of these sittings.

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

In view of the importance of the beef industry to the Territory and the fact that we are lagging behind other states in the success of the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication scheme, is it the intention of the government to seek a formal guarantee agreement from the Commonwealth government for future funding for that scheme in the Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that intention has been forecast on a couple of occasions recently and certainly in the past. Recently, I pressured the Commonwealth for funds for the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication scheme at the recent Agricultural Council meeting in Darwin and before that at the Rural Adjustment Scheme meeting held in Melbourne at which I represented the Minister for Industrial Development. I do not know that the Territory is lagging behind in the beef industry. I point out to the honourable member that, at 30 June 1981, 26 export abattoirs had closed down around Australia and they were not in the Northern Territory. Mudginberri has closed down since then. Prices have a bearing on the impact of the future of the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication scheme, of course, and prices are fairly dpressed at this stage. No doubt growers will be watching this with great interest with regard to future operations.

Bus Service for Malak

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he inform me when a public bus service will be available in the northern section of Malak?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that the bus administration is working out new routes for Leanyer, Karama and Malak at the moment. Until such time as the program is complete, I am unable to provide the member with the information she requires.

McMinns Lagoon

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When is the flood mitigation work at McMinns Lagoon in the rural area expected to be completed?

ANSWER

Most of the work has already been completed. I believe that the Lands Branch is now trying to acquire some land in the area to finish the project. Once that land acquisition has been completed, the department will complete the job within 1 month.

Recreation Lake in Alice Springs

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to a letter from a Conservation Commissioner, Mr Harry Butler, to the Secretary of the Central Australian Conservation Council in which he suggested that alternative sites were under consideration for the proposed recreation lake in Alice Springs. Is it true that the government is considering alternative sites and, if so, which sites?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the terms of the letter from Mr Harry Butler to the Central Australian Conservation Council but I would like to hasten to assure the Assembly that Mr Harry Butler does not purport to speak on behalf of the Northern Territory government. At present, I understand the Aboriginal Liaison Unit of my department is attempting to re-establish contact with the Central Land Council with a view to further discussions regarding the site in the Todd River. At present, there are no alternative sites under consideration by the Northern Territory government.

Airport Facilities in Darwin and Alice Springs

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In the light of the totally inadequate airport facilities at both Darwin and Alice Springs, did the government in the last financial year seek funds for the upgrading of both these facilities prior to the construction of new facilities?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government is always pursuing the Commonwealth to upgrade the facilities at both the Darwin Airport and also the Alice Springs Airport. Both airports are controlled and owned by the federal government. We have made representations to the federal Minister for Transport to provide additional facilities at both these airports to no avail.

Teachers Accommodation at Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What consultation was undertaken with the teachers at Jabiru by the Jabiru Town Development Authority with regard to the accommodation of these teachers?

ANSWER

As far as I know, there were no teachers at Jabiru to consult with at the time that plans were being prepared for housing government servants at Jabiru. Extensive consultations on the nature of government housing - and I do not think that any different housing is being provided for teachers than to other government employees in the area - were had by the authority with the Department of Transport and Works, the Public Service Commissioner's office and the Department of Education.

Water Hyacinth

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

In how many sites in the Northern Territory has water hyacinth since been identified and what action is being taken to prevent it spreading?

ANSWER

I am not too sure about the number of sites at which water hyacinth has been identified. Certainly, there was a recent report that is currently under consideration by the department in relation to cost and forward planning.

Northern Territory Teaching Service

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Northern Territory Teaching Service established last month become fully operational?

ANSWER

As far as I know, there are teachers in classrooms in the Northern Territory carrying out their duties as normal. That is under the Northern Territory Teaching Service Act.

Anchorages off Cobourg Peninsula

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

My question relates to a debate which we had in the last Assembly sittings regarding safe anchorages off Cobourg Peninsula. As the Paspaley pearling lease area in Knocker Bay is no longer being used and is abandoned, has consideration been given to resuming that lease and making it accessible to the general public as suggested at the last sittings?

ANSWER

I cannot say that such consideration has been given. The Cobourg Peninsula National Park is under the control of a board of management which comprises a number of the Aboriginal traditional land owners and a number of representatives of the Conservation Commission. I am aware that they have had at least 2 and perhaps 3 meetings. As a result of these meetings, various decisions have been taken regarding management plans and recruitment and provision for additional rangers. I am not aware that any consideration has been given to acquiring the Paspaley lease at Knocker Bay and provision of an anchorage there. But I believe that those sorts of things will be considered in the formulation of a management plan. I know that a management plan will be formulated with a reasonable degree of celerity.

I do not believe that this anchorage at Knocker Bay should be considered in isolation from the management plan. There are places where people can anchor off

the Cobourg Peninsula at present and there are a number of watering points. I do believe that most yachtsmen who sail to the Cobourg Peninsula, whether it be from Darwin or whether it be from interstate or overseas, usually call in the vicinity of Smith Point and usually receive permits to go ashore.

Women's Centre in Alice Springs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why is there currently no women's centre operating in Alice Springs since the closure of the former establishment more than a year ago?

ANSWER

I gather from the tone of the member's question that he was inferring it might be because of this government's non-action that the women's centre is not operating. I would like to advise the Assembly that, after the closure of the former women's centre in Alice Springs and after that very well attended meeting where the women of Alice Springs decided they wished to have a women's centre, the government was happy to support the establishment of a new centre. In fact, the Department of Health made available 2 demountables which were surplus to its requirements on the hospital campus. They were transferred to a block of the local women's choosing for establishment. Unfortunately, the block that the local women chose did not have correct zoning for the proposed centre and, for some time now, they have been going through the trauma, as all of us do when we come in contact with the town planning authorities, of having the block suitably zoned for the establishment of their centre. I appreciate that there has been some upset amongst the local women that it is taking so long but really I feel it is a matter for the people of Alice Springs because they chose the site and they did it in the full knowledge of the zoning. It is not a matter for the government. I would go on to say that we have funds ready to be drawn by the Womens Centre as a contribution towards its operation as soon as the doors are open. We have made preliminary payments already to enable the women to connect water, power and telephones and buy a bit of furniture. As soon as the other matters relating to town planning are resolved, I guess they will be in business.

Education Act Regulations

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the fact that Northern Territory schoolteachers are carrying out their duties in classrooms across the Territory, could he advise the Assembly when they will have regulations to the Education Act to guide them in those duties?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that is an excellent question. I think the timetable which I originally announced to the Assembly at the last sittings - that is, the end of October - still stands.

Coffee Bush

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister would be aware of the enormous amount of coffee bush or leucaena that grows in the electorate of Port Darwin. Has any consideration been given by the government to the method of controlling the spread of this bush? If so, is he able to inform me what methods have been considered?

ANSWER

If I may say so, the member for Port Darwin has, I will not call it an obsession, but perhaps a predilection for coffee bush. In other parts of the world, coffee bush is regarded rather more highly than it is regarded by the member for Port Darwin. Sometimes I think that coffee bush is all that is hold-

ing his electorate together. In Hawaii and in the Philippines coffee bush is used as an ornamental plant and it manages, on occasions, to look reasonably attractive. Some time ago, the Conservation Commission, and I cannot remember precise details, embarked on a program of attempting to eradicate portions of coffee bush from particular places. For instance, some members may have noticed that coffee bush on the slope below Government House leading down to the wharves has been, if not eradicated, at least tamed. I believe that some attempt was made to attack coffee bush on the cliffs over here. Coffee bush was eradicated to some extent around Myilly Point.

At present, the Conservation Commission is preparing a document which it hopes will be in the nature of a 3-year plan for the overall improvement of those areas of Darwin for which the government has particular responsibility. I think the foreshores are amongst them. I am not certain whether this plan will encompass the eradication of coffee bush. Perhaps I should inquire of this from the Conservation Commission. I do not know whether the eradication of coffee bush in certain circumstances might cause erosion. Perhaps the coffee bush would be best left in such places. When this proposal is prepared for the urban beautification of Darwin and other Territory centres such as Alice Springs, then it will be submitted to Cabinet for funding. I think some provision is being made for its funding in the next 12 months on a preliminary basis. I hope to be in a position to circulate it to members of the Assembly for their information. I hope that it contains good news for the member for Port Darwin. In some cases, I rather think the coffee bush is really a better sight than what lies behind it in parts of his electorate.

Katherine Rural Education Centre

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he advise of the progress in the program to provide additional staff and accommodation facilities at the Katherine Rural Education Centre?

ANSWER

Cabinet has recently taken a decision in addition to the decision previously announced to provide $128,000 to the Katherine Rural Education Centre. I might say that this is largely thanks to the efforts, the persuasive powers and the resulting confidence from the new council of the Katherine Rural Education Centre. We will provide 4 residential demountables plus an ablution block. Hopefully, things will go from strength to strength.

Maintenance of Todd River

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

As minister responsible for the Conservation Commission, is he aware of representations from the Alice Springs Town Council on the maintenance of the Todd River through Alice Springs? If so, will the Conservation Commission take on extra responsibilities for the condition of the river following these representations?

ANSWER

I am not aware of specific recent representations from the Alice Springs Town Council in relation to the Todd River. I imagine that, because the Director of Conservation is based in Alice Springs, it would obviously be far more efficient for the council to refer directly to the Conservation Commission in that town rather than correspond through me. I know the Conservation Commission has plans for the regeneration of tree growth in the Todd River bed. I understand that, for some reason, the trees seem to die in cycles. Of course we learn these things in an ongoing way and the Conservation Commission is gaining experience in this area. As to ownership of the Todd River bed, I cannot speak with any certainty but I would imagine that it would be Crown land. As for

control of the Todd River bed, the council is as free as any other governmental agency to pass bylaws within its powers in relation to control of matters relating to the Todd River bed. The council has responsibility in Alice Springs for a degree of urban beautification as indeed have councils right throughout the Territory. The government's principal responsibility is to look after those main roads that do not belong to councils. I hope that the maintenance of the Todd River area is something that can be carried out jointly between the Conservation Commission and the council. I would hope that, in due course, the council would accept responsibility for the river that flows right through the town.

Nabarlek Mine Spillage

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it true that some time in the last 12 months a significant pollution problem occurred at the Nabarlek mine site where liquid waste from the mill was measured as containing in excess of 2,000 pico-curies per litre, that some of this liquid waste was released into the environment and that, further to this, the company failed to report this incident to the Supervising Scientist?

ANSWER

I am aware of a release that took place earlier this year - I believe in March - during which time the company denied that such an occurrence had taken place. Upon questioning by the department, it still maintained that no such action had occurred. The matter has since gained some momentum with the involvement of the Department of Mines and Energy, the Office of the Supervising Scientist, the NLC and a few other people and is currently under review. As to the comments of the honourable member about the level of radiation in the release, I do not have the facts in front of me. If he would care to put his question on notice, I would be happy to give him the details of the circumstances and the sequence of events as I understand them. There is certainly nothing to hide from my point of view.

Palm Valley Gas

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What price is to be paid by the Northern Territory government to the Palm Valley joint venturers for the supply of gas for the Alice Springs-power station?

ANSWER

I appreciate the Leader of the Opposition's question and interest in this matter. I have not been oblivious to the fact that the price agreed upon is also of interest to many people outside this Assembly. I did not disclose the price last week because the only document signed by myself and Magellan was a letter of intent. Formal documentation has yet to be drawn up and signed. I took the view that, since it was a commercial agreement with a customer, in this case NTEC, and the supplier, Magellan, the commercial nature of the agreement should remain confidential until such time as the formalities were executed. My office has been in touch with Magellan Petroleum and, as a result of the numerous inquiries received by both the company and myself, we have agreed that the price should be released today. The price agreed upon was in fact $1.12 a gigajoule at the well-head. It should be clearly understood that this is a well-head price and not a city gate price. It is not the final price that will be paid by the consumer, which in this case is NTEC, which will have to take into account a number of other factors including pipeline costs and operation. To give members some comparison of the prices paid in Australia today for gas: Surat is getting $2.04 a gigajoule, Dongara is getting $1.90 a gigajoule, Cooper Basin is getting 52¢ a gigajoule and Gippsland is getting 33¢ a gigajoule. I make the point that the prices for Cooper Basin and Gippsland are for old gas at old prices. The first 2 prices are for new gas at new prices. Our own gas is old gas at an intermediate price.

I must also emphasise that this gas is of pipeline quality. As I said in my statement last week, the price was agreed to bearing in mind that the industry needs to receive a fair and equitable price for its product if exploration is to be maintained at a satisfactory level. I would say that $1.12 a gigajoule, given the circumstances of supply and demand, is a very fair price for the citizens of the Northern Territory.

Humpty Doo Primary School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the current situation regarding the building of the permanent Humpty Doo Primary School?

ANSWER

The contracts for the Humpty Doo Primary School were let at the same time as the contracts for 3 other primary schools; that is, 5 May 1981. One would hope to see the completion of those primary schools by about the end of January 1982.

Student-Staff Ratio in Primary Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

My question refers indirectly to a previous answer he gave me on specialist teachers. Does he intend in future school years in the Northern Territory to work towards an overall reduction of the student-staff ratio in primary schools for the educational benefit of the children, I might add, and not for a decreased workload on the teachers?

ANSWER

This is one of the areas that is subject to as many opinions as there are so-called experts: the value of reducing class sizes in terms of educational delivery. There was a study in Saskatchewan in Canada where it was proven - if

you can prove this short of thing - that it would be necessary to reduce a class of 30 down to a class of about 15 before any appreciable improvement in the quality of the delivery of education would be obtained. Nonetheless, there is a fairly wide body of opinion which believes that a class size of 30 in a primary school is somewhat excessive. The Northern Territory Teachers Federation has proposed a figure of 25 in primary schools which is fairly widely accepted throughout Australia as being the ideal for which we should aim.

I previously raised this matter with Cabinet at Port Keats a couple of years ago. The government announced that it would like to be able to reach a pupil-teacher ratio of 25-1. Certainly, it is a target that we still would like to reach when we can. We must have regard to the resources available to schools throughout Australia, not just in the Northern Territory. They are not unlimited and, with the prevailing economic climate and the attitude of the Commonwealth to educational grants to the states and the Territory, that target may well be some time off. Certainly, it is an objective that, resources permitting, I would like to attain as soon as we can.

Alice Springs Child Health Unit

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will renovations to the Alice Springs Child Health Unit be completed and can he describe how its facilities and services will be upgraded from their current derelict state as a result of the renovations?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Dam on Katherine Gorge

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Could he advise if a dam could be built on the Katherine Gorge and would it solve the problem of Katherine farmers outlined by the member for Nightcliff yesterday as well as supplying an alternative source of energy to a most important centre?

ANSWER

I gather from the tone and regularity of the questions that this matter of the Katherine Dam is very dear to the heart of the member for Elsey. I would like to assure the member for Elsey that I have his interests at heart also. The matter of whether the dam would provide sufficient water for the farmers in Katherine is one that has been under preliminary study by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation which reported to the government in a preliminary study that there would be very distinct advantages for primary industry in the area if a dam was built. However, the amount of water used for primary industry will have an impact on the amount of water available for the generation of power. To strike that balance will be important in the years to come when we consider erecting a dam. The amount of water the farmers in Katherine at the moment use would not have any impact on the proposals or any storage that the dam would accumulate when it is built. The water usage that I am talking about relates to any future primary industry development or irrigation prospects that may come as a result of the dam being constructed in the years to come.

Music Course at Darwin Community College

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that an Associate Diploma of Music course planned at Darwin Community College for 1982 cannot proceed because funding is not available. What action, if any, is the minister able to take on this matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there are a wide range of advance level course which the college would like to run and this government would like to see the college run. There is a difficulty in funding. All honourable members would be aware that the provision of funds for advanced courses throughout Australia are a Commonwealth responsibility. I would have preferred to have seen the Commonwealth not becoming involved in this area back in 1972 in the way it has. It is not as if the Commonwealth has made more money available for tertiary education as a result of its assumption of full responsibility for advanced level courses. What it did was deduct the equivalent amounts that the states were already getting for purposes of advanced education and took it upon itself to dole that money out by way of tied grants as it saw fit. The responsibility rests squarely with the Commonwealth. Nonetheless, again within the resources available, I think that we can find some this financial year to go halfway towards some very important, advanced level courses which are not currently available in the Northern Territory. What I have to extract from the Commonwealth, before advancing this proposition with my colleagues with any strength, is that it will not be seen by the Commonwealth as a move by us to let them off the hook. In other words, I would not want to see limited Territory resources become the vehicle whereby the Commonwealth would abdicate its own responsibilities.

Joint Study for Supply of Power to Remote Communities

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the progress of the study entered into jointly with the Western Australian government in relation to the supply of power to remote communities?

ANSWER

With regret, I do not have that information in my head. I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

Additional Accommodation at Berrimah Prison

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What progress has been made with the provision of additional accommodation to alleviate the overcrowding at Berrimah Prison?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it was announced earlier that the government was moving to establish 2 new cell blocks at Berrimah Prison to alleviate some of the overcrowding there. I understand that prisons all over Australia are overcrowded to varying degrees. The Territory is in a relatively good position in this regard. However, the 2 new cell blocks at Berrimah are proceeding on time and it is anticipated they will be opened in November this year. Staffing arrangements for additional prison guards have been approved. I take this opportunity to supply to members of the Assembly brief information on the numbers of prisoners. On 31 July this year, there were 132 persons in the prison at Berrimah, 48 at Gunn Point Prison Farm and 83 in Alice Springs Gaol. This is a total of 263 prisoners which favourably compares with 322 prisoners in May of this year when overcrowding was fairly serious. The government decided a short while ago to relocate the old Ward 11 of the Darwin Hospital to Gunn Point. This has enabled us to double the capacity at Gunn Point to include an additional 50 minimum security prisoners. These are the only prisoners held at Gunn Point because of the low security arrangements. That arrangement has worked very satisfactorily to date.

Degree Course at Darwin Community College

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I preface my question by drawing the minister's attention to the TEC's

report on the establishment of a university in the Northern Territory. Paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7 refer to the Bachelor of Arts degree at the Darwin Community College. Has the clear implication in the recommendations of this report that such a degree course would not be funded by the TEC altered the college's plans to seek accreditation for the degree?

ANSWER

I have quite recently discussed this most unsatisfactory matter with the Principal of the Darwin Community College and the chairman, and I am quite sure the college will proceed with all vigour towards the accreditation of that course. We shall try with equal vigour to get the money to run it.

Veterinarian Assistance to South-east Asia

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

I understand that the Northern Territory government has previously sent veterinarians to South-east Asia to assist vaccination programs to combat exotic diseases which, if they were introduced, would cause extreme economic hardship. Is it the proposal of the Northern Territory government to offer further assistance?

ANSWER

It is past practice to send veterinarians to South-east Asia as we have done in the last couple of years. Approval is being sought for Dr Jack Haslam from the department to undertake overseas travel to Kumpuchea to assist an organisation in Kampuchea with an animal vaccination program. The program is under the auspices of For Those Who Have Less, a special non-government orgnisation which has concentrated on livestock development programs in overseas countries. In April 1981, the Chief Minister received a letter requesting details on the possibility of the Northern Territory supplying buffalo to help with the reconstruction of Kampuchea. The Chief Minister's reply of 20 May indicated the problem of breaking feral buffalo into the plough and suggested that the use of Northern Territory buffalo as breeding stock might be of more value to the aid program. Further interest in obtaining the services of a veterinarian was acknowledged and, subject to the receipt of further details, the Chief Minister thought that the Northern Territory government might be able to second a veterinarian to assist in the program. Apart from the humanitarian value of helping a ravaged country to rebuild itself, the Northern Territory would benefit from the officer's experience in South-east Asia. Foot and mouth disease and rinderpest are causing major stock losses in Kampuchea; anthrax and backleg are also troublesome. The first 2 diseases are exotic to Australia and their spread to this country could be catastrophic. The value of a Northern Territorian veterinarian obtaining firsthand experience in dealing with those diseases is obvious. The officer submitting this proposal is also responsible for the development of contingency plans to cope with exotic diseases should they be found in Northern Territory stock.

Mercury in Gold Refining Process at Tennant Creek

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has his attention be drawn to the hearings of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Conservation of July this year in which a hazard to workers was alluded to in relation to the use of mercury in the gold refining process at Tennant Creek? Has the minister satisifed himself that the hazard referred to has been eliminated?

ANSWER

I think that the honourable member and I are on the same wavelength if he is referring to a series of incidents and an alleged danger to health that may have come about as a result of smelting gold at Nobles Nob in Tennant Creek. If

that is not what the member is referring to, then he might so indicate. My understanding is that there was an alleged case of improper working conditions in the smelting of gold in that the mercury and cyanide fumes were not able to get out of the building and that in itself may have caused a danger to people's health. I received representations from several people on the matter. There were at least 4 investigations carried out, particularly by the Department of Mines and Energy. On one occasion, I asked specifically that the Chief Inspector investigate and report to me his findings on the matter. The upshot of it all was that the working conditions were satisfactory from the point of view of safety. What was most important was that people working in the area must pay due regard to the way they conduct their own day's work. I guess that is the balance that we have spoken about often in this Assembly. We can make all the rules and regulations we like on safety and working conditions but, if the man on the job does not have a frame of mind that is safety-orientated, all is in vain. The Leader of the Opposition's concern is noted. I can assure him that every step has been taken to ensure that the working conditions in the gold room are safe.

Police Association Submission on Public Drunkenness

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he received a submission from the Police Association of the Northern Territory on the public drunkenness proposals announced in May this year? If so, what was the nature of this submission?

ANSWER

To the best of my knowledge, I have not received a submission from the Police Association but I have received something in the order of 20 to 25 submissions from different organisations. Therefore, I would not like to say categorically that I have not received such a submission, but I do not recall receiving one. One could have gone to the Minister for Health or to someone other than myself. It is possible that the association has made one that I have not seen.

Todd River Crossing

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER

Has any decision been made on my request for funds to seal the Todd River crossing near the RSL, Schwartz Crescent, in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

It is a little inappropriate to ask questions on future funding of the Treasurer at this stage of a budget sittings. However, I can indicate to the member that the government has approved in principle the construction of an additional causeway in Alice Springs in the vicinity of Schwartz Crescent. However, there is a fair bit of work to be done to investigate the proposal and have it placed on the relevant departmental programs.

Katherine Meatworks

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What action is the government taking to ensure that normality returns to the Katherine Meatworks and union labour and conditions prevail? Given that the government has given a $12m loan to the meatworks, how does he justify the government's apparent inertia on the matter?

ANSWER

I do not recall that the government has ever really taken a direct role in the dispute that is occurring between the employees of the meatworks and the employers. In respect of the loan, I guess that the Northern Territory will have to consider its options if the meatworks remains closed for an indefinite period.

Training of NTEC Linesmen

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

Mr Speaker, what plans have been or are being made to ensure that NTEC linesman and cable jointing apprentices receive training that will give them reciprocal rights with other states?

ANSWER

The honourable member raises a question that is very important and should be aired before members of the Assembly because it is important that people we train in the Northern Territory in any profession should have portability and recognition by all the states. This matter concerns me and I would like to read for honourable members' benefit a reply I received from the General Manager of NTEC on this particular issue because there was a weakness in the system.

> *Linesmen and cable joiners are trained as indentured apprentices under the auspices of the Northern Territory Industries Training Commission. The apprenticeship is for 3 years duration and the Darwin Community College provides academic training for two 4-week block release courses conducted each year. This commission has a total of 15 apprentices undertaking this course of whom 11 are in year 3. Of this number, 4 are being trained in Alice Springs. The syllabus provides for 200 hours of theoretical training in cable joining and specifically for much of this to take place in the third year blocks. Apprentices who recently undertook their first third year block course were examined in a preliminary test of 130 competencies of their apprenticeship. There was concern that these apprentices require supplementary training and this will be undertaken in Darwin from September until the completion of their indentures to ensure that they meet inter-state standards. This procedure for testing and additional training will apply to apprentices from all centres of the Territory in future.*

Because the Territory is growing and emerging, difficulties of this nature may surface from time to time and I think that it is incumbent upon us all that we try to correct them just as NTEC has done in this particular case. If honourable members know of any such other instances, I would be grateful to hear about them.

Jabiru Bylaws

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I understand that a lease has now been formalised for the town of Jabiru. Could he advise what is happening with the bylaws for Jabiru?

ANSWER

I cannot advise the honourable members of the present state of the Jabiru town bylaws but I will certainly give him that information if he would be good enough to place his question on notice.

Sales Tax Concessions on Solar Appliances

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it the government's intention to introduce a scheme whereby sales tax concessions or rebates will be available to the users of solar appliances and, if so, when might we expect this scheme to commence?

ANSWER

I recall that I announced the scheme during the last sittings or the sittings before. I believe it commenced on 1 July. I say that off the top of my head and I will confirm it for the member later. Briefly, the scheme is one that offers about $100 subsidy on an average home hot water system to encourage people to put them in. It will go some way towards alleviating the peak load problems

that we have in our powerhouse in all centres because hot water systems drain quite a lot of power, particularly between 7 am and 9 am, and 6 pm and 8 pm.

Meeting of Transport Ministers

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to an article in the Centralian Advocate which was published at the time that the member for Ludmilla was acting Minister for Transport and Works. I preface the question by saying that the report in the Centralian Advocate referred to a meeting that was to be held between the federal Minister for Transport, the South Australian Minister for Transport, the Mayor of Alice Springs and presumably the Northern Territory Minister for Transport and Works. Did the meeting take place and, if so, what was resolved in relation to the South Road?

ANSWER

The meeting has not taken place yet. It was set for 14 September but the other ministers cannot meet that 14 September target. We are trying to work out another date for the meeting at Coober Pedy.

Humpty Doo Primary School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What plans are being considered to include safe picking up and letting off of children at the permanent Humpty Doo Primary School?

ANSWER

As much as is necessary to pick them up and let them off safely.

Carpentaria College

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

At the last sittings of this Assembly he undertook to display the development plans for Carpentaria College for public comment. Could he indicate when such a display will take place so that the public may comment on what is a continuing problem in my electorate?

ANSWER

I will determine the current position in relation to the presentation of the development plans, if any, and I will try to provide an answer on Tuesday morning.

Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Service

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What arrangements have been made for the future management of those Northern Territory hostels currently managed by the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Service, an organisation which the federal government has announced is to cease operation?

ANSWER

I am not quite clear on the implication of the member's question. If it is that the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Service is about to disappear, the matter is at present handled by my colleague, the Minister for Lands and Housing. If I recall correctly, the Housing Commission is administering the agreement with CACS which, in turn, administers the hostels which we inherited not very long after self-government. To my knowledge, those agreements have an expiry period within a matter of a year or so. I leave the balance of the question to my honourable colleague.

Management of Northern Territory Hostels

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What arrangements have been made for the future management of those Northern Territory hostels currently managed by the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Service which the federal government has announced is to cease operation?

ANSWER

This is a fairly typical problem faced by administrations around this country as a result of Commonwealth activities; it has no simple solution. One assumes that the most sensible thing for the government to do at this time is to investigate the possibility of calling tenders.

Health Centre at Katherine

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why is a health centre to be built at Katherine within 1 mile of the existing Community Health Centre?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask that the question be placed on notice because I believe the centre that is referred to is being funded by Commonwealth funds rather than by Northern Territory funds. If that is the case, I will have to seek an answer from the Commonwealth. There has been some comment to the effect that the centre will be staffed by Northern Territory health department staff. I have been advised by the department that that is not so. I will obtain a written answer for the honourable member for Elsey and clarify the matter.

ADMA Scheme

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What research is being undertaken by the Department of Primary Production in relation to and in cooperation with the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority scheme? Is it the intention of the department to expand the level of research for the agricultural program in future?

ANSWER

Most areas in the department have been strengthened over the last year or 2, in particular the research services section, in anticipation of the needs of the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority. This will involve further housing and accommodation being located in the general area of the scheme. The pace of the scheme itself will dictate the expansion in the future.

Alice Springs Women's Centre

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware of the newspaper report that the Alice Springs Town Council intends to object to the rezoning of the proposed Women's Centre block on Telegraph Terrace, Alice Springs. If the objection is lodged and upheld, has the minister any contingency plan to get the Women's Centre operational?

ANSWER

I am aware that the Alice Springs Town Council is likely to object to the present zoning of the Women's Centre on its present site, not because of the activities of the Women's Centre but because the town council has its eye on the block of land involved and would like to see that adjoined to the swimming pool area for future recreation use on that particular reserve. I do not have any particular difficulty in understanding the town council's attitude. I have spoken to the Deputy Mayor and I am seeking to meet the Mayor of Alice Springs on Friday to discuss this matter because I do not believe that there is a great

deal of difference between the 2 positions that the parties want to take. The arrangement we have set up with the Women's Centre on that particular block is an intermediate one that will last between 3 and 5 years. The buildings were already secondhand when we gave them to the Women's Centre and they will not last forever. Other considerations have to be assessed in that period: whether the site is a good one for the Women's Centre - it may not wish to remain there - what sort of future development should the Women's Centre have and how permanent it should be. We must balance those considerations against the needs of the council which wants the block so that it can use it in 3 to 5 years time. I do not think we have a great deal of difference between the 2 parties' views. I was going to put it to the council that, if it wants the particular land, it should approach the matter on the basis that we could use it in the interim period until it is set aside for the council, if it is the Minister for Land's wish to let it have the block.

Mr Robertson: It has not applied for it yet.

Mr TUXWORTH: I guess that is something for the council to do. It has certainly indicated to me that it intends to make a bid for the land. When that matter has been dealt with, we will be able to consider the town planning aspects. In view of what the Minister for Lands has just said, it raises the question of whether a vested interest, in this case the council, should be objecting to the zoning of a block of land over which it hopes it may obtain title at some time in the future. I can assure members that, if it is possible to obtain an accommodation between the council and the Women's Centre, we will most certainly be trying to do that.

Douglas Daly Project Farms

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Could he advise the Assembly the current rate of progress with the 2 project farms in the Douglas Daly area?

ANSWER

I am fairly sure I gave a reply in June as to the extent of progress in the development of the 2 farms. At that stage, we had cleared 740 hectares of land and land preparation, stick raking and so forth was taking place. Since that time, the water bores have been drilled for the homesteads. The houses have been located on site and there are other general activities taking place in the area. A shed is being constructed at a local depot on the road to Hot Springs and an airstrip is under construction for servicing the area. The Department of Transport and Works has also undertaken some works on the main road leading into the farm area. If the members who are interested to look at progress would care to join me or the Chairman of the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority, we would be happy to make an on-the-spot inspection of progress.

Definition of Sittings

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to SPEAKER

I would like to ask a question of your honourable self this morning in the interests of semantics and the improvement of my knowledge. Could you inform me if, when we sit, we take part in a sitting and, after having sat for a number of these sittings, we have taken part in a sittings or a longer sitting? How many separate sittings make a meeting or is a meeting a sittings?

Mr B. Collins: Bloody hell!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Arnhem must restrain himself. That language is unparliamentary and I am almost sure the question is too!

956.829—27

ANSWER

I have had some prior knowledge of the question and I suspect there is more bark than bite in the member for Tiwi's question. Through her dangerous past-time as a kennel-keeper - and she has the marks to prove it - she will have noticed that dogs sit to howl while, when we are sitting here, we are required to stand to speak. Most of the answers to the member's question are in the Standing Orders with the exception of her reference to a 'meeting' which is un-defined. A sitting means a daily sitting which in itself may constitute a meeting but is, more often than not, one of a series of sittings, which together are referred to as 'the sittings' or 'a meeting'. I draw the honourable member's attention also to the term 'sit-in' or 'sit-ins' which, while undefined, was a practice indulged in at one stage of this legislature's history. It is not to be confused with a 'sitting' or 'sittings'. I hope that answers the honourable member's question and that there will not be much more levity today.

Distribution of Daily Hansard

Mrs LAWRIE to SPEAKER

I refer to the practice of distributing the unrevised restricted Hansard to large numbers of government departments prior to members having the opportunity to correct what can be quite dramatic errors. I would ask you, Sir, if you would consider discontinuing this practice, even for an hour or so, to allow members to indicate corrections because departments quite often get the wrong information from Hansard if it is uncorrected? I appreciate that the public and press copies must go out.

ANSWER

If the honourable member will place her objections in writing, I will certainly look into them.

School Crossings

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does the government, or the Road Safety Council specifically, have any plans - in the interests of safety of children crossing to and from school at cross-roads - to encourage school councils to form unpaid volunteer groups to monitor the situation every day?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Road Safety Council is currently reviewing all school crossings throughout the Northern Territory. Alice Springs members will be aware that presently their schools are being monitored by volunteers from the school staff or parents. When this review has been completed, a recommendation will be made to me either to continue the practice throughout the Northern Territory or adopt some alternative. This question is under review and when the Road Safety Council has made a recommendation to me I will consider it.

Control of Feral Buffalo

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What plans does the government have to implement the recommendations of the Feral Animal Inquiry in reference to controlling feral buffalo?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can answer the question in a general sense only because I believe the details are being worked out and developed between the Department of Primary Production and the Conservation Commission. I understand a number of seminars have been held on the buffalo problem since the feral animal report was tabled in this Assembly. I understand that the government is working towards

eventual implementation of the recommendations of the report in relation to feral buffalo. If the honourable member would like to place the question on notice, I will undertake to give to him greater detail of the actual steps that the Conservation Commission, which is within my responsibility, is taking towards this end.

Arltunga Gold Field

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

What action is being taken to preserve the old Arltunga gold field as an historic settlement as was reported in the Centralian Advocate of 19 July?

ANSWER

From this question, I gather that the honourable member has not been to Arltunga. I understand work has been in progress for many years. The proposal of the Northern Territory government to which he refers was formulated by Cabinet at its last meeting in Alice Springs. It related to the preservation of the Victoria Settlement to which the honourable member for Nightcliff referred in the adjournment debate yesterday afternoon. The Northern Territory government has put forward a proposal to the Bicentenary Authority that the government should share costs with the Bicentenary Authority, which I understand has or will have funds allocated to it for this purpose, to expend funds through the authority on what it considers to be worthwhile projects to mark Australia's bicentenary. It was thought by the Northern Territory that the 2 most worthwhile sites to preserve and have work done on so that they would be in a good state of restoration by 1988 are Victoria Settlement and Arltunga. The detailed submission on this is going forward from the Conservation Commission to the Bicentenary Authority. I imagine that the proposal will be on the basis probably of a dollar-for-dollar arrangement. We hope that these 2 proposals will meet with the approval of the Bicentenary Authority and that the government can then formally adopt the proposals for the restoration of Victoria Settlement. When I say 'restoration', I obviously mean limited restoration. It is not proposed to do a colonial Williamsburg on either of them because we are not Rockefeller. We have only limited funds. I would imagine that, at Victoria Settlement, a cottage or 2 might be restored and also perhaps the store pits, barracks, bakery and kitchen. Maps and illustrations could be provided and paths through the ruins. The ruins themselves have recently been cleared of growth and debris. These old settlements would be preserved for posterity and I imagine also that the Conservation Commission would be able to use them as bases for the siting of ranger stations. In addition to their normal tasks, the rangers would have some responsibility for overseeing access to Arltunga and to Victoira Settlement by any visitors.

Oil Field Lease in Central Australia

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is the minister yet in a position to advise on the current status of negotiations between the Magellan partners and the Northern Territory government in issuing an oil field lease which ultimately will result in the establishment of an oil refinery in Central Australia?

ANSWER

I am happy to advise the honourable member who has a great interest in this particular project because he has been involved with it himself over many years. I am pleased to say that the department and the principals and partners of the Mereenie project in Central Australia met on 2 occasions last week to discuss the details of the lease agreement that is required between the government and the company and to discuss other matters that are relevant in this particular exercise. I refer to the construction of the oil refinery which the government will be requiring the company to proceed with when it gets into the

development of oil in the Mereenie field. I might add that, before any production starts, there is a considerable drilling program to be completed by the company which will really ascertain the parameters of the field and give the developers a much greater knowledge of what is there and which is the best way to take the product out.

The government has asked that the company adopt a practice of enhanced oil recovery from the field by using injection methods of either gas or water to force out the extra bit of oil in the field. It is interesting to note that, in America, enhanced recovery has only come about in the last few years since the Arab OPEC cartel was formed. Companies and government are now deeply regretting that they did not enforce enhanced oil recovery methods in their oil production technique 40 years ago because it is estimated that, in the early fields that were developed in the 1920s and 1930s, 15% to 20% of the oil is still in the ground and will never be recovered because of the techniques that were used. We have a virgin field and we have said to the company that we want every jot of oil that we can get out of it. It is not simply the company's resource; it belongs also to the people and to the consumers of this country who will have to import oil if we do not use our own. We do not have any difficulty with the company in this matter. It is quite happy to oblige except that there is a very large commitment, possibly up to $100m, before it starts to withdraw any oil from the field. The lease that we are drawing up with the company is being done on the basis of consultation. I would advise the Assembly that the environmental conditions relating to the lease and the environmental impact statement are also being carried out and these will be agreed upon in an agreement separate from the lease. The government will also be requiring the company to put up a bond to maintain some integrity in the arrangements. I would like to advise the Assembly that the matter is very well advanced and I would hope that we can issue the lease in 2 or 3 weeks.

Pularumpi Council

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the honourable member for Tiwi brought to the attention of the honourable minister the objection from the Pularumpi Council to the proposed reorganisation of the adult education section and, if so, what does the minister intend to do about it?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the matter of the internal reorganisation of the Department of Education's TAFE division seems to have caused concern in areas other than Pularumpi. Expressions of concern are fairly widespread. Principally, they are based upon the lack of knowledge of exactly what is proposed. Nonetheless, at this stage, they are only internal proposals of the Department of Education. As honourable members would be aware, the TAFE branch of the Department of Education is a ministerial creation - it was one of my own doings - and I would want to be involved in undoing it, notwithstanding it is a bad idea.

Health Clinic at Napperby Station

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I draw his attention to some information that was provided to me in relation to the provision of a health clinic at Napperby Station. My understanding is that a prefabricated health clinic was provided for Aboriginal people resident on Napperby Station and it has remained in a prefabricated state for some 12 months. Is he aware of this situation and what will he do to remedy the situation?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the situation. I thank the member for his advice. It will be remedied.

Water Supply in Berrimah

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What are the current plans to connect water to blocks in Berrimah?

ANSWER

My understanding is that most blocks at Berrimah are connected to the water supply. If the member knows of any specific blocks that are not connected, she might inform me and I will investigate and advise.

Rice Production in NT

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Due to the inadequate information in relation to commercial rice production in the Northern Territory, which led to the abandonment of the project farms in the Adelaide River region, what action has been initiated by the government to correct this deficiency and what are the plans of the department in relation to rice research?

ANSWER

We are trying to improve our knowledge of the technology required to introduce commercial rice farming. To that end, we now have 3 rice agronomists on the staff. Before we embarked on the rice project, we did not have a rice agronomist on our staff, although we were trying to get some at the time. We have been in touch with the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. We have had some of our scientists visit there. We have also set up a rice task force comprising most of the senior officials of the department who are involved. We are hoping that the rice production programs will commence next year.

Fault Lines at Palmerston

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of a recent report in the Weekend Advertiser in Darwin, will the Northern Territory minister make a statement in this Assembly to allay fears that fault lines could cause a danger to residents in Palmerston? Can he assure the Assembly that a proper fault lines survey has been carried out in Palmerston?

ANSWER

I am unaware of the reported article in the Weekend Advertiser. I will certainly look it up. If there is any action deemed to be necessary, it most certainly will be taken. I am no geologist, as no doubt the Leader of the Opposition would not claim to be either, but one would have thought that there is no more stable land form in the world than in the Northern Territory. Certainly, I will have the matter investigated.

Alice Springs Hospital Security

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the recent attack on nursing staff in Alice Springs Hospital, what steps is his department or the Alice Springs Hospital Management Board taking to increase security for staff and patients?

ANSWER

Honourable members would recall that earlier this year there was an incident at the Alice Springs Hospital that gave concern to the Alice Springs Hospital Management Board and to members of this Assembly about the security of the hospital and its patients and staff. Several investigations were undertaken by the department and the board and others as to how the security of the hospital and the people working within its confines could be maintained at the highest possible level. In the last day or 2, there has been another breach of security or intrusion on a person's safety by a member of the Alice Springs community. One of the staff was assaulted for not admitting a person to the hospital when the person thought that he or she should be admitted to hospital. Again, this has caused concern to all parties involved in the administration of the hospital.

As a result, I believe it is intended that all doors into the hospital will be closed at 8.30 pm with the exception of the Casualty door. In the case of Casualty, a security guard will be on duty at the entrance between 8.00 pm and midnight from whence the door shall be locked. It should be noted that all visitors attending the hospital after 8.30 pm will be required to have an identification issued by the hospital management. These would seem to be pretty tough remedial steps taken by the administrative authorities of the hospital but there seems to be little other recourse. I point out that some hospitals in the Territory for some years now have been closing their doors at night at 9 pm and opening by key from the inside only when the staff were satisifed there was a bona fide patient on the outside. In fact, security of the staff has been a matter of concern in some places. I am aware that there is a problem as far as the management and board of the hospital are concerned. Every step is being taken at this stage to try to maintain the highest level of security for both the staff and the patients.

Debt Collectors for Health Department

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I preface my question by drawing the attention of the Assembly to advertisements that have been placed in newspapers calling for debt collectors to apply to collect bad debts on the introduction of the new health charges after 1 September. How many firms have responded to these advertisements?

ANSWER

I cannot answer because I do not have the details available to me. I am not even sure that the reply period has closed. If the member places the question on notice, as soon as the information is available, I will see that he gets it.

Horsemeat Sold as Beef

Mr LEO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Given the recent disclosure that consumers in Victoria have been paying for beef and receiving horsemeat, can he guarantee that consumers in the Territory are getting what they pay for when they purchase meat?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would like to give the honourable member that assurance, but there is no way to guarantee what he asks. It is, indeed, unfortunate that there has been publicity concerning this horsemeat. In particular, last night, I noticed on the news that it is suggested that perhaps Northern Territory horsemeat could be involved in the recent export of this type of meat to the United States under a different carton brand or a different carton description. We have no knowledge at all of any horsemeat that may have gone into cartons that would have become involved in this export shipment.

Fire Control Services in Aboriginal Communities

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What plans are there for establishing and reviewing fire control services in Aboriginal communities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question of fire control services in Aboriginal communities is being investigated at the moment by the Director of Fire Services. Upon receipt of his report, I will provide that information to the honourable member for Tiwi.

Midwifery Course for Northern Territory Hospitals

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has consideration been given to the introduction of a midwifery course for nurses in Northern Territory hospitals?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware that, for some time, various sectional groups within the community have been pressing for the introduction of a midwifery course in the Northern Territory. In fact, I have received representations from the nurses in Alice Springs that such a course should be introduced there to try to create some decentralisation in the department's tutoring and learning systems. I do not have any particular feeling one way or another, whether the course is established in Alice Springs or Darwin, although I guess, in numerical terms and from the practical experience side, Darwin would be the obvious place to have the midwifery course established. It is not the government's aim to have everything in Darwin just because it suits some people. Every consideration will be given to the proposal to have such a course in Alice Springs. I would like to advise also that I have recently asked the department to make a total review of all the courses that we operate for nursing aides, nursing sisters, Aboriginal health workers, dental trainees and others. In view of the level of education that we now have in the department, I believe it is time to review what we are doing and where we are going. I have also asked the department to provide me with a report on what it sees as the manpower requirements for nursing and the administration of medicine during the 1980s so that we can proceed in the 1980s with a sound appreciation of where we are going.

I would like to point out to the honourable member some of the difficulties that I see in some of the courses which we have established. The Aboriginal health worker training program is an excellent concept and is working very well. It has been operating in some places in the Territory now for about 10 years. While our Aboriginal health worker training program is designed to enable us to hand over health centres in remote places to Aborigines in the future, we are reaching a stage where the Aboriginal health workers reach a level of training and perfection and then desire to be teachers.

Mrs Lawrie: Why don't you answer the question?

Mr TUXWORTH: The honourable member for Nightcliff has asked whether I would like to answer the question. I am trying to give a full answer relating to the whole aspect of training medical staff in the Northern Territory. If she is not interested, I understand that and I will not take any more of her time.

Old Naval Headquarters

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Bearing in mind the approaching wet season, is he able to inform me if work on the old Naval Headquarters, the building which will house the Administrator's office, is proceeding according to schedule?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I drive past the old Naval Headquarters daily and I perceive that there are many workmen on site. I think the construction is proceeding as scheduled.

Sale of Housing Commission Homes in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can the minister yet say when Housing Commission houses will be available for sale to interested tenants in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

The short answer to the question is no. The honourable member and I had a fairly lengthy discussion on the subject. At least, it was lengthy by the standards of the discussions between myself and the opposition. It would be very helpful if other members on that side of the Assembly would take the trouble he does to outline the difficulties as he sees them. I am fully aware of his concern to provide Housing Commission accommodation in that centre. He is no doubt by now fully aware of my equal concern and the fact that there has been no appreciable change in the position. The same difficulties with land tenure still apply. It will take a major effort on everyone's part to overcome them.

Commercial Production of Fruit and Vegetable Crops

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What programs are proposed for large-scale commercial production of fruit and vegetable crops for export?

ANSWER

The export of fruit and vegetables is of great interest to all members. We realise our position in regard to the domestic market. Obviously, we would have to service both markets with plans that have to be tested. The main plan that the government is looking at is strengthening first the horticultural section of the department and then looking at the varieties that might be of commercial value to the Northern Territory. I evidence this in the recent purchase by a Queenslander of Manbulloo Station and his proposal to establish 25,000 mango trees here. Other people have come to see us about the establishment of various orchards and we look forward to these plans being consummated.

Women's Centre in Bath Street

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

Has a decision been made by him on what to do with the old Women's Centre block in Bath Street, Alice Springs? If so, what are the plans?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, no.

Daly Street Basketball Court Site

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has any developer approached the Northern Territory government proposing to use Darwin's Daly Street basketball court site? If so, who is the developer and what is the proposal that has been put to the government?

ANSWER

It may well be a case of the Leader of the Opposition knowing something that I do not know. I certainly know of no such application but I will check it out and inform the honourable gentleman later.

Tennant Creek Town Plan

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I preface my question by drawing the Assembly's attention to the fact that some business people in Tennant Creek claim that delays in producing a new town plan have lost them many thousands of dollars and the town the benefit of their proposed services. Why has there been a delay in the production of the town plan for Tennant Creek and what action will be taken to ensure that such delays do not hamper the proper development of the Territory and Tennant Creek in particular?

ANSWER

As usual, the honourable gentleman has it all wrong. The fact is that the Tennant Creek town plan - that is, the new town plan - is in operation. That is one error. The other is that the production of the new town plan had nothing to do with any delays involving the changing of zoning in the Tennant Creek area. What happened was that, under the old town plan, applications for rezoning were processed in the normal way in accordance with the Planning Act and those rezonings occurred as and when they came through the system in the manner determined by this Assembly when it passed the Planning Act. The new town plan is in operation.

Sand and Gravel Mining in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is being done to reduce the disturbance caused by the activities of sand and gravel miners in the Darwin rural area?

ANSWER

This matter has been before the Assembly many times. I would like to advise honourable members that the Department of Mines and Energy now has 3 inspectors on site in the rural area and they have now started using helicopter surveillance to drop in on people who are doing things that they should not be doing. This new method of surveillance seems to be having the desired effect. It would appear that the amount of illegal mining is decreasing rapidly.

Nabarlek Mine Spillage

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

On Wednesday of last week the minister expressed his concern that the manager of Queensland Mines had denied that a run-off had taken place and described the action as 'crazy'. The following day, the minister told the Assembly that he understood the manager knew nothing of the incident. Could he advise the Assembly which is the correct story?

ANSWER

On the first day, I was referring to comments that the honourable member for Arnhem had made in his adjournment debate. I was making the point that I understood that the acting manager or the manager, whoever was on site at the time, had denied that certain actions had taken place or that certain events had occurred. I think I was alluding to the fact that I felt it was crazy to make a denial if things had happened. That is the perspective in which the remarks were made. If the honourable member has any difficulty with that, I would ask him to place the question on notice.

Darwin Trader

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

We have been given another reprieve with the Darwin Trader service. Has the government taken any steps to ensure that a regular shipping service to the eastern states is maintained in the future?

ANSWER

As I informed the Assembly last week, I understand that Department of Transport and Works officers had been having discussions with Australian National Line, TNT and other parties that might be interested in providing an east coast service in the Northern Territory. Now that we have the reprieve until September 1982, it is my intention to pursue those negotiations with such companies as are interested in providing a service without subsidy to the Northern Territory.

Chemical Control of Noxious Weeds

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Given that chemicals are widely used for noxious weed control, what is being done to ensure that the environment is not suffering from this treatment - for example, the fish in waterways?

ANSWER

The weed problem that the honourable member touches on is of vast proportions in the Northern Territory. In fact, I do not know of a waterway that does not have one or other of our noxious weeds. Of course, the spraying of some of the introduced weeds that we are trying to contain and eliminate would impact on some of the waterways to the extent of that particular chemical. I think that both sides of the Assembly are in agreement that some of those weeds must be sprayed and they must be kept out of the Northern Territory.

Treatment for NT Patients in Southern Hospitals

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Under what conditions may Northern Territory patients be referred to southern hospitals for treatment and what financial assistance is available to such patients?

ANSWER

There are several schemes under which Northern Territory patients can be

referred interstate. One is an internal scheme where patients of the department who are believed to be in need of special hospital treatment in another state can be transferred at the department's expense to another state for that treatment. I might cite the instance where most of the patients in the Northern Territory who need intra-spinal treatment are sent by agreement between New South Wales and the Northern Territory to the spinal unit in the Royal North Shore Hospital. We send other patients to other states where those states have a speciality that we think we can use. That is an internal arrangement.

The other option is for any person who is referred by his doctor to a specialist in another state. Where that specialist is not available in the Northern Territory, that person can be compensated under the Commonwealth IPTAAS scheme. But that is often a matter between the patient and the 2 doctors. In the case of private doctors, where the department uses the IPTAAS scheme - for instance, sending somebody from Katherine to Adelaide - then the department takes care of the IPTAAS arrangements. I think the process is that we pay the fares and get the money back from IPTAAS in the course of time.

Nabarlek Mine Spillage

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

The minister issued a press release yesterday in which he said: 'The ponds and water system at the Nabarlek mine have done exactly what they are designed to do'. He went on to say that this was done to the satisfaction of the Supervising Scientist. Does he mean by that statement that the ponds and the water system at Nabarlek operated within the parameters laid down by the design specifications?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place his question on notice.

Sadadeen Primary School

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is the construction of the Sadadeen Primary School stage 1 on schedule?

ANSWER

I indicated during the course of last week's sittings that the contracts for all of those primary schools were let at the same time. I understand, however, in respect of Sadadeen stage 1 project that it could be a month late on current predictions. In other words, the opening could occur in April instead of at the end of February.

Local Government Maintenance of Private Land

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it proposed that local governments be given power to supervise standards of maintenance of private land following the passage of the freeholding legislation and the consequent removal of covenants?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government supports very strongly the involvement of local government in the maintenance of private land. I am just trying to recall if I have already introduced a bill during these sittings amending the bylaw-making powers of local government and providing powers for local government to adopt model bylaws, which are being prepared by the government, if they so wish. The short answer is yes. We see much greater involvement of local government in keeping cities clean.

Donkey Camp Project at Katherine

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

This is the same question I asked last week and I hope that I receive a different answer. It refers to the projected pumping of 30 million gallons of water per month from the Donkey Camp area of the Katherine River. I ask him again: what steps have been taken to protect farmers who need the water to continue the farming projects they have started along the banks of the Katherine River?

ANSWER

The answer I gave last week related to new farmers in new projects electing to sink bores. It had nothing to do with the existing farmers. I have since received a telegram from all those concerned farmers in Katherine pondering about my reply last week. Now they have that reply. The rest of the question involves the portfolio of my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works.

Supervising Scientist's Report on Ponds at Nabarlek

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is he aware that the office of the Supervising Scientist prepared a report on the run-off pond at Nabarlek which clearly stated that the company was operating that pond outside of the design limits?

ANSWER

I would ask the member to put the question on notice. Let me say that I was in contact this morning with the Supervising Scientist. Just by chance, I happened to raise with him the matter of Nabarlek spill. I would like to advise the honourable member that the general consensus, and I agree with it, is that the whole matter is a storm in a teacup. The Supervising Scientist has similar sentiments about the whole thing. I have taken a stance from day 1 of being completely frank and open about all the things that happened and were alleged to have happened at Nabarlek. In fact, I have organised a departmental briefing of the Sessional Committee on the Environment. We had an hour to bring them up to date on the sequence of events and all the allegations that have been made. Mr Speaker, I do not have a problem. If the member has a problem with it still, I would suggest that he place further questions on notice and we will deal with them on that basis.

Effect of Beef Export Rumours on Industry

Mr LEO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has the scandal surrounding beef exports to the USA had any effect on the Territory's beef trade and, if there has been an effect, what does he intend to do about it?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there has been no effect on the beef trade in the Northern Territory to date.

Government Printing Office Apprenticeship Scheme

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he tell me the progress made since the start of the apprenticeship scheme in bookbinding, printing, graphic reproduction and composition as part of the operation of the Government Printing Office?

ANSWER

At the moment, the printing office employs 9 apprentices and these apprentices attend a technical college course in Brisbane on a 7-week block release

period per year. To date, I believe the results have been exceptional. Out of a total of 16 examinations, the Government Printing Office apprentices have achieved 9 honours, 5 credits and 2 passes, with no failures. Each section of the Government Printing Office now has at least 2 apprentices. Due to the difficulty associated with recruiting technical staff, the Government Printer has indicated that he intends to place further emphasis on local training.

Housing Commission Rents

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it the intention of the government to increase Housing Commission rents in the near future and, if so, to what extent? Is there a program of increases planned to achieve market rent?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will be seeking leave to make a statement on this matter at the appropriate time this morning.

Batchelor Airstrip and Meneling Abattoir

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of the confrontation between certain interests which use the Batchelor airstrip and the Meneling Abattoir?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any confrontation between those 2 organisations. However, I will attempt to find out and provide the member with the information she seeks.

Donkey Camp Project at Katherine

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

My question is asked on behalf of Katherine farmers Beech, Lindler, Lansdowne, Murphy, Radunz, Sweetman and Phillips. What action will his department take to ensure the continuance of their water supply - some of the farmers have riparian rights and others have a licence to irrigate by pumping from the river - once the 30m gallons pumping scheme from the Donkey Camp area commences and their water supply is put at risk?

ANSWER

Cabinet met in Katherine about 5 weeks ago. We discussed quite a few issues with the locals who made representations to us. The drawing of water from the Katherine River was not one of those representations at the time although we did have one of those names on that telegram. That person came to see us about rural education. The extent of the problem that the honourable member is talking about is unknown to myself and to my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works. If there is a problem, and I accept what the honourable member has to say, it obviously must be looked at. I suggest that the minister and I should talk to the farmers to see how extensive the problem is.

Increase In Housing Commission Rents

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it true that Housing Commission rents are to rise by 15%, as reported in the Star newspaper today?

No answer given.

Upgrading of Stuart Highway in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could the minister advise what proposal the government has to upgrade the Stuart Highway through Heavitree Gap in Alice Springs and south of that area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, hopefully work will commence in that area in 1982-83, subject to budget considerations.

Environmental Impact Study on Child-Minding Centre

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I preface my question by saying that an environmental impact statement is being called for regarding the setting up of a small child-minding centre in Howard Springs. Is it the usual practice to ask for an environmental impact statement when setting up such an innocuous business as a child-minding centre?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable member for the question. Certainly, I cannot imagine under what circumstances one would want to call for an environmental impact study on a small child-minding centre. On the face of it, it seems to me that it might border on a degree of lunacy notwithstanding it is within my area of responsibility. Mr Speaker, I most certainly will investigate such a matter and, if the honourable member's allegation is correct, see that some sanity prevails.

Access Road to New Air Terminal in Darwin

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has Rothdale Road in Darwin been chosen as the main access to the new civil airport terminal and, if not, which road has been so chosen?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware that Rothdale Road has been chosen as the principal access to the new Darwin air terminal. I think that traffic proceeding to the new Darwin air terminal will have to use McMillans Road. I understand that access and egress from both directions along McMillans Road will be provided by roads that exist from RAAF land somewhere in the vicinity of the intersections of Rapid Creek Road and McMillans Road and Lee Point Road and McMillans Road. I am not totally conversant with the matter. It is the subject of a joint working party between Commonwealth officials, Territory officials and the Darwin city council but I do understand that that is the proposal that has been agreed on.

Sole Brothers Circus

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise the Assembly of the amount and conditions of any assistance which the government has given to the Sole Brothers Circus which is in town at the moment?

ANSWER

After a lengthy period of negotiation the government agreed to pay a subsidy to bring the Sole Brothers Circus to the Northern Territory. One of the conditions that the Northern Territory government placed on such assistance was that the circus conduct performances in Alice Springs. It was originally intended that the circus could come through Mt Isa to Tennant Creek to Katherine and Darwin. The company sought some $10,000 for subsidy for transportation costs primarily on the basis that they would limit their entry charges to the rates that are applicable in western Queensland. In addition to agreeing to provide a performance in Alice Springs, the circus also agreed to provide a special family discount for 2 adults and 2 children, a free performance for all handicapped persons, a gala premiere for invited guests and community performances of individual acts for the Casuarina Hospital and the City Mall. It also agreed to provide a full circus parade on Saturday 29 August and to display the circus animals free, which is not always the case when the circus performs apparently. There are other sponsors of the circus as honourable members will note from newspaper advertisements. The government felt that, in providing taxpayers' funds to subsidise the bringing of the circus to the Territory at this particular time

- which is fairly convenient because it is the school holidays - we would rather spread it as much through the Territory as we can. Thus, we insisted that Alice Springs be included in the itinerary.

Fuel Tankers on City Roads

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the movement of large fuel tankers on major city roads in peak hours been restricted in accordance with the recommendation of the Road Safety Council?

ANSWER

At the moment, the department is looking at some of the recommendations of the Naaska-Ervil Committee. I will be making recommendations to Cabinet in possibly October or November regarding the movement of semi-trailers and triple bogey trailers in the city area. There is a limited use of double bogey trailers in the city area during certain times during the week.

Railway Crossing in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise the government's proposal regarding the upgrading of Larapinta Railway Crossing in Alice Springs? Does the upgrading proposal include the installation of traffic lights?

ANSWER

Certainly, it is the government's intention to upgrade the crossing at Larapinta Drive. The subject of traffic lights is still under consideration. The upgrading will relate to future budget considerations of the 1982-83 financial year.

Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Do any quarantine measures exist in the Territory for controlling the movement both inter and intra Territory for palms in respect of the palm leaf bettle?

ANSWER

No.

Donkey Camp Project at Katherine

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question concerns the proposal to pump water from the Donkey Camp area in the Katherine River. Is the honourable minister aware that the earth works associated with this project may well cause silting downstream and, if so, what steps are being taken by his department to mitigate this silting?

ANSWER

I thought that I provided that information to the honourable member last week. However, the Katherine River Advisory Committee will be meeting with the department this Friday to discuss all the problems raised in questions that the honourable member for Nightcliff has put to both the Minister for Primary Industry and Tourism and myself during these sittings.

Interstate Treatment for NT Patients

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Are the current arrangements for referring Northern Territory patients to interstate hospitals for treatment likely to change as a consequence of the introduction of new health charges on 1 September?

ANSWER

I have no knowledge of any change in the current arrangements at all.

Use of Modern Technology in Oil Fields

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

Modern technology applied to oil fields can enhance recovery by a large amount. Through discussions with the energy adviser, I believe in some cases it can be up to 4 times as much. What does the minister intend to do to ensure that developers use the most modern technology to obtain the maximum quantity of oil from the ground for present and future Territorians?

ANSWER

I touched on this matter briefly the other day during question time. I think that it is suffice to say that the government will be requiring developers of any field in the Northern Territory to carry out in the first instance a comprehensive exploration program with seismic and drilling activities to delineate any resource to a degree that satisfies the technical people within the department. Having delineated a field, a developer must submit a proposal of how it would propose to get every last drop of oil from the field.

As I said the other day, there are practices that have only been developed since the oil price hike during the 1970s. We would be expecting any developer in the Northern Territory to use these enhanced oil recovery practices - such as pumping water and gas back into fields to drive out the reservoir oil - to whatever degree is necessary and is economically viable. It does not take a great deal of imagination to realise that, when oil is about $30 a barrel, one would not have to get many barrels back in extra recovery to pay for the cost of an enhanced recovery program.

Nhulunbuy Community Health Centre

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he give an assurance that services at the Community Health Centre in Nhulunbuy will not be downgraded?

ANSWER

Most certainly, Mr Speaker.

Dairy Cattle at Elizabeth River Dairy

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Could he advise the results of the records and milk samples of the dairy cattle belonging to the Department of Primary Production at the Fitzgerald's Elizabeth River Dairy?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Subsidy to Youth Organisations

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Have guidelines for the 3 in 1 subsidy to youth organisations for capital works, which was announced by the minister last year, yet been determined?

ANSWER

Only this week, the department provided me with draft guidelines which I am examining now. When I am in a position to make an announcement regarding what the guidelines will be, I will do so.

956.829--28

Sealing of Roads from Winton

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can he advise whether his department will press for the completion of sealing of the Winton-Boulia Road and the sealing of the Winton-Cloncurry Road as further all-weather links to the east coast?

ANSWER

The roads mentioned by the member for Stuart are roads we are pressing the neighbouring states to complete. We are constantly pushing the federal government to provide financial assistance to the South Australian government to complete the South Road. Our main priority in funding will be the national highway, the Stuart Highway in the Northern Territory. However, I will take on board the comment made by the member for Stuart and relate it to the neighbouring states.

Alcohol Abuse in Northern Territory

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

At what stage are the government proposals to counter the very serious problem of alcohol abuse in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government is still receiving submissions from various interested organisations. On Monday of this week, I received oral submissions from the Licensed Victuallers Association, I think it is called, and its solicitor. On the same day, I had a conference with members of the Darwin and District Alcohol and Drug Dependence Foundation. It appears that submissions will continue to come in for a further period. We received a preliminary submission from the Darwin and District Alcohol and Drug Dependence Foundation and, on the basis of that, I had this conference with members of that organisation. They propose to put in a further submission in another 3 or 4 weeks. I imagine that, by the end of September, the government will be able to look at the various submissions that have been received including, I should mention, one from the Leader of the Opposition. We should then be in a position to make further recommendations to Cabinet in the form of a submission which can precede the development of legislation which I hope can be introduced into this Assembly in the November sittings. In February, I should imagine, the legislation will be able to be debated.

Registration of Yipirinya School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he advise if there has been any progress with the application for registration of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that a formal proposal has been put by the Yipirinya School Council to the Department of Education through the southern regional office and that a meeting has taken place between the people who are, shall we say, organisers of Yipirinya School and the department's senior officers. I also understand that quite a lot of interest was shown by the federal committee on Aboriginal education while it was in Alice Springs and that that particular committee had many critical questions to ask.

Conservation Commission Free Trees

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that the Conservation Commission has discontinued the practice

of providing trees free of charge for public buildings and spaces and will he ensure that this practice is resumed as soon as possible?

ANSWER

I am not aware that the Conservation Commission has discontinued the practice of providing trees free of charge for public buildings and spaces. I will look into the matter. I certainly will not give any undertaking to the Assembly in relation to the matter until I have discussed it with the Conservation Commission which, after all, has a measure of autonomy in its decisions. Presumably, if this is the case, there must be some good reason for it. The commission has given away many thousands of trees in all Territory centres in the course of the past several years. It may be that it is finding that a drain on its resources. Often things that are given away are not appreciated quite as much as those things that one has to pay a little for. In any event, I will look into the matter. Perhaps the honourable member might like to put the question on notice and she will receive a detailed answer in due course. Alternatively, she could write me a letter.

Health Insurance for Chronically-ill Patients

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it true that health funds can refuse membership to the chronically-ill? If so, what options do chronically-ill patients have in regard to health insurance?

ANSWER

The honourable member raised this matter with me yesterday afternoon. I have asked him to bring it to the notice of the Assembly this morning during question time because it does have serious ramifications for some people in our community who have continuing disabilities. I would like to answer the question in this way by saying that it is essentially a federal Health Department matter as the health insurance funds operate under the provisions of the federal Health Insurance Act over which various states have no jurisdiction whatsoever. However, it is my understanding as a result of information received from the Commonwealth Department of Health that various health funds are obliged to accept patients with pre-existing conditions to their fund upon application. The patients are only eligible for basic level insurance. In view of this, it is also my understanding that funds set their own rules for acceptance to the higher tables of the chronically-ill.

The important point under the federal legislation is that funds must take on at basic level insurance chronically-ill patients as well as those with pre-existing conditions. I bring this to the attention of members in case any member comes across a constituent with a pre-existing illness who has been disadvantaged deliberately by a fund or its policy. If the member is not getting any satisfaction with a fund and could use the assistance of the department or myself in overcoming the problem, I would like him to take the opportunity to come to us in the first instance.

Debtors in NT Prisons

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I preface my question by drawing attention to remarks already made in this Assembly about the possibility of defaulters under the proposed change in health arrangements. How many debtors are currently in prison in the Northern Territory jails?

ANSWER

I do not think that I could reasonably be expected to have that information at hand without any forewarning whatsoever. I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

Nhulunbuy Community Library

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Department of Education received any report on the function of the community library in Nhulunbuy and, if so, how well does that library function as a school facility?

ANSWER

I am unaware of any particular report which the department may or may not have in respect of the operation of the community library. Nonetheless, when I was over there in company with the Chief Minister for the purpose of opening the Nhulunbuy High School, I had some discussion with the librarian on, shall we say, the civilian side and also the teacher librarian on the school side. I gained the impression from them that the community library side is very satisfactory indeed but there may be some problems so far as the school is concerned, particularly with space. This is something that we will be monitoring very closely and take whatever remedial action is necessary. Certainly, I think that the town is very happy with it. The teacher librarian can see small difficulties in terms of trying to run classes while the community is actually using the library. It requires close cooperation between the 2 people who operate the library. They are both librarians and I am quite sure that they are as anxious as we are to see the best possible use made of the facility.

Northern Territory Taxes

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

The Treasurer will be aware of claims in this morning's news by the Leader of the Opposition that Territory taxes will be increased by some $32m. Can the Treasurer inform the Assembly whether this is correct?

ANSWER

I am aware of the report the honourable member refers to. The allegation has concerned me a little because it is a misrepresentation of the facts. Of the $32m which is expected as increased Northern Territory revenue this financial year, some $3.2m has been attributed to increases in taxes and proposed new taxes in the Territory. The other $27.7m will result from growth in existing taxes and charges through hospital fees which prudent Territorians will recover from health insurance. To claim that natural growth and things like payroll tax, income from land sales, income paid to the Territory by interstate governments for lottery sales in the Territory, mining royalties and even interest earned by government deposits are new imposts on Territorians is gross misrepresentation. Having regard to the fact that the proposed increases are the first in about 3 years and that average earnings in the Northern Territory have risen during that period by 37%, the $4.3m additional revenue which the Territory will be receiving amounts to about the cost of a steak sandwich per head of population per week. I do not think that the charges that the government is proposing are at all unreasonable. But I do take some exception to the way matters such as budget figures are misrepresented in the community in that they convey a quite false impression.

Department Officers at Horticultural Convention

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Following the government's public announcement of its encouragement for a Territory horticultural industry, were any Department of Primary Production officers present at the third national convention organised by the Australian United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association understanding that the 4-day discussions involved growers, wholesalers, retailers, transporters and those working in packaging?

ANSWER

I authorise a fair bit of travel for officers to go to interstate conferences. I certainly do not recall approving travel for that conference although I may have.

Tourist Commission Audio-visual Road Show

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Could he advise on the effectiveness of the Tourist Commission's audio-visual road show which is presently touring south-eastern Australia?

ANSWER

The audio-visual presentation forms one of the principal areas of the Tourist Commission's 1981 promotional campaign. The road show began the national tour at the Albury Trade Fair in July and was watched by an estimated 15,000 of the 28,000 people who attended the week-long affair. Since then, the audio-visual has been watched by 500 people at Southport, 600 people at Brisbane, 500 people at Toowoomba, 550 people at Newcastle, 800 people in Sydney where it was part of a Pacific area travel association conference and 400 people in Canberra. The presentation is now in Melbourne where it is preparing to move to Hobart, Launceston and then to Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Mt Gambier. From there it will go to Perth for a special presentation at the end of September and for the Royal Show and the opening of a tourist bureau in that city before finishing in Adelaide in October. The Tourist Commission has formed the opinion that this audio-visual has been very useful to people requiring information about visiting the Northern Territory.

Magistrates in Alice Springs

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it intended to have 2 magistrates based in Alice Springs in the New Year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not in a position to answer that question at this time. I would suggest that the Leader of the Opposition place the question on notice. I can make inquiries of the Chief Magistrate and administrative people in the Department of Law to ascertain what the position will be in the New Year in Alice Springs.

Lot 282 Kemp Street Alice Springs

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

Has a decision been made on what to do with lot 282, 3 Kemp Street, Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I did not even bring my map with me. I will have to advise the honourable member later.

Nabarlek Mine Spillage

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I preface the question by quoting from an ABC news report: 'The Acting Prime Minister, Mr Anthony, said today that he was concerned there might have been a breakdown of safety procedures at the Nabarlek Uranium Mine. He told Parliament that there had been a leak of waste material and a delay in reporting it to the Supervising Scientist and was concerned that there might have been a breakdown in the administration that the government has tried to put in place so thoroughly'. Is the minister completely satisfied that the monitoring and test-

ing that is carried out by officers of the Department of Transport and Works is as complete and thorough as is necessary?

ANSWER

Yes.

Humpty Doo Temporary and Permanent High School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has a final decision been made on the siting of the Humpty Doo temporary high school and the Humpty Doo permanent high school and what regard is being paid by officers of the Department of Education to the wishes of the parents' groups in the area concerning the siting of the 2 schools and the interim education of the children?

ANSWER

One almost needs an adjournment debate to cover this issue. Suffice to say that I cannot imagine any project of an educational and building nature conducted by any government anywhere that has taken more notice and spent more time and trouble to comply with the wishes of the community wherever possible. It has been one of the most incredible sagas that I have been associated with and, at times, a very pleasant one. It is good to note the tremendous level of interest of people in the rural area. However, I believe, at times, they have become quite unreasonable in their demands. Indeed, on occasions, they have appeared to me to be rather selfish. The negotiations, particularly those in respect to the high school, commenced in depth in February of this year with delegations to the Chief Minister and myself and continued as late as 12 August with further correspondence.

On my understanding, it has always been agreed that the proposed high school, including any temporary facilities, would be at the Humpty Doo village site. This is where roadworks are being put in at this moment and a water tank is being installed. It is the location decided on by the Rural Planning Authority for the community and village centre where government services will be provided. It was not until 15 June this year that the possibility of establishing the high school at Fred's Pass was first raised by the rural community. I realise and accept some of the advice of the rural people that the Humpty Doo site, in fact, will require fill whereas it is possible there is less of a problem at Fred's Pass. Nonetheless, on balance, it has been decided that the Humpty Doo site is far preferable for the reaons that I have already given. Work will be in progress there and it makes a lot of sense to locate the new high school where those capital works are to be committed in any event. In addition, that is the site of the primary school which is currently under construction. It makes sense to have the 2 in close proximity to each other.

As to the provision of a temporary facility, it is the firm opinion of the Department of Education, which I share, that it will be in the best interests of the students of the rural area to establish a unit in the Darwin High School for the period of construction of the new high school. This unit would have an identity of its own teachers and transfer to the new school upon its completion. Mr Speaker, it is all very easy to say: 'Give us $50,000 and we will put a few demountables at whatever site may be chosen and that will create a high school'. Of course it will not. The cost of locating absolutely minimal facilities, without any specialist facility whatsoever, would be more like $100,000. If we were to place it at Fred's Pass that would assume that the shed is satisfactory for the purpose and all the toilets are satisfactory for the number of students. It is highly unlikely that those facilities would be satisfactory for that purpose. In addition, we have the problem of removing the temporary facilities. What would we do about specialist facilities in the temporary high school? If we were to have a temporary high school, the best it could provide would be humanities subjects. The children would still have to be bussed somewhere else 3 or 4 times

a week to do the specialist subjects - those requiring laboratory facilities, science facilities - and all the other specialised areas of a secondary education.

The level of disruption to the students under such a proposition would be intolerable. In order to provide specialist facilities of a temporary nature on site, the bill to the taxpayer would be in the order of $300,000. Once again, when you no longer need it, you have to shift it. Shift it where? You have installed specialist facilities in a location and they have no use anywhere else because they are of a specialised secondary nature. I suppose one might say that we could shift them to Palmerston and have another temporary school. I think one ought to be a little cautious about providing temporary facilities. Communities ought to be suspicious of governments that do. They have a funny habit of becoming permanent. I do not think there would be anyone here who has not experienced the effects of government saying: 'We will put in temporary facilities'. It thereby overcomes its immediate problem and, with all of the budgetary constraints that face government, it is an awfully easy thing to delay the actual construction of the permanent facility.

The Northern Territory government has determined that there will be a full range of both primary and secondary education for the rural people. We are quite satisfied that the best method of achieving this is the method I have outlined. It is a method which will provide the best possible education to students and the least disruption to their program. I bet no one has thought about the teachers. Until such time as the housing is built for them in the area, we will also have to transport them backwards and forwards from Darwin. Of course, we all know the industrial implications of that - the justified claims for travel etc which would flow. On balance, the decision which the government has taken is the proper one. I thank the people of the rural community for their interest in this matter to date and certainly look forward to a continuing interest in the new education facilities which are being constructed in their area.

Nabarlek Mine Spillage

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

This question is necessary because of the multiplicity of authorities involved in monitoring the uranium province. In reference to the Acting Prime Minister's statement in parliament yesterday, is he completely satisifed that the monitoring and regulatory procedures under the control of his department are as complete as is necessary for the protection of the Northern Territory's environment?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I heard a moment ago the member for Arnhem's interpretation of the Acting Prime Minister's statement in parliament yesterday. It seemed to be a variance with what the news reported this morning. Since I have not seen the Deputy Prime Minister's statement, I would say to the honourable member what I said to him yesterday. If he has any further questions in relation to this matter that he has so much trouble dealing with, I ask him to put them on notice and I will deal with them in writing.

Carpentaria College Site

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to an answer he gave me last week regarding the public exhibition for public comment of the development planned for the Carpentaria College site. Is he yet in a position to indicate whether that plan will be displayed for such comment?

ANSWER

It will be displayed for a 14-day period immediately it is received.

Fisheries Division Program

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What results are forthcoming from the Fisheries Division program aimed at boosting the total Top End catch; that is, the program looking at Spanish makerel, shark and demersal fish?

ANSWER

I do not have the information to hand. I ask him to put his question on notice.

Tennant Creek Town Plan

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I preface my question by mentioning the 18-month delay in gazetting the new town plan in Tennant Creek. Is he aware of the resulting increase in building costs as a result of this delay which, in one case, amounted to some $140,000?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think the honourable member is distorting things somewhat. There was no delay in gazetting the Tennant Creek town plan for a period of 18 months or anything like it. There is no truth whatsoever in that statement. A town plan continually operated until the declaration of the new town plan of 1981. The period of 18 months the gentleman refers to is the period of discussion with the people of Tennant Creek as to what type of plan they wanted. After recommendations were made to me at the request of people in Tennant Creek, certain alterations were made to it before it went to Executive Council. This is the normal manner of dealing with a new town plan as provided for by the act. There was a town plan already in operation and a Town Planning Act available to the people of Tennant Creek to amend that town plan as they saw fit. It would be interesting to trot out the number of amendments to the Tennant Creek town plan put through the Executive Council during that same 18 month period. It is a normal process as I tried to explain to the honourable gentleman the other day. The actual period between the time of recommendation of the town plan to Cabinet and its passage through Executive Council would be more in the order of weeks and that period was used to finally renegotiate or reconsult with business people, in particular in Tennant Creek, as to their requirements. I know that the honourable gentleman has been talking to certain people in Tennant Creek and he may have obtained information from them which has given rise to his quite false impression. I am certainly not saying that he is inventing the matter, Mr Speaker. Nonetheless, the reality is that there has been a town plan in Tennant Creek since about 1972. Concurrently with that, a new town plan was produced and contemporaneously with that new town plan alterations are continually being made to the old one.

Katherine Rural Education Centre

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Is he aware of quite serious criticisms by the Australian Insitute of Agricultural Science about the Katherine Rural Education Centre. To assist the minister, I must tell him that I understand that Territorian members of this institute had a great deal of imput into this criticism. Has the minister considered this criticism and, if so, will it result in any changes to the plans for the Katherine Rural Education Centre?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable member for the question. I am very much aware of the submission put forward by that organisation. Many of those sorts of organisations do target a little bit high and create among their members

expectations which are unreal when viewed in the light of what the Katherine Rural Education Centre seeks to achieve. The content of the suggestions and recommendations of the organisation have been referred to the Katherine Rural Education Centre Council in whom I have great faith from its chairman down. They are the people who want to establish the Katherine Rural Education Centre as quickly as possible. I look to their advice and, if they wish to advise along any of the lines suggested by that organisation - but I believe they will advise very little change from where they believe they are correctly heading - great weight will be taken of such advice.

Children's Week

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In the past the federal Office of Child Care has made fund available through the Northern Territory government to assist in the celebration of Children's Week in the Northern Territory. This is normally celebrated in October as it is throughout the rest of Australia. Is he aware whether those funds will be available in 1981?

ANSWER

I believe that such funds will be made available again. If I recall correctly, the department recommended to me the organisations which should be put in charge of operating Children's Week in 1981.

Air Fares for NT Public Servants

Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise the Assembly of any reviews by the government to withdraw air fare concessions for Territry public servants?

ANSWER

No, I am not aware of any reviews by the government to withdraw any conditions of the public service. Public service conditions are generally handled by the Public Service Commissioner and the consultative council set up with public service unions. I am certainly not aware of any moves by the government to review or withdraw any conditions of the public service.

Industrial Dispute in Katherine

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is the minister aware of the suggestion that medical certificates tendered by 2 employees of NTEC in Katherine which were the cause of a recent industrial dispute in Katherine were fraudulent?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any such suggestion. The question would seem to me to raise by innuendo some other questions that might impugn on the character of the people involved. I would not care to make any comment upon it until it has been investigated.

Nabarlek Mine Spillage

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

At a briefing held for the Darwin media, officers of the Department of Mines and Energy advised the media that it would have been politically desirable had Queensland Mines reported the incident but they had not contravened or breached any of the environmental protection regulations. Can he advise the Assembly if he is satisfied that Queensland Mines in the incident that occurred at Nabarlek had not breached any of the requirements of the environemtnal regulations as stated by his department?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the member will recall my request 2 days in a row to put his question on notice.

Mr B. Collins: I am ignoring it.

Mr TUXWORTH: If he is ignoring it, perhaps I can give him a little help again today and suggest to him that he place it on notice. I will deal with it in writing as soon as is practicable.

Child-minding Centre at Howard Springs

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he give me any further information regarding the environmental impact statement that was requested for the child-minding centre at Howard Springs?

ANSWER

As the member would be aware, the town plan which was drawn up after a lot of publicity and in very close consultation with the rural people provides for a very simple town plan with a range of both permitted and consent uses. As it turns out, I believe that the range of consent uses is somewhat narrow, certainly so narrow as to prevent the exact application of zoning for a child-minding centre. In light of that, I will be contacting the Rural Planning Authority and

directing them to display for public comment a new schedule to the town plan to overcome this sort of difficulty in the future. It would, of course, still require a development application to the Rural Planning Authority in order to maintain appropriate standards and safeguards in that rather sensitive area. However, by doing that, it would eliminate the need for an environmental impact statement for a thing like a child-minding centre.

The officers of my department had been in contact with the applicants for this particular zoning application some time ago and had offered full assistance. Indeed, my officers had arranged with a Catholic priest, who was a friend of the family, to assist them in preparing a 2-page statement on the nature of the roads, traffic densities etc. We would all be aware that there would be no problems envisaged in that type of operation in the rural centre. A child-minding centre would normally have increased traffic about twice a day - when the kids are deposited at the centre in the morning and picked up in the afternoon. The statement would be about the size of 2 A4 sheets of paper. Regrettably, the people did not attend at the office of the Department of Lands as arranged. I understand that they chose to go to the Chief Minister instead and I do not know what that achieved in respect of a statutory provision of the town plan. I do not wish to be critical unnecessarily but I am quite certain that had the good offices of the Department of Lands been availed of, this matter would have been resolved some time ago. Needless to say, there are delays inherent in the town plan.

I know that this matter has been raised by the honourable member for MacDonnell on a number of occasions. I find the delays which are built into the planning system regrettable. I would do anything I could to speed up that process. Indeed, within the existing act, every administrative action is being taken to speed up those applications. I would ask people like the honourable member for MacDonnell to bear in mind that the honourable member for Sanderson, who knows in her left foot more about town planning than he ever will, was in agreement with the type of planning which was finally passed through this place before he showed up here. If he wants to learn a little bit about the nature of town planning, I would suggest he consult with this colleague.

The Department of Lands is willing to assist these people with the most expeditious application to have the permitted use occur. In the meantime, we will be taking action to have a new draft planning instrument displayed in the rural area in an attempt to overcome this sort of unfortunate situation. I do not withdraw one iota from what I said yesterday. It is quite insane to require a person to present an environtmental impact statement for something as simple as a small child-minding centre which will involve something like 6 to 8 children. No wonder people think bureaucrats go mad at times.

Northumberland Insurance Company

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he yet advise what assistance will be given to people who are affected by the collapse of the Northumberland Insurance company?

ANSWER

I have a briefing note somewhere on this very matter in expectation of a further question from the honourable member for Nightcliff. Not wanting to take up the Assembly's time rummaging around for it, I will try to operate on my own. It is there with quite a number of others. I can provide the honourable member with specific information during the course of the day. However, if I recall correctly, the note says something to the effect that the situation is as reported to her last time. The Territory government has committed funds to compensate those persons who were adversely affected by the collapse of Northumberland Insurance Company. The Commonwealth has committed certain funds which it has not specified and we are pushing hard to get figures from the Commonwealth and it

is hesitant because it does not yet know what the liability is likely to be. Unfortunately, at this stage, there is no real progress in the matter but it is one of those matters currently before government on a day-to-day basis.

Employment of Chiropractors by Department of Health

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has consideration been given to the employment of chiropractors by the Northern Territory Department of Health if and when legislation to register chiropractors is implemented?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not think that the honourable member is being facetious. I understand that, in some areas in Australia, it is a practice for hospitals to employ chiropractors. It has not been the case in the Territory because of a very old tradition built up amongst the medical fraternity to try to keep chiropractors on the outside. I see no difficulty with it, Mr Speaker. If it is possible and in the interests of patient health care, I do not have a problem with it occurring in Northern Territory hospitals. I think there would be a few barriers to jump before we get there, most of which would be in the minds of doctors.

Road from Stott Terrace to Undoolya Road

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

Would he please explain the cause of delays in getting the road from Stott Terrace bridge to Undoolya Road constructed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I recall the honourable member asking this question during the course of the last sittings and I think I gave a fairly lengthy answer to it at that time. As the member would be aware, the planning of that road has been in train for quite some time. The difficulty has been to identify firstly, and then avoid secondly, sites of significance or sacred sites purported to be in the area. At this stage, the Department of Lands is completing a preliminary design in order to try to avoid those known sites of significance. I would imagine that, by the time that new preliminary design comes out, more sacred sites will be found where the new road is designed to go and we may well be back at the drawing board again. Nonetheless, the best endeavours are being made by the Department of Lands and the Aboriginal people, I suppose, to overcome the problem and find some method of providing the access.

Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority

Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What does the Northern Territory government intend to do to ensure the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority is given enough funds to carry out its obligations properly, bearing in mind that the budget allocation this financial year is about half that necessary for it to maintain its current levels of operation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have not had time to look into this matter since there were certain allegations made publicly by the Chairman of the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority yesterday. We have allocated to the authority specific purpose funds which have been placed in the Territory government's general purpose fund. This is the first year that they have been placed there so there is a specific amount allocated by the Commonwealth to the authority and that is the amount that has been appropriated to it. The situation may be a bit like some other areas of Commonwealth funding where it has transferred a function to the Territory with a specific amount of funds allocated to it which the Territory government may

believe is insufficient to carry out the service. We will be going back to the Commonwealth on a range of these. As to specific questions relating to the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority, I have not had time to investigate the matter or look into the history of its funding to establish what the government's position will be.

Sunday Trading

Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Given the growing public debate on Sunday trading for retail stores, will the government allow large chain stores to open on Sunday?

ANSWER

It is not a question of whether the government will allow large stores to trade on Sunday but whether the government will stop them. At present, there are no laws or regulations in the Territory which prevent them from opening on a Sunday.

Alice Springs Prison Farm

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question relates to the allegations made yesterday by the honourable member for MacDonnell that no funding is being provided for a prison farm in Alice Springs. Would the minister comment on the budget documents which seem to indicate that some funding has in fact been made available?

ANSWER

The question of a prison farm in Central Australia has created a bit of interest since the question was raised in the budget and in this Assembly yesterday. I can report to members that the government is investigating sites for a prison farm in Central Australia. A site near Alice Springs was considered but was found to have deficiencies and was abandoned. Investigations are taking place to find other suitable sites. Until such time as they are completed, no further announcements can be made. Members will appreciate that to establish a prison farm, which of necessity is somewhat remote from established settlements, factors such as water availability are of vital importance. There are other obvious constraints which would need to be taken into consideration. The Assembly will be informed when further decisions are made.

Darwin's Local Government Boundaries

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is there a current proposal to alter Darwin's local government boundaries and, if so, when is it expected that the boundaries will be amended?

ANSWER

I am not sure whether there is a specific formal application form the Darwin city council to the government to alter its boundaries. There has certainly been reference to the subject in correspondence and publicly over a long period of time. The Darwin city council's view obviously is that it would like the boundary extended fairly substantially, especially to include Palmerston. The government has not determined a final position on this matter. At present, I am putting together some information for Cabinet on the subject of possible changes to the Darwin city council boundaries. Of course, even if changes are made, they need not necessarily be the final boundaries. Such matters can be determined from time to time. There is clearly an inequity at present inasmuch as the boundary on the eastern side of the Stuart Highway in my own electorate currently ends just this side of the Darwin Show Grounds. A fairly substantial developed area at Berrimah, including the Berrimah Hotel and various industrial complexes, is outside the boundary. It is somewhat inequitable to end the boundary just this side

of the show grounds when it could be extended a mile or 2 to take in the additional area and thereby allow the council to pick up rates and responsibilities for that area. At present, the government levies rates under the Darwin Rates Act on areas just outside the city council boundaries. It is not a function that we see government really being involved in for any length of time. In a nutshell, the matter is being examined. I do not believe that there is a formal submission from the council indicating where it believes the boundaries should go.

Casuarina Hospital - Treatment of Burns

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it a fact that special facilities for the treatment of burns cases at Casuarina Hospital have never been used and that burns cases are treated in ordinary wards where the risk of infection is very high?

ANSWER

I ask the member to put the question on notice. If he would like an answer to a question like that on the same day, he should ring me an hour or 2 before question time so that I can made an effort to find the answer.

Bagot Road Flyover

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the construction on the Bagot Road flyover running to time and when are the many thousands of people who commute from the northern suburbs to the city every day likely to be using this flyover?

ANSWER

The Bagot Road flyover construction is proceeding according to schedule. The many thousands of people will be able to use it in early February next year. Whilst I am talking about the Bagot flyover, I would like to thank the motoring public in Darwin for the caution that they are exercising in moving around the works at the moment. Additional bridge work will be erected in the next 6 weeks and northbound traffic will have to take a little detour and then do a U turn and head back up Bagot Road. I believe that the motoring public have accepted the directions of the department in its advertising campaign. I thank them but would also like to ask them still to exercise a little caution whilst they are moving through that area.

NTEC Debtors

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

How much money approximately does NTEC lose in a year through absconding debtors?

ANSWER

I cannot give the member an exact answer on the annual loss. Since its formation in 1978, it has lost in the order of $1.5m through people defaulting on paying their accounts. Often it is not possible to pursue the options open to the commission to recover this money because one cannot get blood out of a rock, particularly if one cannot find the rock. It is a matter of concern because $1.5m, even if it is in 1978 dollars instead of 1981 dollars, represents 60 or 70 houses or 80 or 90 kilometres of road. In that sense, it is extremely important that we recover every dollar we can and put it back into the development of the Territory.

Sunday Trading

Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Given the growing public debate on Sunday trading for retail stores, will

the government stop large chain stores from opening on Sunday?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government does not propose to legislate to control shop trading hours to any greater degree than they are controlled now. I believe the only controls that exist at present are on the sale of liquor and the opening times for casinos in the Northern Territory. I understand there are no other legislative restrictions on the subject and, at this stage, we do not propose to introduce any.

Training Courses for Seamen at Darwin Community College

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

This question relates to the answer he gave about the training facilities which are to be set up for seamen in the Darwin Community College. As the college is acting as an agent for the Director of Transport and Works, could he indicate in which year such courses will commence?

ANSWER

I understand that it will be next year.

Donkey Camp Project at Katherine

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will water be taken from the Donkey Camp pumping station in Katherine this year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I doubt whether any water will be taken from Donkey Camp this year. However, I understand that some water may be drawn off to test the line later this year.

Status of Traffic Signs at Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Are all the traffic signs at the new township of Jabiru and at Jabiru East properly authorised and can laws regarding these signs be enforced?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the signs that have been put up in the town of Jabiru are enforceable. However, I believe on the Ranger site there are some signs that have been erected without consultation with the Department of Transport and Works. It is unclear whether or not those signs are enforceable.

Biological Control of Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Mr Ted Fenner is the senior adviser with the Animal Quarantine Service. What were the results of his study trip to Queensland to examine possible biological controls of the palm leaf beetle?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no further information to add that that provided last week in response to a question from the member for Port Darwin.

Payment for Lease in Vicinity of Doctor's Gully

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I draw his attention to the recent gazettal of a lease in the vicinity of Doctor's Gully to Mr and Mrs Perron. The figure mentioned in that gazettal notice

was $73,000. What were the terms and conditions of payment of this price?

ANSWER

As my colleague interjected, the handling of an application by Mr and Mrs Perron has at all times been in precisely the same manner as for any other citizen of the Northern Territory. I am more than happy to provide whatever details the gentleman requires, particularly if he puts the question on notice. In any event, I am quite happy to send him whatever information he wants. I certainly cannot give it here. It is 4 or 5 pages long.

Todd River Seepage into Alice Springs Hospital

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

The high water table in the Todd River is causing seepage into the basin of the Alice Springs Hospital. The water at present is being pumped back into the Todd and is causing excessive weed growth in that area. What problems would there be with pumping the water from the basin into the sewerage drain instead of into the Todd River?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there would be no problems that I know of other than that the pumps would probably run 24 hours a day for years.

Proposed Marineland Development in Doctor's Gully

Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

My question refers to my previous one about the lease in the vicinity of Doctor's Gully and proposed marineland development in that area. As minister responsible for the Northern Territory Development Corporation, is there likely to be a loan for the development of that particular lease from the Northern Territory Development Corporation?

Mr SPEAKER: Ministers have the option of answering or declining to answer. The honourable the Treasurer.

Mr PERRON: Mr Speaker, I believe that the question is outside Standing Orders. We could perhaps seek your ruling on the matter, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: If the honourable member for MacDonnell rephrases the question, he might receive the answer he requires. At present, it is not acceptable.

Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

My question refers to the previous one. Has there been an application to the Northern Territory Development Corporation for a loan to develop the lease in the vicinity of Doctor's Gully that was recently gazetted?

ANSWER

The answer is no, Mr Speaker.

Solar Pond Project in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he advise the Assembly of the progress on the solar pond project in Alice Springs which the Northern Territory government is helping to finance?

ANSWER

I understand that the pond development is quite well advanced. Indeed, the installation of the turbine is ready to take place. The turbine was delivered recently from overseas and it was slightly damaged. There has been some work involved in rectifying the damage. I advise members that it is planned that this pond and the generating system will be installed and ready for installation during

the coming solar conference that the government is sponsoring in Alice Springs.

Fannie Bay Golf Course

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has a decision been made to incorporate the former Fannie Bay golf course into the East Point Reserve?

ANSWER

I am unaware of any such proposal. That would be a matter of significant interest to the Corporation of the City of Darwin. I would imagine that, if any approaches have been made to vary it as council land under council jurisdiction they would be made to my colleague the Minister for Community Development.

Mrs O'Neil: It is not under council jurisdiction.

Mr ROBERTSON: I am somewhat at a loss to answer the question. It is quite apparent that I do not know the answer. I will certainly take it up and reply to the member in due course.

Old Katherine Railway Station

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question is asked on behalf of the member for Elsey. Why has the old railway station at Katherine not been converted into an information centre with the funds allocated 2 years ago?

ANSWER

$12,000 was allocated in 1978-79 as you are aware, Sir. It was provided by the government to the National Trust for restoration work at the old Katherine railway station. The National Trust recently went through a period of some difficulty as members may note in its recently tabled annual report. However, a status report that was prepared in April this year by the National Trust on various programs stated that some repair work on this program had been undertaken at a cost of $1474. There has been no further action to effect restoration. The Department of Community Development has been requested to write off the balance of the funds provided to the National Trust for this project. Emergency funding has now been provided to the National Trust under some reorganisation of its financial affairs in order to get a number of projects which have been on the trust's book for some time under way and completed. Amongst those projects is the restoration of the old railway station at Katherine.

Energy Audits of Government Officers' Accommodation

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Have energy audits been undertaken in respect of buildings occupied by government officers and, if so, what is the expected cost saving which will result from these audits?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there have been some total energy assessments done in 2 major hospitals in the Northern Territory, but I am not aware of any that have been done on government office blocks. Both at Casuarina and Alice Springs Hospitals, outlays of $150,000 to $200,000 will be involved in capital works to achieve energy savings of the same order of expenditure every year. I cannot advise the honourable member which other buildings have been assessed at this stage. It is our intention to look at every government building in the course of time to get the maximum savings we can in relation to energy.

956.820—29

Investigation of Under-age Employment and Low Wages

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will he please undertake an investigation of the allegations of under-age employment and low wages on pastoral properties that I raised in the adjournment debate last week?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will have the subject of the honourable member's debate looked into by government officers and ask them to put recommendations to me.

Current Status of Stuart Highway in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise the current status of the proposed realignment of the Stuart Highway through the railway area of Alice Springs to Smith Street intersection?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that the realignment of that section will be subject to budgetary considerations for the 1982-83 financial year.

Leanyer Primary School

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Given that the contract for the construction of the Leanyer Primary School has already been let, when is it expected that the school will be ready for occupation?

ANSWER

From memory, I answered this question earlier in the sittings. I think the anticipated date of completion I gave then was the end of January 1983. It will be completed during the next school year which, of course, would mean the first semester of that year.

Aircraft Problems at Jindalee

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Would he please take up with the appropriate federal minister the problem of the aircraft decoy effect on the Jindalee over the horizon radar aerial display north of Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I heard of this matter this morning. It sounds like it could be quite serious. It could lead to a very serious incident if in fact an aircraft in trouble sought to land on the area concerned in an emergency. From the air, it appears as if it would be a useful landing field whereas in fact it is covered with aerials. I will certainly have the matter taken up with federal officials with a view to having it examined. If it is regarded by the relevant air transport people as a matter of concern, then identification marks will be necessary to ensure that no accident occurs.

Cape Don Lighthouse

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Could he indicate whether a decision has yet been made regarding the Cape Don Lighthouse, which is to be decommissioned, and whether that area is to be given to the National Trust or any other instrumentality for protection?

ANSWER

This is the first I have heard of this matter. I will have officers examine the question.

Responsibility for Todd River

Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Last week, I asked a question relating to responsibility for the Todd River in which the Chief Minister said that he hoped that in due course the Alice Springs Town Council would take over responsibility for the Todd River. In light of this week's decision to call on the Northern Territory government through the Conservation Commission to take responsibility for the Todd River, will the Department of the Chief Minister be accepting that responsibility?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I certainly could not answer for the Chief Minister at short notice in that regard. I suggest the honourable member place the question on notice.

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?

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?

Elsey and Hodgson Downs Pastoral Leases

126 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What efforts are being made to have land excised from Elsey 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?

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?

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?

From 3 March 1981

Tenders for School Bus Runs

152 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Tenders for School Bus Runs

153 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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 and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is it a fact that the tenderer awarded tenders 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 and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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?

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 or 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?

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?

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?

From 2 June 1981

Mining Royalties Paid to Aborigines

178 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he ascertain and advise -

1. The amount paid to Aborigines in the NT from mining royalties in (a) 1978, (b) 1979, and (c) 1980?
2. What level are these mining royalties expected to reach in 1981?
3. What funds the Aboriginal Development Commission has to invest in the NT in 1980-81?
4. Are mining royalties paid to Aborigines considered as taxable income?

Interest Rate on Loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

195 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What rate of interest is being charged on the $1.4m special assistance loan granted to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd?

From 9 June 1981

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service

198 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the present staffing of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Centre? Are there plans to increase the staffing levels and, if so, what positions?
2. What are the functions and duties of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service?
3. During the 6 months to 31 May 1981, (a) how many Aboriginals have been treated per week by AIMS, (b) what are the major categories of illness, and (c) where do the Aboriginals, in the main, come from?
4. How many Aboriginal liaison officers are attached to Casuarina Hospital; what hours do they work; and are there plans to increase the numbers?
5. Are any Aboriginal liaison officers to be employed at Darwin Hospital?

Student Assistance in NT

201 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students in the Northern Territory are, (a) receiving assistance under the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme, and (b) how many are in receipt of the full allowance?

Medical Practitioners Servicing Community Health Centres

205 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many doctors have been servicing community health centres, and how many of these are private practitioners?

From 18 August 1981

Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit

206 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Where have advertisements been placed for nurses to staff the Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit?

2. How many advertisements have there been?
3. How many positions for nurses are there?
4. What are the shift hours at the 24 hour unit?
5. How many counsellors does the Rehabilitation Unit have?
6. What qualifications have the counsellors?
7. What are the hours of duty?
8. How many doctors are attached to the Rehabilitation Unit and what hours do they work?

Mustering of Cattle in National Parks and Reserves

208 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the current policy of the Conservation Commission regarding the mustering of cattle in national parks and reserves?
2. (a) Who pays the cost of the mustering, (b) how many musters have been conducted in Central Australia during the past 2 years, (c) how much did each muster cost, (d) what happened to the mustered cattle, and (e) what payments have been received by the Conservation Commission from pastoralists for mustering services?

Yulara Tourist Village

209 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In terms of concept and structural characteristics, what is the nature of each Yulara Village development proposal received to 10 June 1981 by the NT Development Corporation?
2. Have development guidelines as set down in a document entitled 'Development Requirements and Information for Developers' prepared by Goodchild Research Studies for prospective Yulara developers been changed in any way since its release earlier this year?
3. If so, (a) in what regard, and (b) what has been the reaction to this revision or alteration of guidelines in terms of investor and development interest?
4. Will development of Yulara Village be restricted in terms of vertical height?
5. Will development proposals for structures of more than 3 storeys be considered as viable by the NT Development Corporation?

Rape in Southern Region of NT

210 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. (a) How many rapes have been reported in the Southern Command region since 1 July 1980 to 10 June 1981, (b) how many have resulted in charges being laid, (c) what is the state of these charges, and (d) have any reports of rape been false?
2. What facilities and resources are available for the psychological counselling of women raped in (a) the Alice Springs region, and (b) the Tennant Creek region?
3. Has he received any representations from women's organisations regarding the level of rape counselling services in the Territory?
4. If so, (a) what organisations have made representations, (b) what has been the basis of these representations, and (c) what has been his response?

Napperby Station Sublease

215 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What discussions have been held between officers of the Department of Community Development and the Department of Transport and Works regarding the piping of water to the proposed sub-lease on Napperby Station?
2. How much will it cost for the equipment and installation of an adequate water supply at the Napperby sub-lease and who will meet the cost?
3. Will the school and other government-supplied facilities presently being used by the Laramba Community at Napperby be moved to the new sub-lease if and when negotiations are completed for the sub-lease?
4. What will be the cost of moving and re-establishing the facilities on the new site?

Guidelines for Grants-in-Aid

222 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What action has been taken to correct the following unsatisfactory control relating to grants-in-aid commented upon by the Auditor-General in 1978-79 and found to be still unsatisfactory in 1980:

(a) inadequacies in the promulgated conditions for grants;

(b) the absence of reference to formal acceptance of the conditions and purpose of grants;

(c) the legal entity of grantees;

(d) the withholding of moneys for non-compliance with grant conditions;

(e) the lack of current formalized departmental procedures and guidelines covering functional responsibilities and criteria for the evaluation of grant applications and the monitoring of performance of grantees; and

(f) the apparent absence of follow-up action by his department in certain instances where it is not evident that grantees had complied with the conditions of grants?

Alice Springs Women's Community Centre

223 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When will the Women's Community Centre in Alice Springs commence operations?
2. If the centre has not been opened by the end of June 1981 will the Department of Health continue to fund St Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army to enable these agencies to provide services to destitute and homeless people until the new centre is open?
3. If not, why not?
4. If so, have these agencies been informed that their funding will be maintained until the new centre commences operations?

Darwin Hospital Pathology Laboratory

224 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can he inform me as to the fate of the pathology laboratory at the Darwin Hospital?
2. Has he considered the future of the laboratory in the light of a lack of such scientific facilities in the Department of Primary Production?

Security for Belongings of Hospital Patients

225 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are made to ensure the security of the belongings of hospital patients, for example psychiatric and geriatric patients, who are unable to care for themselves?

Auditor-General's Report - Deficiencies in Department of Transport and Works

230 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to the deficiencies in his department noted by the Auditor- General following an audit undertaken in March 1980 and ask:

1. Have standardised procedures for management of repairs and maintenance works been established and are they now available?
2. Has the level of supervision by the department over period contracts been raised, and has the frequency of inspections by supervisors of period contracts been increased?
3. Is there now in existence a format for the reporting to management in respect of contractors' performances?
4. In relation to capital works programs, have procedures for the administration of consultants' commissions been revised and, if so, do these revised procedures include a check list for the preparation of payments to consultants?
5. In relation to the collection of both water and sewerage rates, what action was taken as a result of the query by the Auditor-General in 1979 and again in 1980 about defective procedures relating to the preparation and rendition of accounts for services provided?
6. What success has been achieved in improving procedures in relation to the collection of outstanding water and sewerage rates?
7. In regard to water and sewerage rates, have the following issues been resolved -
   (a) the liability or otherwise of the Department of Lands for vacant Crown land;
   (b) union concern regarding the payment of basic charges for members in Commonwealth housing; and
   (c) the incorrect billing of government departments?
8. In the Property Branch of the department have the following issues been resolved -
   (a) problems relating to the formalising and registering of leases by the department; and
   (b) the lack of a property management procedure manual which could be made available to departments and authorities?
9. In the branch of stores and stores accounting, (a) has the new stores computer system been implemented and, if so, (b) is he satisfied that there now exist adequate internal controls and procedural documentation within the stores branch?

Todd River Causeway

231 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has his attention been drawn to a recent press report regarding the construction of a causeway across the Todd River to service the new

casino, and which stated that the causeway would cost $846,000?

2. How much is Federal Pacific Hotels, which stands to gain the most benefit from the causeway, contributing to the cost of this new river crossing?

3. Did he, or his department, ask Federal Pacific Hotels to meet the total cost of the causeway and, if not, why not?

Health Clinic at Lake Nash

232 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has an application been made by the Department of Health in Alice Springs for the use of the old police station at Lake Nash as a health clinic?

2. If so, what is the result of the application?

3. If not, what plans have been made for the use or disposal of the police station complex?

Bridge over Georgina River

233 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Does the government still intend to build a bridge in Queensland over the Georgina River at Camooweal and, if not, why not?

2. If so, (a) when will the bridge be built, (b) how much will it cost, (c) who will do the work, and (d) will the Queensland government be making any contribution?

Sealing of Tanami Desert Road

234 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. When will work re-commence on sealing the Tanami Desert Road?

2. What distance will be sealed in (a) 1981, (b) 1982, and (c) 1983 calendar years?

Beef Exports to South-east Asia

239 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will the government commission a survey of markets for beef in South-east Asia and other areas?

Sales Tax Rebate Scheme

240 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Will the government's sales tax rebate scheme result in cheaper consumer goods in the Territory?

2. Will Territory officers make regular assessments of the rebate scheme to assess the direct benefits to consumers and, if so, when will this information be made available to the public?

Incidence of Tuberculosis in 1979-80

241 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What was the incidence of tuberculosis in 1979-80 in (a) Australia and (b) the Northern Territory?

2. Is his department undertaking any program to eradicate tuberculosis in humans similar to the program being undertaken to eradicate tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle?

Lease Applications

249 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications were received during (a) 1978-9, (b) 1979-80, and (c) 1 July 1980-17 June 1981 for (i) horticultural leases, (ii) lease allocation to sporting groups, (iii) lease allocation to cultural groups, and (iv) applications for Aboriginal needs purposes for (A) 'sit-down' areas, and (B) excisions for pastoral leases?
2. In what regions were the above applications made?
3. Which of the above applications were (a) approved, (b) refused, (c) lapsed or withdrawn, and (d) remain unresolved?

Leanyer and Karama Subdivisions

262 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What was the median price of a single residential lot in (a) Leanyer, and (b) Karama in (i) June 1980, (ii) September 1980, (iii) December 1980, (iv) March 1981, and (v) May 1981?

Department of Transport and Works - Use of Private Organisation for Staff Recruitment

265 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Why did his department recently use a private organisation, P.A. Australia, to advertise in the national press for various staff?
2. How much did this service cost?
3. Does the use of P.A. Australia to recruit staff indicate that advertisements inserted by the department are not attracting applicants of quality?
4. Will he recommend the services of P.A. Australia to his colleagues and other government departments and, if so, will this mean that departmental staff previously employed to write and place advertisements will be retrenched?

Yulara Tourist Village

266 Miss D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What guidelines have been laid down regarding the height of buildings at Yulara Tourist Village?

Chief Minister's Department - Renting of Office Space

268 Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by your department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

Attorney-General's Department - Renting of Office Space

269 Mr LEO to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by your department from

private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long to the leases run for?

Treasury and Department of Industrial Development - Renting of Office Space

270 Mr LEO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by your department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

Department of Community Development - Renting of Office Space

271 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by your department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

Department of Mines and Energy - Renting of Office Space

272 Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by your department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

Department of Health - Renting of Office Space

273 Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by your department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

Department of Education - Renting of Office Space

274 Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by your department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

Department of Transport and Works
Renting of Office Space

277 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by your department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

Youth, Sport and Recreation Branch
Renting of Office Space

278 Mr LEO to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by your department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

Public Housing in NT - Waiting Time

284 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What was the approximate waiting time, in months, for general public housing by centres in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81 in the dwelling categories of (i) 4-bedroom house, (ii) 3-bedroom house, (iii) 2-bedroom flat, and (iv) 1-bedroom flat?

2. What was the general public housing stock by centres at (a) 30 June 1980, and (b) 30 June 1981 for the dwelling categories of (i) 4-bedroom house, (ii) 3-bedroom house, (iii) 2-bedroom flat, and (iv) 1-bedroom flat?

Public Housing in NT - Applications

286 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many outstanding applications were there for general public housing

(a) at 1 July 1980, and (b) at 25 June 1981?

2. How many applications for general public housing were received in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

3. How many applications for general public housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

4. How many tenants were accommodated in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

Public Housing in NT - Statistics

288 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many families were accommodated in general public housing in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Katherine, (v) Nhulunbuy, and (vi) Pine Creek?

2. How many applications for housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

Public Housing in NT - Applications

289 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

How many applications for general public housing were received during (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81; and how many applications were outstanding at (c) 1 July 1980, and (d) 1 July 1981 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Katherine, (v) Nhulunbuy, and (vi) Pine Creek?

Housing Commission - Cost of Organisation Review

293 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What was the cost of engaging management consultants, P.A. Consulting Services Pty Ltd, in February 1979 to review the organisation of the Housing Commission?

Mines Services Branch - Expenditure on Roads 1979-80

294 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What amount was expended on road construction and maintenance by the Mines Services Branch of his department during 1979-80?

2. Where were the roads located and what length of road construction was involved?

Plenty River Mine

295 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Has the production of concentrates commenced at the Plenty River Mine situated some 200 km north-east of Alice Springs?

2. If production has not commenced when is it likely to commence?

Harts Range Gem Survey

296 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What were the findings of the survey of gems and precious stones in the Harts Range area?

2. What other such surveys have been or are to be undertaken in the northern region of the Territory?

McArthur River Mining Development Feasibility Study

297 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What firm of consultants was employed to review the feasibility study submitted by Mimets Development Pty Ltd on the McArthur River mining development?

2. What was the cost of employing those consultants?

Metallurgical Research Centre Equipment

298 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What was the value of equipment installed at the Metallurgical Research Centre in the financial year 1979-80?

2. What was the total cost of equipping the centre to fully operational stage?

Department of Mines and Energy Construction Safety Branch

299 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What action is in hand to ensure that the construction safety branch of his department can perform its functions effectively, given that in the financial year 1979-80 inspections were carried out on 1,831 of the 3,059 applicable sites?

Department of Mines and Energy - Inspection of Machinery

300 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What provision has been made to ensure that his department is able to meet the increasing demand for inspections of machinery, given that the number of inspections carried out by the department in the financial year 1979-80 represented only two-thirds of the total number of machines registered?

Noble's Nob Mine

301 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What were the findings of investigations into the stability of the slopes of the Noble's Nob open cut mine at Tennant Creek?

Coal and Lignite Resources

302 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. At what stage are the detailed studies into lignite and coal resources being undertaken by his department?

2. Are any preliminary results available from the above investigations?

Palm Leaf Beetle

307 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

(a) What progress has been made in the eradication of the coconut leaf beetle?.

(b) What cost has been incurred to date in the eradication program?

(c) What is the expected level of success and what is the anticipated total cost of the eradication program?

Ornamental Nursery Industry Consultant

309 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

(a) Who was the private consultant engaged by the government to report on

the potential of the ornamental nursery industry in the Northern Territory?

(b) Will this report be made available to the public and, if so, when?

(c) What was the cost of commissioning the study?

Seed Production in NT

310 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What plans has the government implemented or does it intend to implement to assist Territory seed producers to overcome the financial, management and technical limitations they presently face?

Australian Fishing Zone Observer Program

313 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many people have been trained under the Australian Fishing Zone Observer program?

2. How many vessels were chartered under the Australian Fishing Zone program in 1979-80 and in 1980-81?

3. What contribution to the Australian Fishing Zone Observer program is made by the NT government?

Management Services Division - Staff Establishment

314 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

(a) What was the staff establishment in the Management Services Division of the Department of Primary Production as at 1 July 1981?

(b) What was the staff establishment as at 1 July 1981 in the (i) Finance Branch, (ii) Personnel Branch, (iii) outposted liaison units, (iv) Registry, and (v) Library?

Prawn Fishery

316 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has the government investigated the state of the Territory prawn fishing industry in respect of -

(a) the impact on the local industry of foreign fishing vessels operating in Territory waters;

(b) the returns to the Territory from licences purchased by foreign operators relative to returns to those operators; and

(c) the production costs of the local operators compared with the production costs of foreign vessels?

Funding of Roadworks Tennant Creek Area

318 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much money was provided by the NT government for roadworks in the Tennant Creek area during 1980-81?

Funding of Roadworks Katherine Area

319 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much money was provided for roadworks in the Katherine area during 1980-81?

Funding of Roadworks Alice Springs Area

320 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much money was provided by the NT government for roadworks in the Alice Springs area during 1980-81?

Funding of Roadworks Darwin Area

321 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much money was provided by the NT government for roadworks in the Darwin area during 1980-81?

Grants-in-Aid - Darwin Sporting Bodies

322 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Darwin sporting bodies during 1980-81?

Grants-in-Aid - Alice Springs Sporting Bodies

323 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided by the NT government through Grants-in-Aid to Alice Springs sporting bodies during 1980-81?

Grants-in-Aid - Tennant Creek Sporting Bodies

324 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Tennant Creek sporting bodies during 1980-81?

Grants-in-Aid - Katherine Sporting Bodies

325 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Katherine sporting bodies during 1980-81?

Beef Prices - Discrepancy between Top End and Central Australia

326 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Can he explain why fat steers and breeders bring up to $60 per head more in Central Australia than they do in the Top End despite the fact that the United States is the target destination of all Territory beef?

Beef Sales - Woolworths and Coles

327 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will he bring to the attention of Woolworths and Coles managements in Darwin the fact that beef of comparable quality to that imported by their organisations is available in the Territory?

Worker's Compensation Case - Mr F. Fenson

328 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to the case of Mr F. Fenson, stores supervisor in the Katherine Regional Office of his department, who injured his knee while travelling on duty on 24 March 1981, and ask: was his department responsible for the delay in dealing with Mr Fenson's application for compensation, or does the fault lie with the Commissioner for Employees Compensation in Canberra?

Katherine Terrace - Maintenance of Pavements

329 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the government responsible for maintenance of pavements in Katherine Terrace and, if so, when will they be upgraded?

Government Accounts - One-stop Payment Office

331 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will the government establish a one-stop shop for payment of government accounts for water, sewerage and motor vehicle registration, electricity accounts and Housing Commission rents in a ground floor, central position in Katherine, bearing in mind that the town is 8 km long and has no public transport?

Northmeat Farm Sorghum Production Figures

332 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has his attention been drawn to an advertisement in the Katherine Informer of 22 December 1980 for the sale of Katherine Downs station which stated that the "Adjoining 'Northmeat Farm' produced 7 consecutive crops of Sorghum averaging over 1 tonne/acre & carried 2000 cattle on 2800 h.a."?

If so, is he able to confirm the production figures and carrying capacity of the "Northmeat Farm"; and, if not, will he institute proceedings against the advertiser for misleading prospective buyers?

From 19 August 1981

Government-funded Workshop in Katherine

333 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has his attention been drawn to an advertisement in the Katherine Advertiser of 6 August 1981 calling tenders for the right to operate a government-funded mechanical repair workshop in Katherine and, if so, will he ensure that similar private enterprise facilities in the town are not unfairly affected by such a workshop?

Bushfires Regulations

334 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Is he aware that bushfires damage native pastures in the Darwin and Gulf district every year?
2. If so, and on the assumption that some grass of whatever quality is better than no grass at all, will he ensure that Bushfires Regulations are strictly policed in the district to prevent stock and feed losses?

Cattle and Buffalo Nutrition Research

335 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What research is being undertaken into nutrition for cattle and buffaloes in the higher rainfall areas of the Territory?

Beef Industry Consultative Committee

336 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION AND TOURISM

Does he intend to seek advice from the Beef Industry Consultative Committee on tuberculosis eradication and meat processing?

Beef Prices - Effect of Contract Shed

337 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will Norwest Beef Industries' change to a 'contract shed' at Katherine result in producers receiving higher prices for their cattle?

Land Auctions in Katherine

338 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will auction sales be held in Katherine for industrial and residential land?

Racecourse Reserve Katherine

339 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that the Katherine Municipality requires the Racecourse Reserve to be re-dedicated?
2. If so, will he instruct his officers to act immediately to meet the municipality's requirements?

Agricultural Lease Valuations Katherine

340 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that agricultural leases in the Katherine municipality have been revalued to what lessees consider exhorbitant values?
2. As zoning and other regulations prevent subdivision of these leases, will differential rating be introduced for agricultural leases?

Failures of NT Stations

341 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that productive stations such as Cresswell Downs, Walhallow, Eva Downs, Anthony Lagoon and Beetaloo are practically deserted?
2. If so, (a) is he alarmed at this fact, and (b) can he say whether it is caused by CSR's and the other owners' inability to cope with local conditions or by other reasons?

Legislation on Rights of the Disabled

342 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What action, if any, has been taken during the International Year of the Disabled Person regarding rights for the disabled in government legislation?

Grants to Ethnic Schools

343 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Which part-time ethnic schools providing instruction on a part-time basis in community language and related cultural material in the Northern Territory are in receipt of the newly available grants from the Schools Commission of up to $30 per student per annum?

Aborigines - Imprisonment Rate

344 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the Aboriginal male and female rate of imprisonment in the Northern Territory for the last 3 years?
2. How many of the offences were alcohol related?

Internal Reviews of Health Department

345 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. He stated during June 1981 sittings that his department had reviews taking place on all aspects of medical services offered to the public, and referred to an internal review of community health services. What were the details and outcome of this review?

2. In regard to other internal reviews conducted during the past year, (a) in which areas were they conducted, (b) who have the committees comprised of, (c) how many times have they met, and (d) what has been the outcome of these reviews?

3. How many internal reviews are being conducted at the moment?

St Vidgeon Station and Eva Valley Station

346 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What is the future of St Vidgeon Station where Aboriginals are building stock yards, etc?

2. What is the future of Eva Valley Station?

Rehabilitation of Rum Jungle

348 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will he advise the present status of the program to carry out further rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine area?

From 25 August 1981

Nabarlek - Spillage of Contaminated Material

349 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Will he provide a detailed report of the release into the environment of contaminated material from the uranium mine at Nabarlek?

2. What action will be taken against the company for failing to report this incident and denying that it had occurred?

Jabiru By-laws

350 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the status of the proposed by-laws for Jabiru?

Feral Animals Report

351 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What plans has the Conservation Commission to implement the recommendations of the Feral Animals Report in respect of the control of feral buffalo?

Donkey Camp Project in Katherine

352 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Why has no environmental impact study been undertaken in regard to the proposal to pump water from the Katherine River in the Donkey Camp area?

2. At what level will pumping from the Katherine River cease so that the farmers' water supply for irrigation purposes is protected?

Health Centre at Katherine

353 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why is a health centre to be built at Katherine within 1 mile of the existing community health centre?

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?

ANSWER

Some organisations submitted more than one project for funding in the 1980-81 financial year because of the variety of Grants-in-Aid which are administered by the department.

It is also pointed out that the Community Services Division was able to make certain approved grants to organisations prior to July 1980, for projects submitted for the year 1980-81, as additional funds were available at that time. These grants are marked with an asterisk on the attached list.

Due to the large number of applications received by the Department of Community Development for the Grants-in-Aid Scheme, assessment is necessarily carried out throughout the whole financial year. For this reason, preparation of these answers was delayed to enable to reply to be as complete as possible. Even so a short list of applications still pending is unavoidable although assessment of these will be completed, and where applicable, payments made before the end of the financial year.

1. The following divisions received applications for Grants-in-Aid in 1980-81:

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Aboriginal Community College
Aboriginal Training and Cultural Institute
Aboriginal Womens Resource Centre
Aboriginal Cultural Foundation
Aikido NT
Alice Springs Amateur Cycling Club
Alice Springs Art Foundation
Alice Springs Film Society
Alice Springs Gliding Club
Alice Springs Golf Club
Alice Springs Pony Club
Alice Springs SPCA
Alice Springs Sky Divers
Alice Springs Tennis Association
Alice Springs Youth Centre
Alexandria School Parents & Friends
Alyangula Golf Club
Arafura Bowls and Social Club
Araluen Cultural Trust
Archery Society of NT
Arts Council of Australia (NT)
Arunga Park Speedway Association
Asian Australian Family Association
Australian Citizens Radio Monitors
Australian Broadcasting Commission
Australian Drama Festival (NT)
Australian Lightweight Sharpies
Automobile Association of the NT
Bamyili Community Council
Berrimah Riding Club
Beswick Town Council
Borroloola Community Council
Bougainvillea Festival Committee
Boy's Brigade
Bradshaw Cubs and Scouts
Browns Mart Community Arts Project
Cavenagh Theatre Group
Cecchetti Society
Central Aust. Amateur Swimming Club
Central Aust. Conservation Council
Centralian Womens Hockey Association
Citizens Radio Emergency Service Teams NT
Corporation of the City of Darwin
Corporation of the City of Katherine
Corporation of the City of Tennant Creek
Country Womens Association of the NT
Crafts Council of the NT
Cycle Action NT
Darwin Amateur Cycling Club
Darwin Amateur Radio Club
Darwin Ballroom Dancing Association
Darwin Baseball Umpires Association
Darwin Bowls Club
Darwin Bushwalking Club
Darwin Contemporary Artists Co-op

Australian Youth Performing Arts
Darwin District Junior Rugby League
Darwin Golf Club
Darwin Gun Club
Darwin Horse and Pony Club
Darwin Karting Association
Darwin Motor Cycle Club
Darwin Netball Association
Darwin Police and Citizens Youth Club
Darwin Regional Aboriginal Sports Committee
Darwin Rifle Club
Darwin Rugby Football League
Darwin Rural Districts Pipe Band
Darwin Sailing Club
Darwin Stamp and Coin Club
Darwin Table Tennis Association
Darwin Theatre Group
Darwin Tennis Association
Darwin Youth Refuge
Dynamoes Sporting Club
Elsey Homestead Reconstruction Committee
Environment Council of the NT
Fannie Bay Equestrian Club
Fellowship of Australian Writers
Galiwinku Community
The Gap Neighbourhood Centre
Gapuwiyak Community Council
Gliding Association of NT
Gove Boating Club
Gove Community Radio Group
Gove Country Golf Club
Gove Junior Soccer
Gove Peninsula SLSC
Gove Squash Club
Hamilton Downs Youth Centre
Historical Society of NT
Holy Spirit School
Indonesian Association of NT
Intercultural Performing Arts Association
Jabiru East Cubs and Scouts
Katherine Clay Target Club
Katherine CWA
Katherine Golf Club
Katherine Guides, Scouts and Brownies
Katherine Horse and Pony Club
Katherine Little Athletics
Katherine Regional Council
Katherine Softball Association
Katherine Tennis Club
Lions Club of Tennant Creek
Local Government Association of NT
Maningrida Literature Production Centre
Marrara Christian School
Milingimbi Council
Darwin & Districts Equestrian Association
National Trust of Australia NT
Nguiu Shire Council
Ngukurr Township Association
Nhulunbuy Area School Ladies Auxiliary
Nhulunbuy Corporation Fishing Club
Nhulunbuy Catholic Parish School
Nhulunbuy Police & Citizens Youth Club
Nightcliff Amateur Swimming Club
Nightcliff Rugby League Football Club
Nightcliff Youth Centre
Noonamah Pony Club
North Australian Canine Association
North Australian Eisteddfod Council
North Australian Motor Sports Club
NT Aerobatic Chapter
NT Amateur Athletics Association
NT Amateur Cycling Association
NT Amateur Power Lifting Association
NT Amateur Swimming Association
NT Area Scout Association
NT Ballet Association (Myra Di Maria School)
NT Basketball Association
NT Clay Target Association
NT Council of Australian Parachute Federation
NT Cricket Association
NT Darts Council
NT Discocising
NT District Bowls Association
NT Environment Council
NT Field Naturalists Club
NT Fire Brigade Golf Team
NT Football League
NT Gliding Association
NT Hockey Association
NT Junior Soccer Federation
NT Junior Tenpin Bowling Association
NT Little Athletics
NT Marching Girls Association
NT Model Flying Association
NT Baseball League
NT Mosquito Class Catamaran Association
NT Netball Association
NT Pistol Shooting Association
NT Primary Schools Amateur Sports Association
NT Rachuig & Tournament Tenpin Bowling
NT Region Girl Guides
NT Rugby Union
NT Secondary Schools Sports Association
NT Schools & Junior Rugby Union
NT Soccer Federation
NT Softball Association
NT Squash Rackets
NT Table Tennis Association

Mimi Aboriginal Arts and Crafts
NT Top End Bow Hunters
NT Volley Ball Association
NT Water Ski Association
NT Womens Soccer Federation
NT Yachting Association
Orana Judo School
Palmerston Gundog Club
Papunya Tula Artists
Parents Without Partners
Port Darwin City Sea Scouts
Quota Club
Print Council
Project Garden City
Rotary Club of Darwin North
Royal North Australian Show Society
Rural Teen Club
Salvation Army Alice Springs
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NT)
Somerville Homes Inc.
South Darwin Sporting League
St Marys Football Club
Tasar Association
NT Tennis Council
Tennant Creek Amateur Swimming Association
Tennant Creek Baseball Association
Tennant Creek Bowling Club
Tennant Creek Cricket Association
Tennant Creek CWA
Tennant Creek Gliding Club
Tennant Creek Golf Club
Tennant Creek Saddle Horse Club
Tennant Creek Scouting & Guiding
Tennant Creek Show Society
Tennant Creek Womens Bowling Club
Top End Aerial Sports Academy
Top End Gun Club
Transterritory Cycling Club
Uniting Church of Australia
Waratah Sports Club
Warrabri YWCA
Weavers Workshop Guild
Yirrkala Arts & Crafts
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association
YMCA Darwin Youth Clubs
YMCA Central Australia
Youth Forum of Tennant Creek

Salary Subsidies of a Continuous Nature

Alice Springs Youth Centre
Corporation of Municipality of Tennant Creek
Gap Neighbourhood Centre
Gapuwiyak Community Council
Hamilton Downs Youth Camp
NT Area Scout Association
NT Region Girl Guides
Somerville Homes - Outreach Programme
Somerville Homes - Chapman Rd Centre
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community
YMCA Alice Springs
YMCA Darwin
YWCA Darwin

COMMUNITY WELFARE DIVISION

Residential Care

St Marys Child & Family Welfare Services
Somerville Homes
Retta Dixon Homes 1979-80 Arrears Payment

Annual Grants-In-Aid

NT Pensioners Association for Tracey Lodge
NT Association of Special Education
Palmerston Parents Association
Australian Red Cross, Darwin
Parents & Citizens Association - Coconut Grove Development 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 Care Centre (Happynings Magazine)
National Council of Women of the NT
Northern "Y" Womens Group
Salvation Army, Darwin

Central Australia Aboriginal Housing Forum
YMCA Darwin Inc.
NT Spastic Association
Aboriginal Advisory & Development Service - Katherine Project
Alice Springs Spastic Council
Apostleship of the Sea, Darwin
Corporation of the City of Darwin

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

Family Support Services Scheme

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
Alice Springs Family Service Centre
Salvation Army, Darwin
Aboriginal Womens Resource Centre

Operational Subsidies of a Continuous Nature

Bindi Centre
Handicapped Persons Association
NT Council on the Ageing
NT Council of Social Service
Darwin Family Centres

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

International Year of the Child

Darwin Toy Library
Browns Mart (Kid's Convoy)
Moil 3 Year Old Playgroup

Youth Services

YWCA on Behalf of Darwin Youth Refuge

Children's Services Program

NT Council of Social Service (Children's Week)

Ethnic Children's Services Workers Scheme

Migrant Resource & Settlement Centre

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

Rehabilitation Association of the Northern Territory
Prisoners Aid & Rehabilitation Association of Alice Springs

2. Details of individual applications are considered confidential and will not be released by the government.

3. The following grants have been approved:

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Organisation	Amount Approved
Aboriginal Cultural Foundation	$ 20,000
Aboriginal Womens Resource Centre	5,403
Aikido NT	5,712 *
Alice Springs Amateur Cycling Club	1,950 *
Alice Springs Art Foundation	3,000
Alice Springs Bowling Club	15,000

Alice Springs Film Society	840	*
Alice Springs Gliding Club	9,200	*
Alice Springs Golf Club	20,000	*
Alice Springs SPCA	2,000	*
Alice Springs Tennis Association	2,500	*
Alexandria School Parents & Friends	500	*
Alyangula Golf Club	10,000	
Arafura Bowls & Social Club	43,650	*
Araluen Cultural Trust	104,000	
Archery Society of NT	691	*
Arts Council of Australia (NT)	50,000	
Arunga Park Speedway Association	7,800 10,000	*
Australian Broadcasting Commission (South Australian Symphony Orchestra)	40,831	
Australian Drama Festival (NT)	2,000	
Australian Youth Performing Arts	500	
Bamyili Community Council	1,000	
Berrimah Riding Club	6,500	*
Borroloola Community Council	1,000	
Boungainvillea Festival Committee	5,000	
Boy's Brigade	500	
Bradshaw Cub & Scouts	500	*
Browns Mart Community Arts Project	54,480	
Cecchetti Society	3,250	*
Central Australian Amateur Swimming Club	1,000	*
Citizens Radio Emergency Service Teams (NT)	2,630	
Corporation of the Municipality of Tennant Creek	3,990	
Crafts Council of the NT	45,900	
Cycle Action NT	400	*
Darwin Amateur Cycling Club	886	
Darwin Ballroom Association	1,500	*
Darwin Bowls Club	33,000	*
Darwin Contemporary Artists Co-op	10,200	*
Darwin & District Equestrian Association	240	
Darwin Golf Club	4,500	
Darwin Horse & Pony Club	7,500	
Darwin Pistol Club	5,000	
Darwin Police & Citizens Youth Club	11,187	
Darwin Regional Aboriginal Sports Committee	2,500	
Darwin Rifle Club	6,500	*
Darwin Rugby Football League	18,000 62,600	*
Darwin Rural Districts Pipe Band	2,300	
Darwin Sailing Club	3,500 38,485	*
Darwin Stamp & Coin Club	750	*
Darwin Theatre Group	9,906 8,425	*
Darwin Youth Refuge	1,200	
Department of Transport & Works (Stem Edwards)	1,650	
Fannie Bay Equestrian Club	5,000	*
Fellowship of Australian Writers	1,300	*
The Gap Neighbourhood Centre	9,000	
Gliding Association of NT	2,170	
Gove Boating Club	3,500	*
Gove Country Golf Club	420	*
Gove Land Sea Communications	158	
Gove Peninsula Surf Life Saving Club	16,456	
Hamilton Downs Youth Camp	50,000	*
Holy Spirit School	15,000	*

Indonesian Association of NT	1,000	*
Intercultural Performing Arts Association	750	*
Jabiru East Cubs & Scouts	500	*
Katherine Clay Target Club	5,000	*
Katherine CWA	2,000	*
Katherine Golf Club	54,500	*
Katherine Horse & Pony Club	15,677	
Katherine Litte Athletics	2,200	*
Katherine Tennis Club	1,000	*
	7,000	
Local Government Association of NT	1,000	*
Milingimbi Council	9,000	*
National Trust of Australia (NT)	12,500	*
	49,540	*
Ngukurr Township Association	1,500	
Nightcliff Amateur Swimming Club	760	*
Nightcliff Rugby League Football Club	20,000	
North Australian Eisteddfod Council	7,000	*
Noonamah Pony Club	2,900	
North Australian Motor Sports Club	6,000	*
North Australian Canine Association	6,700	
NT Aerobatic Chapter	3,325	
NT Amateur Athletics Association	1,447	
NT Amateur Swimming Association	8,000	*
	2,734	
NT Area Scout Association	55,000	
NT Ballet Association	500	
NT Ballet Association (for Myra di Maria School)	500	
NT Baseball League	12,957	
NT Clay Target Association	1,921	
NT Cricket Association	2,650	
NT Council of Australian Parachute Federation	2,703	
NT Darts Council	4,955	
NT Football League	3,799	
NT Marching Girls Association	3,270	
NT Gliding Association	670	
NT Hockey Association	2,660	
NT Junior Rugby Union	3,697	*
NT Junior Soccer Federation	2,700	
NT Junior Tenpin Bowling	2,362	
NT Little Athletics Association	3,000	*
	338	
NT Netball Association	1,500	*
	3,218	
NT Pistol Shooting Association	7,891	
NT Rachuig and Tournament Tenpin Bowling	4,798	
NT Region Girl Guides	9,050	*
NT Rugby Union	1,441	
NT Rugby Union Referees' Association	886	
NT Secondary Schools Sports Association	1,500	*
NT Schools & Junior Rugby Union	3,080	
NT Soccer Federation	3,480	*
NT Softball Association	3,000	*
	6,113	
NT Table Tennis Association	1,540	
NT Tennis Council	1,500	
NT Volleyball Association	2,000	*
NT Women's Soccer Federation	200	
NT Yachting Association	274	
Parents Without Partners	3,946	

Project Garden City	250
Royal North Australian Show Society	13,175 *
	100,000
Rural Teen Club	1,025 *
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals NT	15,000
Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (NT)	430
Tasar Association	261
Tennant Creek Baseball Association	1,000 *
Tennant Creek Bowling Club	7,500 *
Tennant Creek Cricket Association	950 *
Tennant Creek Scouting & Guiding	3,000 *
Tennant Creek Show Society	8,000 *
Uniting Church of Australia	738 *
Waratah Sports Club	4,742 *
	40,000
Weavers Workshop Guild	3,400 *
	700
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association	500
YMCA Darwin (for NT Gymnastics Association)	3,500

Salary Subsidies of a Continuous Nature

Alice Springs Youth Centre	3,760
Corporation of the Municipality of Tennant Creek	12,000
The Gap Neighbourhood Centre	12,000
Gapuwiyak Community Council	3,350
Hamilton Downs Youth Camp	12,000
NT Area Scout Association	5,666
NT Regional Girl Guides	12,000
Somerville Homes - Outreach Program	8,000 *
	29,000
Somerville Homes - Chapman Road Centre	3,000 *
	22,457
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community	9,000
YMCA Darwin	24,000
YWCA Darwin	24,000
YMCA Darwin & YWCA Central Australia for the Aboriginal Recreation Program	420,000

COMMUNITY WELFARE DIVISION

Residential Care

St Marys Child & Family Welfare Services	244,755
Somerville Homes	27,355
Retta Dixon Homes 1979-80 Arrears Payment	1,889

Annual Grants-in-Aids

NT Pensioners Association for Tracey Lodge	10,000
NT Association of Special Education	1,152
Australian Red Cross, Darwin	600
St Vincent de Paul Society, Darwin	7,000
Jabiru Play Group	2,380
Darwin Family Centre - Fun Bus	700
St Vincent de Paul Society, Alice Springs	14,000
Bindi Centre, Alice Springs	71,570
Alice Springs AIM Old Timers Home	8,000
Giles Street Shelter, Katherine	14,000
Australian Red Cross, Katherine	8,000
Tennant Creek Community Development Council	5,000
Tennant Creek Red Cross, Noble House	8,000

Community Welfare Workers Subsidy Scheme	
YWCA Darwin	13,635
Catholic Church, Alice Springs (2 grants)	13,635
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association	13,635
Milingimbi Community Inc.	13,635
Family Support Services Scheme	
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress	83,924
Salvation Army, Darwin	11,280
Operational Subsidies of a Continuous Nature	
Bindi Centre	71,570
Handicapped Persons Association	10,000
NT Council on the Ageing	8,000
State Grants (Home Care) Act	
Australian Red Cross, Darwin Home Help	17,000
NT Council on the Ageing	14,000
Alice Springs Emergency Home Help Association	14,000
Bamyili Council	13,000
Tennant Creek Senior Citizens Association	90,000
NT Pensioners Association, Spillett House	45,000
International Year of the Child	
Darwin Toy Library	708
Darwin Family Centre, Fun Bus	18,860
Browns Mart (Kids' Convoy)	11,240
Youth Services	
YWCA on Behalf Darwin Youth Refuge	51,500
Children's Services Program	
NT Council of Social Service (Children's Week)	2,000
Ethnic Children's Service Workers Scheme	
Migrant Resource and Settlement Centre	16,000
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DIVISION	
Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Association of Alice Springs	6,000

Decisions on applications from the following organisations are still pending:

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Alice Springs Pony Club
Alice Springs Youth Centre
Centralian Womens Hockey Association
Darwin Bushwalking Club
Darwin District Junior Rugby League
Darwin Tennis Association
Nhulunbuy Corporation Fishing Club
NT Amateur Athletics Association
NT Amateur Cycling Association
NT Field Naturalists Club
NT Squash Rackets
NT Tennis Council
NT Yachting Association

COMMUNITY WELFARE DIVISION

Annual Grants-in-Aid

Parents & Citizens Association - Coconut Grove Dev. School, Darwin
Wallaces Rock Hole Community

Family Support Services Scheme

Aboriginal Womens Resource Centre

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

Rehabilitation Association of the NT

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?

ANSWER

The contract in question was in fact for a 2-year period commencing 1.1.1981 to 30.12.1982.

The contract price of $80,217.56 when reduced to a daily rate is less than $200 per day which covers wages, materials and administration and is not considered unreasonable for a school of 3.542 m^2.

Only 2 tenders were received for the cleaning of Katherine High School and the cheapest of the 2 was accepted.

The 1981-82 contract rate is considerably less than the 1980 rate.

Essential Services for Aboriginal Communities

156 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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) water supply, (b) provision of toilets and showers, and (c) upgrading of and access to the airstrip?

ANSWER

1. Cash allocation

(a) Capital works program - Revote items from previous year program	$ 6,212,000
(b) Capital works program - 1980-81 items	$ 3,500,000
(c) Repairs and maintenance program - Revote items from previous years programs	$ 422,000
(d) Repairs and maintenance program - 1980-81 items	$ 4,929,000
TOTAL	$15,063,000

The Aboriginal communities concerned are:

Community	Amount $	Community	Amount $
Maningrida	635,600	Goulburn Island	167,800
Lake Evella	229,200	Ramangining	92,000
Port Keats	245,500	Galiwinku (Elcho Island)	163,800

Oenpelli	133,700	Delissaville	193,400
Snake Bay	423,900	Bathurst Island	921,800
Umbakumba	256,800	Bagot	49,500
Croker Island (Minjilang)	596,500	Yirrkala	797,600
Milingimbi	270,000	Daly River	445,700
Peppimenarti	348,100	Garden Point	220,700
Angurugu	108,600	Palumpa	23,800
Bulgul	8,000	Parada	8,000
Knuckeys Lagoon	600	Various locations	250,400
Yeddairt	10,000	Daguragu	9,600
Kulaluk	15,100	Wiyakipa	10,000
Melville Island	13,600	Kutchull	7,000
Hooker Creek	776,000	Ngukurr	358,700
Wave Hill	113,900	Beswick	77,000
Borroloola	22,200	Rockhole Camp	9,000
Mumba Mumba	5,000	Bulman	11,000
Djimbera	13,400	Wattie Creek	120,100
Wada Wadala	7,000	Weemol	1,200
Cox River	12,000	Parnta	19,200
Hodgson Downs	17,300	Warrabri	198,300
Murray Downs	105,000	Elliott	88,000
Mulga Camp	40,000	Canteen Creek	11,500
Papunya	45,300	Yuendumu	214,800
Hermannsburg	207,700	Docker River	96,000
Mt Allan	134,000	Santa Teresa	118,500
Kintore Range	1,700	Rockhole	12,000
Mt Skinner	5,600	Kunapula	9,000
Amputjuta	9,800	Charles River	45,100
Ililunga	52,900	Ootnarangatcka	8,200
Njalka Ilpaya	58,900	Ilpea Ilpea	110,100
Parultna	7,400	Knugatnarra	12,300
Parentja	58,200	Ntarpa	26,700
Mardjubalk	2,000	Tree Point	5,000
Bamyili	81,800	Black Hills	1,000
Kildurk	28,000	Areyonga	30,200
Black Water	1,900	Ilparpa	23,200
Minor new works	467,000	Amoonguna	108,000
Willowra	67,800	Lake Nash	25,000
Yarentja	122,000	Numbulwar	34,700
Nangalala	4,500	Katherine area various	666,000
Kybrook	2,000	Yarralin	6,500
Mailuni	5,000	Haasts Bluff	5,900
Darwin/Gove various	2,195,000	Tennant Creek various	94,000
Alice Springs various	780,000	Rocky Point	8,000
Continuous items	402,200		

TOTAL = $ 15,063,000

2. The proposed projects are:

Capital Works Program
Revote Items from Previous Years Programs

Description

Maningrida Provision of works depot	Goulburn Island Upgrade water supply
Lake Evella Provision of water reticulation	Ramingining Upgrade barge landing facilities
Port Keats Provision of bulk fuel facilities	Port Keats Extension of water reticulation

Galiwinku
Barge landing and access road

Goulburn Island
Upgrade water supply

Elcho Island
Extension of water mains

Oenpelli
Upgrade water supply, stage II

Bathurst Island
Equip bores

Bagot
Upgrade water reticulation

Yirrkala
Upgrade water supply, stage I

Daly River
Equip bore

Snake Bay
Storm water drainage

Maningrida
Upgrade airstrip

Goulburn Island
Upgrade barge landing

Belyuen
Extension to sewerage

Yirrkala
Provide sewerage

Garden Point
Toilet ablution block

Angurugu
Toilet ablution block

Bathurst Island
Upgrade power and reticulation

Umbakumba
Upgrade power and reticulation

Peppimenarti
Upgrade power and reticulation

Croker Island
Additional generator facilities

Garden Point
Power supply

Palumpa
Upgrade access road

Peppimenarti
Equip bore

Parada
Drill 2 bores

Croker Island
Replace wooden poles

Oenpelli
Upgrade water supply

Delissaville
Construct power house

Snake Bay
Extension of sewer reticulation

Goulburn Island
Extension of electrical reticulation

Umbakumba
Provision of barge landing

Croker Island
Construct sewer scheme

Milingimbi
Upgrade water reticulation

Peppimenarti
Construction of airstrip

Croker Island
Barge landing and bulk fuel

Bathurst Island
Provide toilet facilities

Croker Island
Construct rising main

Milingimbi
Upgrade and extension of sewerage

Yirrkala
Upgrade water supply, stage II

Lake Evella
Barge landing and access road

Daly River
Upgrade power, stage I

Yirrkala
Upgrade power, stage II

Port Keats
Upgrade power and reticulation

Goulburn Island
Upgrade power and reticulation

Snake Bay
Provision of bulk fuel facilities

Goulburn Island
Gravel wash

Bulgul
Drill 2 bores

Various
Provide transformers

Knuckeys Lagoon
Provision of power

Umbakumba
Extension to water reticulation

956.829—31

Yeddairt
Drill 2 bores

Kulaluk
Provision of fence

Maningrida
Extension to water reticulation

Wiyakipa
Drill bores

Lake Evella
Fence bores

Oenpelli
Equip bore

Maningrida
Equip bore

Peppimenarti
Equip bore

Garden Point
Extension of water reticulation

Maningrida
Power to fuel installation

Croker Island
Equip bore Big Creek

Garden Point
Extension of sewerage reticulation

Garden Point
Provision of pump station

Kutchull
Drill 1 bore

Garden Point
Drill 1 bore

Hooker Creek
Construct power house

Ngukurr
Upgrade water supply

Hooker Creek
Equip bore 13A

Wave Hill
Fence town

Borroloola
Rising main to old town

Hooker Creek
Provision of bulk fuel facilities

Mumba Mumba
Drill bore

Ngukurr
Extension to water supply to power house

Wattie Creek
Provision of sewerage

Daguragu
Drill 2 bores

Oenpelli
Modify synch. gear

Daly Water
Provide sewerage scheme

Various
Engineers sealing investigation

Milingimbi
Fence 1 bore

Lake Evella
Electrical reticulation to bores

Kulaluk
Extension of power supply

Delissaville
Power supply to bores

Maningrida
Equip bore

Elcho Island
Upgrade sub power house

Croker Island
Equip bore 3rd Bay

Ramingining
Extension of water reticulation

Melville Island
Provision of power to transmitter

Port Keats
Drill 1 bore

Garden Point
Equip 2 bores Woolawanga

Ngukurr
Construct works depot

Hooker Creek
Materials investigation

Wave Hill
Extension to sewer reticulation and pond

Beswick
Electrical reticulation and extension to water reticulation

Rockhole Camp
Drill bores

Hooker Creek
Provision of skid mounted motor

Bulman
Equip bore

Djimbera
Extension to electrical reticulation to houses

Wada Wadala
Drill 2 bores

Beswick
Construction of toilet ablution block

Parnta
Equip bore

Warrabri
Extension to electrical reticulation

Tennant Creek
Toilet ablution at Mulga

Elliott
Electricity to Wilyugoo

Papunya
Works depot

Yuendumu
Works depot

Yuendumu
Upgrade airstrip

Docker River
Toilet ablution facilities

Mt Allen
Power supply

Kintore Range
Drill bore

Rock Hole
Drill bore

Ililunga
Electrical reticulation

Amputjuta
Drill bore

Ililunga
Access road

Ootnarangatcka
Storm water drainage

Njalka Ulpaya
Water mains to Ross Davis area

Ilpea Ilpea
Electrical reticulation

Ilpea Ilpea
Access road

Ilpea Ilpea
Access road

Ilpea Ilpea
Internal water reticulation

Parentja
Provision of sewerage

Weemol
Extension to electrical reticulation

Cox River
Provision of generation facilities

Hodgson Downs
Drill 2 bores

Murray Downs
Drill bores

Elliott
Toilet ablution at Wilyugoo

Warrabri
Sewerage to Alyawarra camp

Canteen Creek
Access road

Yuendumu
Construct sewerage reticulation

Hermannsburg
Upgrade water reticulation

Yuendumu
Toilet ablution block facilities

Docker River
Extension power and bulk fuel

Yuendumu
Extension to electrical reticulation

Santa Teresa
Extension to electrical reticulation

Mt Skinner
Drill bore

Kunapula
Drill bore

Charles River
Internal electrical reticulation

Ootnarangatcka
Internal roads

Njalka Ulpaya
Provision of water main

Njalka Ulpaya
Provision of sewerage

Parultna
Provision of access road

Njalka Ulpaya
Access road to area B

Knugatnarra
Access road

Hermannsburg
Equip Dennis bore

Parentja
Provision of water mains

Ntarpa
Access road

Parentja
Provision of pump station

Hermannsburg
Access road

Ngukurr
Construct airstrip

Nardjubalk
Drill 2 bores

Rocky Point
Drill bore

Bathurst Island
Provision of access road, stages II and III

Hooker Creek
Extension of sewerage

Black Hills
Drill 2 bores

Hooker Creek
Equip bore

Areyonga
Provision of additional generator set and electrical reticulation

Ilparpa
Provision of water reticulation

Parentja
Access road

Charles River
Provision of access road

Ililunga
Provision of storm water drainage

Maningrida
Provision of storm water drainage, stage I

Milingimbi
Install synch. module

Maningrida
Provision of power to bore

Tree Point
Drill bore

Bamyili
Provision of storm water drainage

Djembere
Drill 2 bores

Kildurk
Upgrade electrical generation

Black Water
Drill bore

Ilparpa
Provision of electrical reticulation

Capital Works Program - 1980-81 Items

Maningrida
Upgrade/seal airstrip to Metro standard

Garden Point
Upgrade sewerage facilities

Warrabri
Construct toilet block

Nguiu (Bathurst Island)
Upgrade/seal airstrip to Metro standard

Lajamanu (Hooker Creek)
Upgrade airstrip

Garden Point
Construct toilet/ablution block

Galiwinku (Elcho Island)
Upgrade roads to borefield and airstrip

Various locations
Install bulk fuel meters

Peppimenarti
Extension of water supply

Naiyu Ukume (Daly River)
Construct ground level water storage

Bagot
Extensions to sewerage reticulation

Amoonguna
Construct toilet/ablution block

Bamyili
Upgrade and extend electrical reticulation

Yuendumu
Construct skid mounted ablution block
Upgrade internal roads and stormwater drainage

Willowra
Upgrade electrical capacity to 75Kva

Milikapiti
Upgrade airstrip

Minjilang (Croker Island)
Construct toilet/ablution block

Elcho Island
Sealing of 4 water tanks

Murray Downs
Provision of water supply

and rising main to bores
Install 2 x 212 KW generator sets ex Milikapiti

Mt Allen
Provide and equip bore and water reticulation

Hooker Creek
Upgrade access road to bore field

Hermannsburg
Upgrade electrical reticulation and bulk fuel storage

Milingimbi
Upgrade barge landing

Garden Point
Upgrade and extension to electrical reticulation

Belyuen (Delissaville)
Upgrade bulk fuel facilities transformers and distribution board

Docker River
Construct toilet/ablution block

Santa Teresa
Upgrade water supply

Gapuwiyak
Construct toilet/ablution block

Lake Nash
Provision of additional bore

Yarentja
Provision of electrical reticulation
Provision of access road

Naiui Ukume (Daly River)
Construct toilet/ablution block

Beswick
Construct toilet/ablution block

Bamyili
Construct toilet/ablution block

Areyonga
Replace generator set and associated works
Construct toilet/ablution block

Amoonguna
Upgrade internal roads and storm-water drainage, stage I

Galiwinku (Elcho Island)
Upgrade/seal airstrip to Metro standard

Murray Downs
Construct toilet/ablution block

Wattle Creek
Complete sewerage scheme, stage II

Minor New Works (Estimated to cost less than $25,000)
Continuous Items

All centres: equipping of production bores; engineering investigations; extensions to water reticulation; extensions to electrical reticulation; extensions to sewerage reticulation; services to camp areas; outstation roadworks and access; outstation power supplies; Alice Springs fringe camp services; provision of fibreglass lining to steel water tanks; upgrade bulk fuel storage facilities.

Repairs and Maintenance Program
Revote Items from Previous Years Programs

Elcho Island:
- Repairs to 525 KW generator set.

Delissaville:
- Overhaul generating set
- Overhaul transfer pump control and switches
- Replace SLCB, SLCC and faulty services
- Overhaul 4 bore diesel engines
- Overhaul chlorinator and booster pump
- Overhaul Volvo generator set and ancillaries
- Clean and descale power house tanks, paint power house floor, etc.

Angurugu:
- Repairs to transformer installation, fitting of pole fuses, rewiring of street lights and fitting of shackle insulators, earth bonding of poles

Various settlements:
- Overhaul fire pump motors

Various communities:
- Repairs and maintenance to DAA building

Lake Evella:
- Replace existing service to caravan area and make safe raise services and install property poles for

road safety clearance
- Overhaul bores and surface mounter pumps
- Clean and descale exterior bulk fuel tanks

Numbulwar:
- Repairs and maintenance
- Replace chlorinator equipment
- Overhaul sewerage pumps
- Overhaul sand spear pumps
- Replace rainwater and associated plumbing at power house
- Overhaul Volvo generator set and replace batteries
- Repairs and maintenance of 3 ablution blocks

Daly River:
- Overhaul 1 x 100 KW generator set
- Replace SLCB, SLCC faulty service power house maintenance
- Paint power house floor, replace batteries and charger circuits
- Overhaul 2 pump switchboards
- Replace bore pump and column
- Overhaul 12v71 generator set and replace Detroit specialised tools, replace radiator

Maningrida:
- Overhaul 4 bores and fit standard switchboard
- Overhaul circuit breaker, steam clean and generator control
- Overhaul 5 bores and 2 booster pumps
- Clean and descale barge and power house bulk fuel tanks
- Repair bore equipment

Port Keats:
- Overhaul 284 KW generator set
- Overhaul No. 6 garden bore
- Clean and descale exterior power house bulk fuel and barge landing tanks

Ramangining:
- Overhaul generator set
- Replace water tank and associated plumbing in power house yard
- Overhaul 6v71 generator set and associated equipment
- Overhaul creek pump and shed

Croker Island:
- Repair to stock bore
- Overhaul bore switchboard
- Replace SLCB, SLCC faulty services and battery charge
- Overhaul 3 bore pumps
- Clean and descale bulk fuel tanks, overhaul fuel transfer pump

Goulburn Island:
- Repairs to stock bores
- Overhaul 2 bore switchboards
- Overhaul 3 bores
- Clean and descale external power house fuel tank, overhaul mobile fuel tanks

Garden Point:
- Repairs to emergency booster pump
- Overhaul chlorinators and booster pump
- Overhaul primary water supply pumps
- Replace 1 sewerage mutator and overhaul mechanical equipment
- Overhaul 12 x 71 generator set and associated equipment

Peppimenarti:	- Overhaul Cat. generator set - Replace SLCB, SLCC and facility services
Snake Bay:	- Overhaul one switchboard on sand spears - Overhaul pumps on sand spears
Umbakumba:	- Overhaul 12v71 generator set and ancillaries - Overhaul gear drive on spear pumps - Overhaul diesel engine on fire booster pump - Overhaul switchboards on water supply - Clean and descale powerhouse fuel tanks - Repair fence around water storage area - Overhaul 1 x 71 KW generator set
Bathurst Island:	- Maintenance and aerial reticulation, replace SLCB and SLCC - Overhaul 3 bore pumps and diesel engines - Replace 2 sewerage pumps and overhaul mechanical equipment - Overhaul 12V71 generator set and associated equipment
Milingimbi:	- Repairs to chlorinator and shed - Overhaul sewerage pumps
Oenpelli:	- Overhaul 2 bores and transfer pumps - Overhaul switchboard on No. 1 bore - Overhaul 6V71 generator set and ancillaries
Nangalala:	- Overhaul 2 bores
Hooker Creek:	- Routine service pulling for 4 bores and overhaul draw plunger pump and discharge head - Overhaul 250KW generator set and associated equipment - Replace alternator - Replace batteries - Repair/replace DS Westinghouse circuit breaker and associated works - Overhaul V12 generator set and associated works - Replace activator
Ngukurr:	- Overhaul steam cleaner - Overhaul 212 KW generator set and associated equipment - Overhaul transfer pumps and motors - Overhaul river pumps and switchboard - Airstrip maintenance - Repair control circuits in power house and upgrade synchro panel
Beswick:	- Overhaul 2 bores, 2 diesel engines - Overhaul 8V71 generator set and associated equipment - Repair/replace fuel reticulation
Wave Hill:	- Overhaul fire booster pump and motor - Overhaul transfer pump and motors - Overhaul 212KW generator set and associated equipment - Replace batteries, overhaul generator set controls instruments - Paint power house floor, relabel control circuits, etc. - Overhaul activator

- Replace alternator
- Overhaul water supply diesels
- Overhaul 3 bores

Bamyili:
- Overhaul 2 bores and motors and river pumps, etc.
- Replace alternator and activator
- Repair control circuits in power house and upgrade synchro panel
- Overhaul 12V71 generator set and associated work

Wattie Creek:
- Overhaul bores and switchboard

Borroloola:
- Overhaul bores

Katherine Area:
- Replace specialised tools for Detroit engines

Papunya:
- Overhaul generator set bores and associated equipment

Warrabri:
- Overhaul generator set and associated equipment

Repairs and Maintenance Program - 1980-81 Items

Garden Point:
- Water/sewerage system, rehabilitate electrical system
- Overhaul 6.71 Detroit diesel
- Replace 2 chlorinators and 1 Matrator, overhaul 2 sewerage pumps, diesels, and water pumps
- Transformer maintenance, replace services, overhaul air breaker switch
- Major overhaul V12.71 Detroit and alternators
- Hydraulics, replace 150 m of sewerage rising main, replace gatic covers and 7 water services, renew manholes, recondition taps and valves in public toilets
- Top overhaul one V12.71 Detroit diesel

Port Keats:
- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system
- Street light maintenance, transformer maintenance, replace services
- Overhaul 4 bores and replace equipment on Garden bores

Snake Bay:
- Water supply, replace electrical system
- Street light maintenance, overhaul substation and transformers, overhaul air breaker switch
- Overhaul spear pump system
- Major overhaul one V12.71 Detroit, top overhaul one V12.71 Detroit diesel
- Hydraulics, replace overflow from pump wet well
- Hydraulics, repair hydrants and valves

Maningrida:
- Major overhaul V16.71 and alternator
- Top overhaul V16.71 and overhaul activator
- Overhaul synchro electrical equipment and automatic switch gear
- Hydraulics, relay 200 m of sewer rising main, repair sewer outfall, repair 12 manholes
- Hydraulics, repair 1 million litre tank
- Overhaul 5 bore pumps and 2 transfer pumps
- Hydraulics, relay 550 m of water services, repair/replace valves
- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system

Croker Island:
- Replace street poles/brackets, road clearance poles and substation; earthing, overhaul transformers

- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system
- Top overhaul 2 6.71T Detroit diesels
- Major overhaul one 6.71T Detroit diesel and alternator
- Overhaul 3 bore pumps and replace diesel on No. 2 bore
- Overhaul breaker switch and replace HV wooden dropout cross arms

Angurugu:

- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system
- Overhaul water pump system
- Hydraulics, repair efficient mains; crew house services
- Reticulation repairs

Daly River:

- Overhaul one V12.71 Detroit diesel
- Overhaul 3 bore pumps and floodlifter
- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system
- Top overhaul 6.71 Detroit diesel
- Overhaul street light control boxes and brackets; replace road clearance poles

Elcho Island:

- Top overhaul 6QT Ruston diesel
- Overhaul 3 bore pumps and 2 transfer pumps, overhaul chlorinator and billabong pumps
- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system
- Transformer maintenance, replace services, overhaul air breaker switch, service low voltage cable on substation
- Replace alternator

Goulburn Island:

- Top overhaul 6.71T Detroit diesel
- Major overhaul 6.71T Detroit diesel and alternator
- Overhaul 5 bores and transfer pumps
- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system
- Transformer maintenance, replace services, overhaul air breaker switch

Lake Evella:

- Overhaul Bedford and top overhaul to 120A Volvo diesel
- Overhaul 2 bore pumps and windmill
- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system

Oenpelli:

- Major overhaul one V12.71 Detroit diesel
- Top overhaul one V16.71 diesel and one V12.71 Detroit diesel
- Overhaul 3 alternators and replace activators
- Overhaul 5 bores and diesels
- Street light maintenance, replace services, overhaul air breaker switch
- Top overhaul V16.71 and V6.71 Detroit diesels
- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system

Ramangining:

- Top overhaul 6.71 Detroit, major overhaul one 6.71 Detroit, overhaul alternators and activators
- Overhaul 3 bores and chlorinator
- Water supply, replace electrical system
- Street light maintenance, transformer maintenance, replace services

Umbakumba:

- Major overhaul one V12.71 Detroit and top overhaul one V12.71 Detroit diesel
- Overhaul activators and alternators
- Overhaul spear pump system

- Hydraulics, replace isolating valves, repair hydrants
- Water supply, replace electrical system
- Street light maintenance, replace services, overhaul air breaker switch
- Overhaul substation earthing and maintenance to transformer

Bathurst Island:
- Replace activators, overhaul alternators
- Major overhaul one V12.71 Detroit and top overhaul one V16.71 Detroit diesel
- Hydraulics, repair hydrants, gatic lids and manholes
- Overhaul 6 bore pumps and replace 1 bore diesel
- Replace road service poles, service arms, substation earthing, HV pole earthing
- Top overhaul 2 V16.71 Detroit diesels
- Overhaul air breaker switch, require low voltage cable or substation
- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system
- Overhaul street light brackets and control boxes
- Transformer maintenance
- Replace lighting arrestors and building service

Delissaville:
- Overhaul TD120A Volvo and Detroit 6.71 diesel
- Overhaul 4 bores, booster pump and chlorinator and overhaul 4 diesel bore engines
- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system

Various locations:
- Overhaul, replace street lighting
- Replace street lighting control boxes
- Overhaul air breaker switches
- Repair substation, earthing and earthing of HV poles
- Replace HV wooden dropout cross arms
- Replace street lights and street light brackets
- Replace switch building services
- Repair low voltage cable on substations

Milingimbi:
- Overhaul 3 bore pumps and replace chlorinator
- Overhaul sewerage pumps and mutrators; replace respirator mark
- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system
- Hydraulics, replace gatic lids

Numbulwar:
- Overhaul 3 pumps chlorinator and replace mono log.
- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system
- Overhaul Detroit V12.71 alternator and activator, replace W/House circuit breaker

Yirrkala:
- Street light maintenance and replace services overhaul air breaker switch

Peppimenarti:
- Water supply, rehabilitate electrical system
- Top overhaul Caterpillar and 2 Bedford diesels
- Replace one alternator
- Street light maintenance; transformer maintenance, repair services

Hooker Creek:
- Southern Cross EDE 24 HP diesel, overhaul fire booster
- Overhaul transfer pumps
- Bore 13, pull bore replace Pomona pump
- Bore 13, overhaul Southern Cross EDC

- Pull bores 13B, 14 and 15
- Overhaul chlorinator
- Pull and overhaul windmill bores at 7-mile, 14-mile, 19-mile, 28-mile and Tomahawk
- 7-mile bore, replace Southern Cross EDC diesel
- Repair to 4 x 150KL squatters tanks, 2 x 450KL water supply tanks, 1 x 227KL tank, 1 x 90KL electrical tank
- Overhaul and upgrade tank yard electrics control switchboard
- R & M to water stimulation
- Major overhaul Nos. 12V71
- Overhaul synchronizing equipment
- Replace batteries with mono type locomotive and charger
- Major overhaul 16V71
- Replace sewerage Flyght pump
- Replacement of pumps for bores 13A and 15, replace pressure switches, eliminate air from rising main
- Paint and repair plaster, R & M to cisterns to T/blk on hill, paint and repair cisterns, reposition showers in blocks near pensioners huts
- Replace damaged street light and upgrade others
- Replace damaged service poles and faulty MV retic. to dwellings
- Changeover faulty MV aerials and balance electric load on power house generators

Ngukurr:

- Pull bores Nos 1 and 2 and overhaul
- Top overhaul Lister ST2 and Ruston IYBA diesels
- Pull river pump and overhaul screens
- Replace Southern Cross 5 stage sumo pump
- Overhaul electric transfer pumps
- R & M to water reticulation
- Major overhaul 12V71 No. 1 unit
- Repair to synchro. board and associated equip.
- Replacement of damaged insulators, lighting arrestors, ground earths. Aerial cables and transformers on HV retic.
- Replacement of damaged service poles and MV cables
- Relocation of float switches in collection tank and upgrade elec. system on town water
- Overhaul 8V71T
- Upgrade electric wiring and service to ablution block and basketball court

Wave Hill:

- Repairs and replacement circuit breakers
- Replace batteries with mono type locomotive and charger
- Clear, descale and paint bulk fuel tanks
- Power house, repaint interior, exterior and floor
- Raise exhaust system to clear roof, descale and decarbonise transformer and pole
- Overhaul Southern Cross EDE fire booster pump
- Airstrip bores - overhaul Southern Cross EDC motor
- Pull and overhaul 2 airstrip bores, Wattie Creek Nos. 10 and 11 bores
- Replace Ruston YWA diesel
- Replace 1 Southern Cross 7 - stage turbine pump
- Replace one Hebco 15 HP 3-phase motor
- Overhaul chlorinator, clean and chlorinate water supply tank

- Replace 8 double air valves on Wattie Creek-Wave Hill rising area
- Overhaul transfer pump tank yard
- Wattie Creek bore yard, overhaul power supply control board

Wave Hill - Wattie Creek:
- Change over faulty MV aerials and balance elec. load on P/H gens
- Replace damaged insulators, light arrestors, aerials cables, etc.

Borroloola:
- Dulu bore RN9078 and RD79 pull and overhaul
- Dulu bore, overhaul Lister ST2
- Gorowa windmill bore, overhaul and repair
- Gorowa Lister standby, top overhaul
- Drain, service, clean and chlorinate town, Dulu and Gorowa tanks

Djimbre:
- Overhaul diesel river pumps
- Overhaul generator set

Kybrook:
- Overhaul generator set

Yarralin:
- Pull and overhaul bore
- Replace Lister with Lister ST1

Kildurk:
- Overhaul generator set
- Upgrade power house building
- Replace diesel on bore
- Upgrade retic. and overhaul bore pumps

Pigeon Hole:
- Overhaul bore

Hodgson Downs:
- Overhaul Southern Cross 3 HP diesel and piston pump

Bulman:
- Pull and overhaul No. 1 and 2 bores
- Replace Bedford 4 cylinder Dinlite gen. set
- Overhaul Lister 1+R3 diesel alternator
- Upgrade elect. retic. to bores and dwellings
- Overall diesel

Beswick:
- Pull and overhaul bores 1, 2 and 3
- Overhaul EDC Southern Cross and diesel
- Overhaul electric transfer pumps
- Major overhaul Cummins generator
- Clear, descale and repair radiators
- Replace batteries with Mono type locomotive and charger
- Clear, descale and paint bulk fuel tanks
- Toilet blocks, R & M and painting
- Replace damaged street lights and upgrade others
- Replace damaged insulators, surge directors, aerial cables, staywire, etc.
- Upgrade exist. retic. s/board and street light circuits
- Replacement of damaged MV aerial cables to dwellings

Bamyili:
- Replace batteries with Mono type locomotive and charger
- Pull and overhaul 2 bore
- Empty clean and chlorinate water supply tank
- Replace sewerage 2 Flyght pumps
- Toilet block, R & M to plumbing and paint masonry units, gal. iron blocks, remove and cap off sewerage
- Replacement of damaged street lights and upgrade others

- Straightening and restay of power reticulation poles
- Replace damaged insulators, lighting arrestors, aerial cables, etc.

Warrabri:
- Replace 2 x V12 engines with 2 x V16 engines
- Rebuild No. 3 V12 gen. set
- Re-equip diesel standby components of dual drive bore pumping equip.
- Upgrade elect. instrumentation on 2 x bore control cubicles

Haasts Bluff:
- Overhaul gen. set and associated plant
- Overhaul water supply bores

Willowra:
- Overhaul gen. set and assoc. plant
- Overhaul water supply bores

Yuendumu:
- Overhaul gen. set and assoc. plant
- Overhaul water supply bores

Papunya:
- Overhaul gen. set and assoc. plant
- Overhaul water supply bores
- Overhaul sewerage pumps

Areyonga:
- Overhaul gen. set and assoc. plant
- Overhaul water supply bores

Docker River:
- Overhaul gen. sets and assoc. plant
- Overhaul water supply bores

Santa Teresa:
- Overhaul gen. sets and assoc. plant
- Overhaul water supply bores

Hermannsburg:
- Overhaul gen. set and assoc. plant
- Overhaul water supply bores

3. Projects completed:

Capital Works Program Items from Previous Years Program

Maningrida
Erect security fence and clearing

Delissaville
Water storage tank and pump station

Tree Point
S & I gen. set and associated works

Bagot
Repair and replace street lights
Remove fire damaged demountables

Bathurst Island
Prov. fluoridation unit.

Darwin Area
Prov. of spare gen. set

Wooliana
Provision of services

Weemol
Prov. scales and chlorinator shed

Beswick
Prov. of loading ramp
Installation of oil dispersal system

Garden Point
Upgrade sewerage

Palumpa
Prov. of gen. set

Oenpelli
Install 2 bulk fuel tanks

Darwin
Fit radio in vehicle

Remote settlements
Install chart recorders

Railway Dam
Additional work on toilet block
Access roads

Various locations
Supply low loader

Yarralin
Equip bore

Binjara
Access road

Yuendumu
Provision of mortuary cabinet

Warrabri
Construct airstrip apron

Bamyili
Provision of all drainage

Bathurst Island
Upgrade water supply

Goulburn Island
Upgrade water supply

Oenpelli
Upgrade water supply, stage II

Bathurst Island
Equip bore 78/2

Daly River
Equip production bore

Milingimbi
Fence 1 bore

Kulaluk
Ext. of power

Maningrida
Power to fuel installations

Ramingining
Ext. of water reticulation

Garden Point-Woolawanga
Equip 2 bores

Hooker Creek
Materials investigation
Equip bore 13A

Beswick
Construct toilet block

Warrabri
Ext. elect. retic.

Canteen Creek
Dismantle bore 2/76

Yuendumu
Provision of additional generation

Docker River
Prov. toilet facilities

Njalka Ulpaya
Prov. pump station
prov. water main
water mains to Ross Davis area
Prov. of sewerage

Ilpea Ilpea
Water retic. to boundary

Knugatnarra
Prov. access road

Parentja
Prov. access road
Prov. pump station

Maningrida
Works depot

Ports Keats
Extension of water reticulation

Snake Bay
Extend sewer main to men's quarters

Bathurst Island
Pump station

Bagot
Upgrade water reticulation

Umbakumba
Upgrade power supply and reticulation

Lake Evella
Elect. reticulation

Daly River
Rehabilitation bore

Elcho Island
Upgrade substation

Garden Point
Drill bore

Ngukurr
Construct. of transportable works depot

Weemol
Ext. electrical reticulation

Parnta (Winnecke Creek)
Equip bore

Elliott
Prov. toilet blk. at Wilyugoo camp

Papunya
Construct. of transportable works depot

Yuendumu
V/A toilet/ablution facilities

Ililunga-Little Sisters
Elect. retic.
Internal access road

Sadadeen-Ilpea Ilpea
Elect. retic.

Yuendumu
Access road to outstations

Njalka Ulpaya
Access road to area B.

Parentja
Prov. water mains

Charles River
Prov. access road

Bathurst Island
Equip bore 78/1

Ililunga
Prov. stormwater drainage

Hooker Creek
Provision of skid mounted motor

Knuckeys Lagoon
Provision of power

Ntapa
Access roads

Capital Works Program 1980-81 Items

Garden Point
Replace water pipe

Docker River
Upgrade water reticulation

Bathurst Island
Provision of fence around water assets

Oenpelli
Upgrade access road to airstrip

Snake Bay
Install bulk water meter

Amoonguna
Construct additional sewerage scheme

Various communities
Upgrade radio communications on settlements

Darwin-Banjo Swamp
Prevent incursion of saltwater

Daly River
Upgrade airstrip

Elcho Island
Construct 2 toilets

Autilly Camp
Extend water reticulation

Jay Creek
Provision of water

Snake Bay
Upgrade barge landing
Security fence for power house

Kulaluk
Provision of culvert on access road

Bamyili
Provision of oil drainage in power house

Darwin
Upgrade demountable ex Fannie Bay

Dhupuma College
Transportation of gen. sets

Ngukurr
Upgrade access road from river to airstrip

Repairs and Maintenance Program Items from Previous Years Programs

Lake Evella:
- Replace existing service to caravan area and make safe
- Raise services and install property poles for road safety clearance
- Clean and descale exterior bulk fuel tanks
- Overhaul bores and surface mounter pumps

Numbulwar:
- R & M
- Replace chlorinator equipment
- R & M of 3 ablution blocks

Daly River:
- Overhaul 1 x 100KW gen. set

Elcho Island:
- Overhaul elect. control boards on water supply bores

Garden Point:
- Repairs to emergency booster pump
- Overhaul primary water supply pumps
- Replace 1 sewerage mutrator and overhaul mechanical equipment

Croker Island:
- Overhaul bore switchboard

Delissaville:
- Replace SLCB, SLCC and faulty services
- Overhaul chlorinator and booster pump

Ramangining:
- Overhaul 6V71 gen. set and associated equipment
- Overhaul creek pump and shed

Umbakumba:
- Overhaul switchboards on water supply
- Repair fence around water storage area

- Overhaul 1 x 71KW gen. set

Oenpelli:
- Overhaul 2 bores and transfer pumps
- Overhaul switchboard on No. 1 bore

Milingimbi:
- Overhaul sewerage pumps

Bathurst Island:
- Overhaul 3 bores pumps and diesel engines
- Overhaul 12V71 gen. set and associated equipment

Port Keats:
- Overhaul No. 6 garden bore

Goulburn Island:
- Overhaul 3 bores

Hooker Creek:
- Routine service pulling for 4 bores and overhaul draw plunger pump and discharge head
- Replace alternator
- Replace batteries
- Repair/replace DS Westinghouse circuit breaker and associated works
- Overhaul V12 gen. set, etc.
- Replace activator

Ngukurr:
- Overhaul steam cleaner
- Overhaul transfer pumps and motors

Beswick:
- Overhaul 2 bores, 2 diesel engines

Wave Hill:
- Overhaul fire booster pump and motor
- Overhaul transfer pump and motors
- Overhaul 212KW gen. set and associated works
- Replace batteries, overhaul gen. controls instruments

Wattie Creek:
- Overhaul bores and switchboard

Borroloola:
- Overhaul bores at Aboriginal communities

Warrabri:
- Overhaul generator set and associated equipment

Repairs and Maintenance Program 1980-81 Items

Hooker Creek:
- Southern Cross EDE 24HP diesel, overhaul fire booster
- Replacement of pumps for bores 13A and 15, replace pressure switches, eliminate air from rising main

Borroloola:
- Dulu bores, overhaul Lister ST2

Hodgson Downs:
- Overhaul Southern Cross 3HP diesel and piston pumps

Bamyili:
- Replacement of damaged street lights and upgrade others

Warrabri:
- Rebuild No. 3 V12 gen. set

Haasts Bluff:
- Overhaul generator sets and associated plant

Willowra:
- Overhaul generator sets and associated plant

Hermannsburg:
- Overhaul generator sets and associated plant

4. Precise statistics on numbers of Aboriginals who have been in the past and are currently employed in the construction of essential services projects are not available. However our records indicate that up to 400 are employed within their own communities on the construction of these facilities.

   There are also some 50 Aboriginals employed by major councils in the operation and maintenance of essential services within their communities. This figure has been constant for some years.

5. Department of Transport and Works in conjunction with Department of Education provide basic training in carpentry, welding, automotive maintenance, builders labourer and office assistants.

   Through the Department of Transport and Works, a course for the operation and maintenance of power houses and other essential services was initiated in February 1981 to enable Aboriginals to train to a standard for a restricted certificate. The trainees are brought to Darwin and are taught through 3 periods of 2 weeks over 18 months. There are currently 34 trainees on the course.

6. Two production bores for the Hodgson Downs Community were initiated within the 1979-80 Capital Works Program. One bore is yet to be completed after the current wet season has finished and a further 2 bores are scheduled within the 1980-81 Capital Works Program. Previous bores drilled in this area have proved unsuccessful and the installation of a chlorinator to disinfect the current water supply through the reticulation is under serious consideration.

7.(a) A continuing program of bore drilling for the Hodgson Downs Aboriginal community is currently scheduled. Drilling to resume after present wet season. Previous 19 bores drilled in this area have proved unsuccessful.

   (b) Two shower blocks are currently in use and are operating satisfactorily. Water source is local billabong. Three pit-type toilets are in use, 2 more are scheduled for construction by the Yulngu Association in the near future with a further 6 pit toilets under consideration.

   (c) The Hodgson Downs Community is a Gibb Community and is situated on pastoral property. No excision of land for the community exists and consideration to upgrade the airstrip and access roads are not strictly within our brief. Negotiations with the pastoral lessee would be necessary prior to upgrading airstrip or roads on pastoral property.

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?

ANSWER

1. The Territory and the Commonwealth have reached agreement in princple that the Territory should have responsibility for and control of rehabilitation operations at Rum Jungle.

   The Prime Minister has authorised the transfer to the Territory of relevant technical information presently held by the Commonwealth to assist the Territory in determining the rehabilitation measures that will be needed. He has asked that Territory and Commonwealth officials meet for a full exchange of information as soon as possible.

   These discussions will be used to formulate a program of rehabilitation, including timing, costs and method of attack and will allow the Commonwealth to make the necessary decisions on level of funding.

   It is expected that work on Rum Jungle will commence during the 1981 dry.

2. Investigations by this department at Moline and South Alligator mill sites are continuing and should result in programs for the rehabilita-

tion of these sites being developed later this year. Rehabilitation itself will be dependent on the availability of Commonwealth funds.

(As the Commonwealth was in control at the time of the workings, it is felt the Commonwealth should be responsible for the cost of rehabilitation. Further, the Commonwealth has expressed interest in the past in performing the work itself.).

Transecutive Pilots

166 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Which former Northern Airlines 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?

ANSWER

1. Not relevant. Transecutive was not granted the long term licence.
2. Some pilots were re-trained for Nomad operations and the government paid the costs.

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?

ANSWER

The government approached both Ansett and TAA at meetings held in Melbourne on 8 January regarding long term arrangements. There were no discussions with TAA regarding interim arrangements.

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?

ANSWER

1. Within the terms of understanding, reached between Transecutive and the Department of Transport and Works, dated 2 April 1981, the wage costs of pilots who were surplus to the requirements of Transecutive, were met by the NT government.
2. The agreement to meet these costs prevented long delays in re-establishing the services vacated by Northern. To fail to do so would have resulted in the isolation of the Northern Territory by air and turmoil in the tourist industry.

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?

ANSWER

Following meetings in Alice Springs and detailed discussions with SA Department of Further Education, a report has been prepared on the implementation of the courses. This report is to be discussed with the institutions concerned in Alice Springs in early June. Following that a formal agreement is expected to be reached with the Department of Further Education of South Australia in early July.

It is expected that officers of the SA Department of Further Education will visit Alice Springs in July to formally accredit the courses so that detailed preparation can occur in the latter 6 months of 1981 well in time for the SA Year 12 courses to commence in the 1982 school year. As you know, preparatory courses are in progress now in Year 11.

When the implementation report is completed and agreed to by the SA Department of Further Education, it can be made publicly available in July.

Special Assistance Loan to Northern Meat Exporters

179 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What are the terms and purpose of the Special Assistance Loan made to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd by the Commonwealth and taken over by the NT Development Corporation? (See answer to Question 103).

ANSWER

The purpose of the Special Assistance Loan made to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd by the Commonwealth in 1974, was to avert the imminent closure of the meatworks.

The terms under which that assistance was provided are considered confidential.

Generators at Elliott and Newcasle Waters

188 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What is the current rating of (a) the 3 generator sets at Elliott, and (b) the generator at Newcastle Waters?
2. What is (a) the rating, and (b) the cost of the proposed generator installation at Newcastle Waters?
3. Are any other projects to be deferred or abandoned to allow for the proposed generator installation at Newcastle Waters?
4. What was (a) the original design level of the generator set pad and, if the original design has been altered, (b) what is the new level?
5. What is the highest recorded flood level in the region in which the proposed generator is to be placed?

ANSWER

1. The ratings of generator sets at Elliott are 2 sets at 168kW and one set at 240kW. Ratings of the 2 sets at Newcastle Waters are 64kW each.
2. The cost of the installation at Newcastle Waters, including distribution work and generation facilities, was $100,000.
3. No other projects have been deferred or abandoned to allow for the installation at Newcastle Waters.
4. The generator pad has been constructed at its original design level of one metre above Lot No. 1 at Newcastle Waters.

5. Flood levels at Newcastle Waters are as follows -

Flood Level AHD (m)	Return Period (years)
209.08	1 in 20
209.68	1 in 50
209.98	1 in 100

Lot No. 1 is bisected by the 600 ft contour, i.e. 207.26 m AHD. The short period of record and changes in channel characteristics made firm levels difficult to predict and the station level was selected above the highest flood level remembered by local residents.

Demountables for Katherine Rural Education Centre

193 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What are the reasons for the delay in providing demountable buildings for the Katherine Rural Education Centre at the 15-mile Experimental Farm, Katherine?

ANSWER

Early in February the Department of Transport and Works was requested to arrange for the removal of a demountable classroom from Nakara Primary School for transfer to the Katherine Rural Education Centre at the 15-mile Experimental Farm.

Of all the quotes received, the lowest did not comply with the specification and the others were not acceptable because of over pricing or quoting on the removal of the wrong building.

A contract has now been let and the demountable is expected to be on site and operational within the next 2 weeks.

NTDC Loans

194 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. When were the following outstanding loans taken up by the respective organisations -
   (a) a special assistance loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd;
   (b) a special assistance loan to Alice Springs Abattoirs Pty Ltd; and
   (c) a special assistance loan to Carba Australia Ltd?
2. When will the above loans be fully paid out?
3. How many loans in the following categories remain outstanding -
   (a) sale of bores (drought relief);
   (b) flood relief loans;
   (c) Darwin business relief loans; and
   (d) Primary Producers Board loans?
4. How many of the recipients of loans in the above-mentioned categories have defaulted?
5. What course of action is NTDC undertaking to recover such funds?

ANSWER

1.(a) Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd loan assistance was taken up on 17 June 1975.

(b) Alice Springs Abattoirs Pty Ltd loan assistance was taken up on 12 March 1970.

(c) Carba Australia Ltd loan assistance was taken up on 2 August 1972.

2.(a) Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd loan is current to 31 December 1991.

(b) Alice Springs Abattoirs Pty Ltd loan is current to 12 March 2015.

(c) Carba Australia Ltd loan has been fully repaid.

3.(a) 13 loans remain outstanding for sale of bores (drought relief).

(b) 3 loans remain outstanding for flood relief loans.

(c) 63 loans remain outstanding for Darwin business loans.

(d) 123 loans remain outstanding for Primary Producers Board loans.

4.(a) The 13 loans remaining outstanding for sale of bores (drought relief) are in arrears.

(b) The 3 loans remaining for flood relief are in arrears.

(c) 49 of the remaining loans from the Darwin Business Relief Loan Fund are in arrears.

(d) 41 of the current Primary Producers Board loans are in arrears.

5. Follow up and review action is being taken by the NTDC on all loans under its control.

Travelling Allowance for Ministers

196 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

For each minister, how many days travelling allowance has been paid from 1 January 1981 till 1 May 1981?

ANSWER

The Remuneration Tribunal determined that with effect from 28 October 1980 ministers would not be paid travelling allowance when travelling outside the Northern Territory but would have reasonable costs of accommodation and meals paid for them. The answer given below relates to either travelling allowance or payment of costs whichever was the appropriate payment in each case, depending on whether or not the travel was inside or outside the Territory.

P. Everingham	74 days
M. Perron	19 days
I. Tuxworth	51 days
R. Steele	66 days
J. Robertson	44 days
N. Dondas	34 days

Ministers' Travel

197 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many days travelling allowance have been paid to each minister from 1 January to 25 May 1981?

2. What was the cost of travel undertaken by aircraft charter by each minister from 1 January to 25 May 1981?

3. How many overseas trips have been undertaken by ministers on official business from 1 January to 25 May 1981?

4. What has been the total cost of these overseas trips?

ANSWER

1. The Remuneration Tribunal determined that with effect from 28 October 1980 ministers would not be paid travelling allowance when travelling

outside the Northern Territory but would have reasonable costs of accommodation and meals paid for them. The answer given below relates to either travelling allowance or payment of costs whichever was the appropriate payment in each case, depending on whether or not the travel was inside or outside the Territory.

	P. Everingham	80 days
	M. Perron	22 days
	I. Tuxworth	61 days
	R. Steele	79 days
	J. Robertson	55 days
	N. Dondas	39 days
2.	P. Everingham	$ 29,046
	M. Perron	$ 6,609
	I. Tuxworth	$ 39,585
	R. Steele	$ 11,553
	J. Robertson	$ 6,677
	N. Dondas	$ 10,830

3. Three.

4. $ 40,682.

Hospital Advisory Boards

199 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the composition of the various hospital advisory boards in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Hospital Advisory Boards in the Northern Territory were abolished when the Hospital Management Boards Act commenced on 1 July 1980.

The composition of Hospital Management Boards is set out in the Act and is as follows -

the Chief Executive Officer of the hospital;

the Matron in charge of nursing services of the hospital;

an employee of the Department of Health who has general responsibility for the administration of the area in which the hospital is situated; and

5 other members appointed by the minister.

The appointment of the initial members was notified in Northern Territory Government Gazette No. G36 of 5 September 1980.

There have been several changes since that date all of which have been notified in the Gazette.

Refugees at Tamarind Centre

200 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many refugee families are now at Tamarind Centre?

2. How many have obtained employment?

3. How many have moved from the hostel into the community?

4. How many adults are undertaking English lessons?

ANSWER

1. Since is is difficult to group the residents into easily identifiable families, the answer to this first question will be given in number

of people in occupancy. This number as of 9 June was 77 persons.

2. To date, 20 people have obtained employment. Of these 12 are heads of households while 5 are single males and 3 single females.

3. 15 people have moved from the Tamarind Centre into the community.

4. 59 adults are undertaking or have undertaken full-time English classes with another 19 persons enrolled in part-time courses.

NTPS Disabled Employees

202 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many disabled are employed in the NTPS, what are their positions, and with which departments?

2. How many disabled have been employed in the NTPS in 1981?

ANSWER

The information requested is not available in statistical form. There is a problem in defining a 'disabled person'; not all disabled people are willing to disclose their disability and it would not be proper to invade privacy just to obtain statistics.

The office of the Public Service Commissioner is cooperating with the IYDP Secretariat to include public service employees in a community wide survey of disabled people and of their employment needs. The results of this survey are expected to be available in November 1981.

Following this survey, plans will be made to better meet the physical needs of disabled people in employment. This in itself should increase the number of disabled people who seek and obtain employment. Also the Public Service Commissioner is reviewing policies related to the employment of the disabled so that these people can be more readily employed in the Northern Territory Public Service.

Funding of Women's Centres in NT

203 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Does the Commonwealth provide 75% of the running costs for women's refuges in the Territory with the Northern Territory making up the shortfall as happens in the States?

2. Can he say what funding arrangements will apply to women's refuges in 1981-2?

ANSWER

1. No. The Commonwealth does not provide 75% of running costs for women's refuges in the Northern Territory.

   Until the last quarter of 1979-80, the Commonwealth provided 50% of running costs of NT approved centres under their Community Health Program. Since then the NT government has provided financial assistance to various centres under the Grant-in-Aid Program.

   The Commonwealth has now indicated that there will be no further specific allocations under the Community Health Program. Future Commonwealth funding will be in the form of general revenue grants for health services including the Grant-in-Aid Program.

2. 1981-2 funding for running expenses of NT women's refuges is being considered under the Grant-in-Aid Program subject to financial resources available in the 1981-2 financial year.

Aborigines on Electoral Roll

204 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What action is being taken by the government to ensure that Aborigines, 18 years of age and over, who are currently not on the electoral roll, are so enrolled to ensure compliance with the Electoral Act?

ANSWER

In February 1980 the Australian Electoral Office in conjunction with the Department of the Chief Minister and the Northern Territory Department of Education conducted 2 seminars, for adult educators and their Aboriginal assistants, on the provisions of Commonwealth and the Northern Territory electoral law. The adult educators were to have the prime responsibility to carrying out electoral education activities in the lead up to the 1980 Legislative Assembly and Federal elections, and then continue with an ongoing program.

In addition the Australian Electoral Office in accordance with an arrangement between the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory government has a mobile electoral education team of 2 people working full-time in the northern part of the Northern Territory and a similar team working in South Australia and the southern part of the Territory. These teams seek to inform Aboriginal people about the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory parliamentary and electoral systems. Using a range of specially developed audio-visual teaching aids, the program covers the role of parliament, the qualifications for and process of enrolment and the procedures for casting a formal vote. Aboriginal people can obtain assistance from these teams in enrolling for Commonwealth or Territory electoral rolls.

The approach being taken is one of informing Aboriginals of the provisions and requirements of the Act and providing an enrolment service to encourage them to understand and exercise their electoral rights and responsibilities.

Effects of Gambling on Alice Springs Lifestyle

207 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

(a) Has his attention been drawn to a report in the Age newspaper of Saturday 17 April which quoted the new casino manager as having ambitions to turn Alice Springs into 'a swinging, gambling town'?

(b) If so, what measures does he intend to take to ensure the special characteristics of the Centre capital, which make the town so unusually attractive, are preserved in the face of attempts by outsiders to change the nature of Alice Springs?

(c) Is he concerned that the image of 'a swinging, gambling town' will not attract the type of resident who might wish to work and settle in Central Australia with his family and help contribute to the long term stability of the Territory?

ANSWER

(a) There was no Age newspaper of Saturday 17 April that date being a Friday.

On 18 April, which was a Saturday, the Age printed a 34 word pointer to a story which was to be carried in the next day's Sunday Press. The brief reference was this:

'The woman who is about to become Australia's first female casino manager talks to Derek Ballantine in tomorrow's Sunday Press. She tells of her plans to turn Alice Springs into a swinging gambling town'.

The Sunday Press article of Sunday 19 April was solely devoted to a report of an interview between Mrs Rosemary Nin, the then newly appointed general manager of the Alice Springs hotel-casino, and reporter Derek Ballantine in which Mrs Nin was quoted at length on the purchases necessary to establish a new hotel operation. Numbers of coffee pots, bed linen, silver, wineglasses and Mrs Nin's background as a hotelier were the subject matter of the article.

The single reference to gambling in this 24 paragraph article was in the last 2 paragraphs where it was stated:

'But while the visitors may gamble at Alice Springs from July, Rosemary will not. The gambling bug has never bitten her - anyway, staff are not permitted to play'.

(b) I am not aware of any attempts by outsiders to change the nature of Alice Springs but the town of Alice Springs, like all vibrant growing communities, has been subject to constant change since its inception. Early in its history growth was slow and the pre-war population was apparently below 1,000 people. Post-war dependency on the cattle industry, and on mining, continued into the 60's. By then the character of Alice Springs was changing rapidly due to the effects of a long drought which toppled cattle as the Alice's premier industry and the efforts of local business pioneers who were dedicated to the goal of developing the tourist industry.

The international image of Alice Springs as a tourist town started about then. The new emphasis brought in new investment on tourist plant thus creating additional employment opportunities and promoting social and communal development. By the late 60's promotional efforts were aimed at developing the off-season tourist months, from September to February-March, when the growing tourist industry would virtually go into recess.

True stability for those in the tourism workforce has probably only become a reality within the last 5 years as tourism moved to being a year round industry. It is this stability, this new character, which has been so important to the accelerated growth of Alice Springs. It has created opportunities for many of the town's younger people to remain in Alice Springs and not have to move out to seek employment. It has also attracted newcomers to the town. Additionally, as the tourist industry has grown, the stability based on a guaranteed year round tourist income has led to expansion of the commercial and service sectors providing consequential benefits to residents and improved supply and choice in consumer goods. The evolution of the local tourist industry continues with recent moves to add international standard accommodation to the tourist plant.

The underlying characteristic of the Alice is its ability to remain unique in its geographic location with an independent and free minded population determined to improve their life-style largely through the continued and growing commercial success of the tourism industry. The Northern Territory government shares this determination and has sought and secured private investment to complement public spending in an endeavour to ensure that the economic back-bone of Alice Springs does not remain static or decline.

So dynamic is the town that its population has grown from about 4,500 in 1966 to about 17,000 today.

In the event that tourism stagnated or regressed Alice Springs unemployment figures would soar, businesses would encounter financial difficulties and many residents would have to consider relocation. The cattle industry, while of utmost importance, could not cushion the economic disaster which would follow. This is not what the government

would wish for the people of Alice Springs. Government policies as they relate to the town seek to preserve it from economic decline and maintain prosperity.

(c) The suggestion that Alice Springs will earn or be given an image of 'a swinging gambling town' relates directly to false impressions about the operational style of regulated casinos. For example Darwin does not have such an image yet a casino has operated there since September 1979. Nor does Hobart where a casino has operated for many years successfully.

There is a vast difference between 2 licensed casinos in the Northern Territory which have limits imposed on their trading hours as well as enforced dress regulations and the situation in Nevada with 196 casinos able to operate 24 hours a day with no restriction on entry.

While Las Vegas is promoted as the gambling capital of the United States the Alice Springs Federal, and its sister in Darwin, are no more than additional options in which residents and tourists alike may spend their leisure hours. As an adjunct to the tourism industry, on which the prosperity of so many Territorians depends, they are a complement to the natural beauties and attractions, not a feature of dominance to replace them.

Employment of Aborigines as Rangers in National Parks

211 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

(a) How many Aborigines are currently receiving training as rangers by the NT Conservation Commission, (b) how many Aborigines are currently employed as rangers in (i) Uluru National Park, and (ii) Kakadu National Park, (c) how many Aborigines, if any, are currently receiving training for employment as rangers in the proposed MacDonnell Range National Park, and (d) to what extent has the Conservation Commission's ranger training and employment program been expanded in order to provide staff for the proposed MacDonnell Range National Park?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Conservation Commission has 6 Aboriginals employed (Uluru 1, Cobourg Peninsula 1, Alice Springs 4) who receive as part of their duties on-the-job training from senior rangers at their parks. In addition, 3 Aboriginal trainee rangers are to be selected for specialised duties on Cobourg and the Commission has arranged for an Aboriginal ranger to attend a wildlife management enforcement training course from 6-10 July 1981.

A training officer has recently been appointed by the Commission and an important part of the duties of this position will be directed towards training additional Aboriginal people for ranger duties.

Five Aboriginal rangers and 2 cultural advisers are employed in Kakadu National Park, all of whom are Australian National Parks and Wildlife staff.

To this stage, the Commission has not appointed rangers to the proposed MacDonnell Range National Park as the park is only in the planning stage. The Commission is not in a position to appoint rangers until the status of this park is clarified. However, at the appropriate time, the Commission will consider appointment of Aborignals as rangers.

Security Firm Employees - Carrying of Firearms

212 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Will he table the names and addresses of security firm employees who

are licensed to carry firearms and, if not, why not?

2. How many security firm employees were licensed to carry firearms in (a) 1978, (b) 1979, and (c) 1980?

3. What rules govern the carrying and use of firearms by security firm employees?

4. Is he concerned that the activities of security firms might cut across the work of the police?

ANSWER

1. A list of the names and addresses of security firm employees who are licensed to carry firearms will not be furnished at this would be inappropriate.

2. 1978 - Not available.
1979 - Not available.
1980 - 56 (Since commencement of new Firearms Act on 1.7.80 to 31.12.80).

Note: Prior to the commencement of the Firearms Act on 1 July 1980 no permanent specific records were kept of security firm employees permitted to carry firearms. Permits were issued to employees authorising them to carry firearms which were licensed to their employer. The employee permits were issued free of charge.

3. Security firm employees must hold a current licence or permit under the Firearms Act.

The permit is endorsed with the condition "Valid only when used or carried in the normal course of employment".

Security firm emplpoyees are given no special privileges to make them different from members of the community. They are required to comply with the provisions of the Firearms Act and laws in force.

4. No. In fact the work of security firms can complement the work of the police.

Auditor-General's Annual Report 1979-80

213 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

I refer to the Auditor-General's Annual Report for 1979-80, and ask -

1. Have interest rates on loans to corporations under section 63 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act been formally approved by the Treasurer?

2. At what level have the rates been set?

3. Have the terms of repayment of these loans been set and, if so, what are these terms?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. Each public loan has been at different rates of interest, in accordance with the rates approved by the Loan Council from time to time. The interest cost to corporations contains a margin over the coupon rate to recover the 'front-end' expenses of loan raisings such as underwriting commission, within limits also approved by Loan Council, and advertising.

3. The loans are not repaid on a credit foncier basis. Instead, under the Loans Redemption Fund Act, the Treasurer has determined rates of contribution by corporations to the Fund, calculated to retire the debt over periods consistent with the life of the assets acquired from loan funds.

NTDC - Motel Projects in Tennant Creek

214 Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has the Northern Territory Development Corporation been involved in any way in the motel project or projects in Tennant Creek and, if so, what has been the extent of the involvement, and how has the investment been safeguarded?

ANSWER

The NTDC has provided funds into motel projects in Tennant Creek.

The details of such financial arrangements are confidential to the clients and the NTDC and cannot be divulged.

However, an assurance can be given that the corporation's interests are safeguarded by registered mortgages.

Remuneration for Mayor of Tennant Creek

216 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has his attention been drawn to comments reported to have been made by the member for Barkly regarding the need for the position of Mayor of Tennant Creek to be a paid position?
2. If so, does he agree with the member for Barkly's proposal?
3. Has his attention been drawn to public reaction to the member for Barkly's proposal?

ANSWER

1. Comments reported to have been made by the Member for Barkly regarding the need for the position of Mayor of Tennant Creek to be a paid position have been drawn to my attention.
2. The present legislation provides for the payment of allowances to mayors by decision of the respective councils. No proposal that the mayor be paid a salary has been received from the Municipality of Tennant Creek nor from any other municipality of similar size or indeed from the Local Government Association. I support the present legislative arrangement for mayoral payments.
3. I am aware of some public reaction to the proposal by the Member for Barkly.

Berrimah Prison - Juvenile Offenders

217 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many juveniles can the Berrimah gaol cater for?
2. How many juveniles are in Berrimah gaol at present, what were their offences, and what are their terms of imprisonment?
3. What treatment options does the government have for juveniles convicted of minor offences in the Northern region? Are any new initiatives to be implemented and, if so, what are they?
4. Is a change to the present use of Malak House being contemplated and, if so, what is it? How many juveniles has it accommodated, and for what periods since it opened?

ANSWER

1. There is no prescribed limit set on the number of juveniles that can be catered for at Darwin Prison, Berrimah. The institution accommodates those numbers assigned from the courts and provides an alternative daily routine to that of adult prisoners.

2. As of 7 July 1981, there were 5 juveniles at Darwin Prison, Berrimah. Their offences and charges were:

   (1) Robbery with violence
   (2) Possess canabis
   (3) Illegal use of motor vehicle
   (4) Break and enter with intent and indecent assault on female
   (5) Interfere with motor vehicle, illegal use of motor vehicle (4), larceny (2), break, enter and steal (3), unlawfully on premises (2), possess liquor in restricted area.

   Terms of imprisonment:

   Juveniles whose charges and offences are listed above as (1), (2) and (3) are currently on remand. One juvenile (4) is serving a 6 months sentence. One juvenile (5) is serving a sentence of 3 months plus 2 months cumulative, plus 2 months concurrent.

3. Juvenile offenders who may require specialised treatment are eligible for any of the services offered to individuals and families by the Health Department, Education Department and the Department of Community Development. Some of the treatment options which are available from these departments are: individual and family therapy, counselling, special education, group work, etc.

   New initiatives under consideration in the Northern Region include the establishment of a medium term residential program for teenagers, a fine repayment scheme, and a community service order scheme.

4. The present staffing of Malak is being increased to provide closer supervision 24 hours a day. No change is being contemplated which would significantly alter the purpose of programs originally designed for Malak House.

   Since August 1979 Malak House has accommodated 95 juveniles (71 males and 24 females) for periods ranging from overnight to 8 months.

Aboriginal Community Worker Training Unit

218 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. (a) What types of training programs are currently being offered by the Aboriginal Community Worker Training Unit in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, and (iii) any other regional centre, (b) how many people have completed training in each of the above programs?

2. Has he received any feedback from Aboriginal communities - through is department's officers - regarding the success or value of the community worker training program?

3. Will the minister table a report on the Aboriginal Community Worker Training Unit and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Training programs are provided on an ongoing basis to all Aboriginal community workers involved in the Aboriginal Community Work Program throughout the NT. The training programs have been provided in Darwin and Alice Springs as the support services and resources centres for the programs are based in Darwin and Alice Springs. All community workers involved in the Aboriginal Work Program are involved in a training scheme which focuses on the activities of the Department of Community Development. In addition, some specialised training has been provided in regard to the activities of the Department of Social Security.

2. No feedback has been received from Aboriginal communities regarding

the success or value of the community workers training.

3. The NT government initiated the Aboriginal Community Work Program for a pilot period of 3 years which will conclude in January 1982. A report will be compiled for consideration by government reviewing the program. A decision on tabling the document will be made at that time.

Expiry Date on Packaged Milk

219 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is he aware that packaged milk which did not bear the product's expiry date has recently been supplied to Alice Springs consumers?
2. Does Territory legislation require perishable goods to carry notice of expiry date?
3. If not, when will he introduce legislation requiring perishable products to carry notice of expiry date?

ANSWER

1. I was not aware that packaged milk which did not bear the product's expiry date has recently been supplied to Alice Springs consumers.
2. There is no Territory legislation requiring perishable goods to carry notice of expiry date.
3. A bill was introduced at the last sittings of the Legislative Assembly.

Guidelines for Grants-in-Aid

220 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. In response to queries in the 1978-79 Auditor-General's report concerning grants in the amounts of $150,000, $250,000 and $260,000, his department stated that 'a comprehensive set of guidelines for grant administration was being drawn up'. Has this been done?
2. Has his department introduced a system of monitoring the use of grants or subsidies through the submission of quarterly certificates of expenditure by the recipients of grants?
3. In relation to the grant of $250,000 to the Corporation of the Municipality of Alice Springs for the purpose of building a public library, why was a cheque for this sum held by the department and not dispatched to the grantee until 20 August 1979 although it was drawn on 29 June 1979?
4. What further reasons has he to justify the grants referred to in 1. being made in advance of need additional to the explanations which failed to satisfy the Auditor-General?
5. What progress has been made in developing and implementing an effective recovery system to meet the criticism of the Auditor-General in relation to incorrect claims associated with assistance to supporting parents and persons in need being lodged on the Commonwealth Department of Social Security?
6. Has the income maintenance form used by applicants for benefits assistance been re-designed as promised by his department to overcome the deficiency complained of by the Auditor-General?
7. What action has been taken by his department to improve the debt recovery system criticised by the Auditor-General and has that action produced beneficial results?
8. Why were matters relating to compliance with Treasurer's Directions in

the provision of subsidies to local government authorities raised by the Auditor-General in late 1979 not resolved by the time of an audit undertaken in May 1980?

9. How was control exercised over dollar-for-dollar subsidies given to local government authorities in view of the Auditor-General's statement that no formal procedures or administrative arrangements had been established to ensure grant and subsidy funds were expended in an appropriate manner, that projects were satisfactorily completed and that the purpose of the grant was achieved?

10. What progress has been made in establishing the Grants Commission which the government told the Auditor-General it would set up to disburse and control grant moneys?

11. Has the Interim Committee proposed by his department for establishment in 1980-81 to prescribe rules as to the disbursement and control of grant moneys been set up?

12. What were the details of those grants or subsidies, and the circumstances in which they were made available, which the Auditor-General said appeared to be outside the criteria for eligibility?

ANSWER

1. A comprehensive set of guidelines and procedures for Grants-in-Aid has been developed to assist all staff in the handling and assessment of grant applications. This document is currently being printed and will soon be distributed.

   Guidelines have also been developed for Personal Income Tax Sharing and Federal Roads Grant Moneys. Establishment of the Grants Committee will enable the system for grants disbursement to be confirmed.

2. The submission of quarterly statements of expenditure became effective from 1 July 1981, for all appropriate grants and subsidies.

3. To enable prompt payment of some claims, it is necessary from time to time to prepare cheques in expectation of documentation being received.

   It does not always follow that documentation when received contains all the information necessary to enable payment to immediately be made.

4. The delay in forwarding the cheque for $250,000 to the Alice Springs Town Council clearly demonstrates that the grant was not made in advance of the need.

5. No further claims are being lodged on the Commonwealth Department of Social Security for assistance to supporting parents and persons in need as the Department of Social Security assumed responsibility for the payment of Supporting Parents Benefit from 6 November 1980.

   Consequently the need for procedures relating to recovery action from the Department of Social Security no longer exists.

6. The income maintenance form has not been redesigned as yet as the main deficiency 'no provision for details of residence qualifications' pointed out in the Auditor-General's report, is no longer applicable since Supporting Parents Benefit is now the Department of Social Security's responsibility. The form itself is being re-designed at the present time in conjunction with revised procedures for financial assistance.

7. Recovery procedures were modified as a result of the Auditor-General's report and an officer was redeployed for a period of 4 months to finalise outstanding debts at that time.

While this achieved some results, it was not entirely successful.

The Auditor-General's Department has been kept informed of current developments.

8. Matters raised by the Audit Bureau were subject to on-going negotiations with the Local Government Association. As a result a formula to determine the amount of operational subsidies has been adopted. Local government inspectors have been appointed, however, the final form of acquittal for subsidies is yet to be agreed with the Local Government Association.

9. There is a Cabinet approved criteria against which requests for dollar-for-dollar subsidies are tested. All proposals are submitted to me for assessment and approval. Payments are made on claims certified jointly by the town clerk and the town engineer.

   The recently introduced quarterly statement of expenditure provided a further measure of control.

10. The Northern Territory Grants Committee will be structured as follows:

    independent chairman; 1 representative from the Department of Treasury; 1 representative from the Department of Community Development; and 2 representatives from a panel submitted by the Local Government Association.

11. In anticipation of the Northern Territory Grants Committee being established, it was resolved not to proceed with the formation of an interim committee.

12. Apart from the query regarding payment of $176,165 to the Darwin City Council, which has satisfactorily been responded to, the Auditor-General did not identify any grants or subsidies which may have appeared to be outside the criteria for eligibility.

Royalty Payments by Nabalco

221 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Given the Auditor-General's reference to the accounting arrangements and the interim royalty rate in regard to the Nabalco Agreement, can he inform me of the present position regarding royalty payments from Nabalco?

ANSWER

1. Discussions between the Northern Territory and the companies on 2 Gove royalties issues were re-opened in November 1980. These issues were:

   (a) royalty adjustments for 1973-78 in accordance with profitability criteria in the Special Mineral Lease; and

   (b) royalty increases to the maxima in Special Mineral Leases rejected by companies in June 1979.

2. Issue 1(a) was settled between the companies and Northern Territory in December 1980. This matter is now awaiting Commonwealth ratification which is necessary because certain decisions are required by Commonwealth because of its pre-self-government responsibilities.

3. In June 1981, the companies agreed to pay the maximum royalty rates in the Special Mineral Lease as from 1 January 1979. Back royalties of $2.8 million have been received. Gove royalties are now about $2.2 million per year instead of around $0.9 million per year.

Auditor-General's Report - Deficiencies in Education Department

226 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action has he taken to correct and prevent repetition of the following deficiencies referred to by the Auditor-General in his annual report:

(a) the list of potential suppliers of goods and services to the department was not kept up to date;

(b) certain contracts arranged had not been published in the Gazette as required by Treasurer's Regulations;

(c) records were not maintained at the Supply Section concerning the movement of contract documents and quotations; and

(d) some transactions had not been recorded in the Security Deposit Register at the Supply Section?

ANSWER

(a) The list of potential suppliers has been prepared, approved and is kept up to date.

(b) Gazette advertisements have been brought up to date and are now actioned promptly.

(c) Records of movements of contract documents are now maintained satisfactorily.

(d) The Security Deposit Register is updated.

Vandalism at Alice Springs High School

227 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he concerned at reports of breaking, entering and vandalism at the Alice Springs High School?

2. What measures are being taken to improve security at the school?

3. Does a caretaker live at the school and, if not, why not?

4. Have regulations or guidelines been drawn up by him or his department regarding security measures at NT schools and, if so, will he table them? If the answer to 4 is 'no', why not?

5. Does Alice Springs High School receive more attention from vandals than other schools in the Territory?

ANSWER

1. They are not reports, they are fact and I deplore all forms of vandalism wherever it occurs.

2. Measures recently taken to improve security at Alice Springs High School include the installation of barrel bolts to all ground floor windows (it is programmed to do the same to 81 first floor windows during the next financial year), and the employment on a 6 month trial basis of Metropolitan Security Services to check the school at nights and at weekends.

3. Schools generally employ janitors rather than caretakers. While the position of janitor is advertised as a live-in job (caravan residence) it is not always possible to recruit a suitable person who is willing to live-in. The current occupant does not live-in.

4. No. Each principal has autonomy in making arrangements to ensure the security of the buildings for which he is responsible. In the past, there has been very little need for security. However, the Northern Territory Department of Education handbook, which is currently being

revised, will include a section on security arrangements.

5. Unfortunately, Alice Springs High School has in recent times received more attention from vandals than other schools in the Territory. It is hoped that the arrangements outlined in 2. above will rectify this unsatisfactory situation.

8CCC-FM Alice Springs

228 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he able to say what body holds the C class community public broadcasting licence 8CCC-FM in Alice Springs?
2. What are (a) the names, and (b) the positions of the people who are members of this body?
3. Are these people (a) elected, or (b) appointed, and if they are appointed, (c) who appoints them, and (d) on what criteria?
4. What other boards or committees are involved with 8CCC-FM?
5. If other groups are involved what are (a) the names, and (b) the positions of the people involved?
6. Are these people (a) elected, or (b) appointed, and if they are appointed, (c) who appoints them, and (d) on what criteria?
7. How many public meetings have been held to discuss the development and management of 8CCC-FM?
8. Is 8CCC-FM a member of the Public Broadcasting Commission Association of Australia, and does it subscribe to that body's code of ethics?
9. If the answer is yes, is he aware that the code of ethics includes these points:
   (a) all broadcasters at a particular station should be encouraged to participate in management and policy-making; and
   (b) the management should see itself as assisting and not controlling the broadcasters?
10. Are these codes being observed at 8CCC-FM and, if not, why not?
11. How much has been spent on the establishment and running of 8CCC-FM?
12. How much has been contributed by the Alice Springs community?
13. If the answer to 12 is nil, would he see a contradiction between the organisation and operation of 8CCC-FM and other C class public broadcasting stations in Australia?

ANSWER

1. The C class community broadcasting licence for radio station 8CCC-FM in Alice Springs is held by the Community College of Central Australia FM Broadcasting Association Incorporated. The membership of this body is identical with membership of the Council of the Community College of Central Australia.
2. The names and positions of the people who are members of this body are:
   - Mr H. Weber, Chairman, Businessman, Electrical and Building Contractor, Alice Springs.
   - Mr G. Loveday, Deputy Chairman, Assistant General Manager, Northern Territory Electricity Commission, Alice Springs.
   - Mr G. Chard, Director, Technical and Further Education, Department of Education, Darwin.
   - Mrs L. Faehse, Architect, Alice Springs.
   - Mrs N. Giese, Chairman of Darwin Community College Council, Darwin.

- Mr E. Hampton, Senior Vocational Officer, Commonwealth Employment Service, Department of Employment and Youth Affairs, Alice Springs.
- Mr W. Kinsman, Businessman, Kinsman Automotive Engineering, Alice Springs.
- Mrs R. McEllister, Clerical Officer, Community College of Central Australia, Alice Springs.
- Mrs K. Rose, Teaching Assistant, Karguru Primary School, Tennant Creek.
- Mrs Y. Sathianathan, Project Officer, Northern Territory Electricity Commission, Alice Springs.
- Mr G. Sawtell, Businessman, Electrical Contractor, Alice Springs.
- Mr P. Smith, Manager, Powerhouse, Peko-Wallsend Operations Limited, Tennant Creek.
- Mr H. Tinsley, Acting Principal, Community College of Central Australia, Alice Springs.
- Mrs M. Trindle, Home Liaison Officer, Department of Education, Alice Springs.
- Mrs M. Vrazda, Senior Lecturer in Business Studies, Community College of Central Australia, Alice Springs.

3. Mr Hampton, Mr Kinsman, Mr Loveday, Mrs Rose, Mr Sathianathan, Mr Sawtell, Mr Smith, Mrs Trindle, Mr Weber were appointed by the Minister for Education from the community of interest of the college.

   Mrs Faehse was elected by the student body of the college.

   Mrs Vrazda and Mrs McEllister were elected by the staff of the college.

   Mrs Giese was appointed from the Council of the Darwin Community College by the Minister for Education.

   Mr Chard and Mr Tinsley are ex-officio members.

4. The CCCA FM Broadcasting Association Incorporated reports that a station board of management, a program advisory committee, and a technical advisory committee have been proposed for involvement with 8CCC-FM subject to the adoption of the constitution of the CCCA FM Broadcasting Association Incorporated and its lodgement with the Registrar of Companies.

5. See answer to 4.

6. See answer to 4.

7. - 12. The Community College of Central Australia FM Broadcasting Association Incorporated reports that 3 public meetings have been held to discuss the development and management of 8CCC-FM.

   8CCC-FM is a member of the Public Broadcasting Association and subscribes to that body's code of ethics.

   Broadcasters at station 8CCC-FM will be encouraged to participate in management and policy-making as soon as the station management structure is finalised by the association.

   $16,000 has been spent on the establishment of 8CCC-FM comprising $7,500 for initial equipment and $8,500 for refurbishing a demountable for studio; $27,137 has been spent on running 8CCC-FM comprising $10,5000 operational expenses, $5,900 equipment, and $10,737 for manager's salary.

   The Alice Springs community has contributed no money although there have been about 30 volunteers to operate the station.

13. An instrument to establish a trust account for the station's operations was issued by the Treasury on 4 June 1981 to enable the Community College of Central Australia FM Broadcasting Association In-

corporated to receive and expend funds in accordance with the usual practice of C class public broadcasting stations in Australia.

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign

229 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Is there a formal agreement between the Northern Territory government and the Commonwealth government in respect of brucellosis and tuberculosis compensation funding?

2. In the light of problems highlighted by the Auditor-General in his 1980 report, are there now adequate procedures available that ensure effective operation of the compensation scheme?

ANSWER

1. There is no formal agreement between the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth in respect of brucellosis and tuberculosis compensation funding.

   There is broad agreement in the Memorandum of Understanding, Section 34, Special Purpose Revenue Grants.

2. Yes. Procedures have been tightened up considerably, sufficient to ensure the effective operation of the compensation scheme.

   For brucellosis compensation, the Commonwealth contribution is 75% of 'farm gate value' and the State/Territory contribution is 25%.

   For tuberculosis compensation, the Commonwealth contribution is 50%, the State/Territory 25% and the remaining 25% is regarded as producer contribution.

   The compensation values for 1980-81 are -

Category	Darwin/Gulf District	Victoria River District	Barkly Tablelands District	Alice Springs District
Cattle				
Calf	40	40	50	50
Weaner	60	60	80	80
Store steer	90	100	120	120
Fat steer	150	170	200	200
Store bullock	110	120	130	130
Fat bullock	180	200	300	300
Breeding cow	90	100	150	150
Fat cow	120	150	200	200
Bull, under 7 years	200	200	200	200
Bulls, mickey or aged	90	100	100	100

Buffaloes	All Districts
Calf	40
Weaner	100
Cow	140
Bull	180

   The compensation values for 1981-2 are presently being negotiated with industry.

Radiation Safety Training

235 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Have any staff members of his department received training in using and holding radioactive sources?

2. Has his department appointed an officer trained in such radiation safety procedure to ensure the safe storage of berylium and caesium sources held by the department near Alice Springs?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. My department's Alice Springs office has a radiation safety officer who is trained in handling radioactive sources and is in close liaison with Department of Health officers responsible for radiation matters. All radioactive sources controlled by my department are handled in strict compliance with Australian Radiation Standards legislation.

Education Facilities for Seamen

236 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Does he intend to set up facilities for the training, education and examination of seamen to ensure they have every opportunity to gain basic qualifications or to upgrade existing qualifications?

2. If so, where are the facilities to be set up and by whom will they be staffed?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. The Darwin Community College has agreed in principle to conduct refresher courses and examinations for the various certificates of competency based on syllabuses and examination requirements set out in detail in section 2 of the Uniform Shipping Laws Code.

   In this regard the college will act as agent for the Director of Transport who has responsibility for day to day administration of the proposed Marine Act and Regulations. The director is to be supported by a principal marine surveyor and a shipping officer.

Australian Government Representative in Bali

237 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What success has he had in his attempts to persuade the Australian government to station a representative in Bali on a permanent basis to service the large number of Australian tourists now visiting the island?

ANSWER

I have approached the Federal government pointing out the need for permanent Australian representation in Bali and other places. However, in the final analysis this is a decision for the Commonwealth Minister for Foreign Affairs, and he is the most appropriate person to whom you should address your question.

MacDonnell Ranges National Park

238 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

When will the MacDonnell Ranges National Park, as announced in the Centralian Advocate of 5 June 1980, be gazetted?

ANSWER

The 9th Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting in June 1979 endorsed a series of conservation principles and long-term planning objectives for a MacDonnell Ranges National Park.

Progress to date is as follows:

(a) The Central MacDonnells National Park has been approved and is being processed through the Department of Lands. This will eventually combine Simpsons Gap and the Alice Springs Telegraph Station National Parks into one major national park complex.

(b) Agreement has been reached with pastoral lessees for the creation of a further reserve in the East MacDonnells.

(c) Negotiations to acquire land for the creation of a West MacDonnells National Park are at a sensitive stage and have run into some difficulties.

It is anticipated that the park will be gazetted once the negotiations and the necessary arrangements have been completed.

Lake Phillipson Coal Desposit

242 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is the Lake Phillipson coal deposit still under consideration for use as a fuel in the Northern Territory and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

As yet, no Australian coals have been eliminated for use as a fuel in the Territory.

However, the Lake Phillipson coals are disadvantaged by their low heating value and their distance overland from the proposed Darwin coal fired power station. This coal also contains significant sodium and potassium chlorides which may cause fouling in boilers.

A further problem is the considerable uncertainty of the coal mine at Lake Phillipson being in operation by 1987, when the first coal is required in Darwin. The earliest date for completion of the Alice Springs-Darwin rail link is advised as being 1988.

Incidentally, the proposed South Australian government feasibility study on Lake Phillipson development, to which the Northern Territory government was to contribute, has been postponed pending the results of an expanded exploration program by Utah Development Company.

Sites for Darwin Power Station

243 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What government authorities other than his department are involved in assessing the 4 possible sites for Darwin's coal-fired power station?

2. What other organisations are being consulted as to the siting of the station?

3. What methodology has been devised to ensure that all views are canvassed?

ANSWER

1. Site assessment studies involved 26 government departments, authorities and commissions.

List of organisations contacted during siting study

Departments

Aboriginal Affairs

Community Development: Library Services, Correctional Services Division, Community Services Division, Local Government Division, Community Government Division, and Youth, Sport and Recreation Branch
Chief Minister
Defence: Joint Services Local Planning Committees
Education
Health
Law
Lands, and hence Valuer-General
Mines and Energy
Primary Production
Transport
Transport and Works: Roads Division, Transport Division, Maritime Division, Water Division, Public Works Division, and Fire Brigade

Commissions

Conservation Commission
Commissioner of Police
Industries Training Commission
NT Housing Commission
NT Tourist Commission
Overseas Telecommunications Commission
Public Service Commissioner
Telecom Australia

Other Organisations

NT Development Corporation
Northern Lands Council
Museums and Art Galleries of the NT

Principal Consultants or Contributors Used

Maunsell & Partners Pty Ltd
Museums and Art Galleries of the NT
Environment, Science and Services, Brisbane
Qasco Northern Surveys, Darwin
Dames and Moore, Darwin

2. Other organisations included - (i) North Brick Pty Ltd; (ii) Adelaide and Wallaroo Fertilisers Pty Ltd; and (iii) Northern Cement - Adelaide Brighton Cement Ltd.

3. A matrix was devised which related areas of interest to specific departments.

Northern Territory Electricity Commission - Factors Affecting Power Station Siting / Matrix of Interested Parties - 318:49.14 / REV. 2 / 6 June 1981

	Interested Parties
PLANNED DEVELOPMENT:	
Oil Bunkering Jetty	ABC
Fishing Jetty	ACFGY
Bulk Commodities Jetty	ABCEFG
Second Port	ACDEFGL
Crane Facilities	ABC
Land Fill Using Ash	ABCDEGHIJ
Cement Works	A
Clay Products	A
Coal	ABC
Cogeneration	AB
Sewerage, Drainage	ACDEN
Fresh Water, Demin. Water	AC
Sea Water, Cooling Water	ACE
Other Industries	ACPQSVY

VILLAGE:	
Roads	CDEHILS
Water	CDEHINS
Sewerage	CDEHIN
Power Supplies	BDHIS
Police	DRST
Health	DNS
Fire	DNS
Schools	DSTW
Telephones	DSAA
Recreation	CDHIKRSTW
Housing	CDHIOSTW
LAND & SEA:	
Availability for Use	ABCDEFGHIJKLMOQSV
Cost	CDOVX
Other Claims on Areas	ABCDEFGHIJKLMOQRSV
TRANSPORT:	
Road	ACDHIJLQS
Rail	ABCDLQS
Sea, Ferries	ACDLQS
Cost of Travel	BLQX
MARITIME:	
Tides & Currents	C
Tugs	C
Dredging	CE
COAL:	
Source	B
Ship Types	C
Handling Systems & Storage	CE
ASH:	
Lagoons	EHIJ
Effluent Control & Dispersal	CEN
POLLUTION:	
Thermal Plume	EHI
Smoke & Gasses	ACEMN
Noise	CEN
Visual Impact	ACEM
MILITARY RESTRICTIONS:	
Air	K
Land	K
Sea	K
PEOPLE:	
Skilled & Unskilled Personnel	AOPRSTU
Population Multipliers	ACDLNOPQRSTUWX
Distance from Darwin	ACDLNOPQSTUW

KEY:

A - Development Corporation
B - Department of Mines & Energy
C - Department of Transport & Works
D - Department of Lands
E - Conservation Commission
F - Department of Primary Production
G - Agriculture Development & Marketing Authority
H - Lands Council
I - Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority
J - Department of Aboriginal Affairs
K - Department of Defence
L - Department of Transport
M - Overseas Telecommunications Commission
N - Department of Health
O - Housing Commission
P - Industries Training Commission
Q - Tourist Commission
R - Department of Law
S - Department of Community Development
T - Commissioner of Police
U - Public Service Board
V - Department of the Chief Minister
W - Department of Education
X - Department of Treasury
Y - Fisheries Branch
Z - Fire Brigade
AA - Telecom

Darwin Electricity Supply

244 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Given that the first units of power to be generated by the new power station will not come on stream until 1986-7, what surplus capacity is available under the present system to cope with growing demand up to 1986-7?

2. What rate of growth in demand for power is assumed in his department's projections?

3. Has his department made provision for major energy intensive industries in its estimates for future power needs and, if so, what industries have been considered?

ANSWER

1. Capacity in excess of maximum demand will be as follows:

1	2	3	4	5	6
Year	Installed MW	Available MW	Firm MW	Max. Demand MW	Spare (4-5) MW
1982	181	142.5	119	92.2	26.8
1983	181	142.5	119	101.4	17.6
1984	181	142.5	119	111.6	7.4
1985	211	172.5	149	122.7	26.3
1986	211	172.5	149	135.0	14.0
1987	256	187.5	157.5	147.2	10.3

(Cabinet Decision 1585 - 5 March 1981 approved in principle the installation of aero derived gas turbines and the schedule shows two 15 MW units commissioned by 1985).

2. Rate of growth assumed is: 10% until 1987, 9% thereafter.

3. No provision has been made for major energy intensive industries. Timing and size of future coal-fired generating units is flexible and, in practice, lead times to establish energy intensive industries are greater than lead times for new generating plant.

Coal Supplies for Darwin Power Station

245 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What was the reaction of the Queensland Minister for Mines and Energy to his advice to him on our future requirements in terms of (a) type, (b) tonnage, and (c) price of coal?

2. Given the strong demand for coal, has he any assurance from the Queensland government that the Territory's future coal needs from that state will be secure?

3. Given that the characteristics of the coal selected for the power station will have a significant bearing on the engineering aspects of the plant, when does he expect a firm agreement to be struck between the Territory government and suppliers of the fuel?

ANSWER

1. It was not anticipated that the Queensland Minister for Mines and Energy would respond in terms of type, tonnage and price.

   The Queensland Minister for Mines and Energy has alerted his State Electricity Commissioner of intended discussions at officer level and the respective Electricity Commissions are already in contact.

2. Some 20 potential coal suppliers have been contacted throughout Queensland and New South Wales.

   It is unlikely that the Queensland government would be party to a coal supply contract. The question of assurance from the Queensland government does not arise.

3. Dependent upon economic assessment of options, a coal supply contract/s would be placed on date/s between mid-1982 and mid-1983.

Site Consultants for Darwin Power Station

246 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What private consultants have been retained to report to the Northern Territory government on the relative merits of the 4 proposed sites for Darwin's power station?
2. What is the estimated cost for the above consultants?
3. Were tenders called for the above contracts?
4. Does he intend to make available to the Assembly the findings from the consultants' investigations?

ANSWER

1. Merz & McLellan & Partners were commissioned to assess the relative merits of 4 possible sites for the coal-fired power station.
2. The estimated cost of this consultancy is $145,000.
3. Consultancy costs are fixed in accordance with ACEA (Association of Consulting Engineers Australia) terms and calling for tenders is inappropriate.

   Merz & McLellan & Partners have been involved in site assessment studies for a coal-fired power station since 1969. Some 13 coastal sites have been examined by M&M&P. For this reason, and in order to expedite this first major step towards a coal-fired power station, proposals from other consultants were not sought.
4. Whether or not the full report will be made available to the Assembly is a matter for consideration by Cabinet.

Bonaparte Gulf Natural Gas Reserves

247 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has any tentative agreement been struck between the Territory and Western Australian governments in relation to the exploitation of the natural gas reserves both onshore and offshore in the Bonaparte Gulf region?

ANSWER

Existing data preclude any reliable estimate of the gas reserves in the Bonaparte Gulf Basin. The Petrel field, in Northern Territory waters, may contain between 2.8 and 150 billion cubic metres of recoverable gas, though this needs proving. Further wells are required to clearly define reserves, the first of which will be drilled this year. Similar uncertainty exists as to gas reserves in the Tern field in Western Australian waters.

Development will require reserves at the upper end of the indicated range to be commercially viable, and will probably need to be associated with LNG exports.

Exploration for hydrocarbons in the onshore region of the Bonaparte Gulf is at an even earlier stage.

In view of the gross uncertainties as to available gas reserves, it would be quite premature to strike a tentative agreement with the Western Australian government in relation to eventual exploitation.

Hospitality Course for Darwin Community College

248 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is Darwin Community College planning to conduct a hospitality course similar to that which is being run by the CCCA at Gillen House, Alice Springs?

2. If not, why not; and, if so, when will the course commence and what is the expected maximum student intake?

ANSWER

No, with present demands for training it is economical to centralise training at the Gillen House location. Any increase in demand would necessitate a review of the total situation which could make demands for training in Darwin as well as Alice Springs.

Short courses (e.g., food and wine service) have been and will be conducted in conjunction with the Community College of Central Australia and the Industries Training Commission.

NT Population Growth Projections

250 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has the land development and housing policy branch of the Department of Lands and Housing calculated population projections for the Northern Territory for the years 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000?

2. If so, (a) how many different growth rates were applied, (b) what is the estimated rate of increase in housing stock to meet the demand for dwellings associated with these projections, (c) what proportion of the total dwelling stock will be required as rental stock to meet the housing demands associated with the population growth projections, (d) what vacancy rate has the department applied in its projected housing stock requirements, (e) what ratio of public housing to private housing is considered appropriate in relation to the growth projections, and (f) does the department have a regional breakdown of population growth projections and associated housing requirements for (i) Darwin, (ii) Palmerston, (iii) Nhulunbuy, (iv) Alice Springs, (v) Katherine, and (vi) Tennant Creek?

ANSWER

The Department of Lands does not calculate population projections for the Northern Territory.

The Department of Lands does have growth projections along with associated housing requirements, for Darwin (including Palmerston), Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek. This information is delineated in the following tables.

Table 1 indicates the growth rates that are being used by the Department of Lands for planning purposes. These rates and the associated projections of residential land needs are up-dated half-yearly for Darwin and Alice Springs, yearly for other centres. The implications of higher growth rates (+2 and +4) have also been investigated. Table 2 indicates the average rates of growth used for planning and the respective expected rate of increase in structured dwellings based on planned land turn-off for the period 1980-85. Tables 3A to 3D indicate the projected shifts in % in home owner-occupancy, NTHC, Commonwealth and private rentals of the structured dwelling stock over the period 1979-85. The land need projections assume an increasing vacancy ratio to reach 3.0% by 1985.

The Department of Lands examined housing needs in Nhulunbuy in August-September 1980. The ensuent housing need projections utilised a growth rate of 3.4% p.a. over the period 1979-86. These projections were provided to the NTHC. The NT Housing Commission is currently building 10 one-bedroom flats, 16 two-bedroom flats and 2 four-bedroom houses. The NTHC is planning to build on the order of 35 structured dwellings in Nhulunbuy in each of the next 3 years.

TABLE 1

RATES OF GROWTH IN % UTILIZED FOR PLANNING

Years	79 - 81	81 - 86	86 - 91	91 - 96	96 - 01
Centres					
Darwin	7	7	6	5	4
Alice Springs	6	5.5	4	3	2
Katherine	2.6	4.5	3	2	1.5
Tennant Creek	8.0	3.6	2	1.5	1.5

TABLE 2

1980-85 INCREASE IN STRUCTURED DWELLING STOCK TO MEET DEMAND FOR HOUSING

Centres	Average Rate of Growth	Expected Rate of Increase in Structured Dwellings
Darwin	7	9.8
Alice Springs	5.6	7.5
Katherine	4.2	8.7
Tennant Creek	4.6	10.3

TABLE 3A

DARWIN: Projected Shifts in % Ownership of Structured Dwelling Stock

Year	Owner/Occupancy	N.T.H.C.	Commonwealth	Private Rental
1979	26	31	15	28
1980	27	32	13	28
1981	30	29	9	32
1982	35	26	9	30
1983	40	23	10	27
1984	44	20	10	26
1985	46	18	9	27

TABLE 3B

ALICE SPRINGS: Projected Shifts in % Ownership of Structured Dwelling Stock

Year	Owner/Occupancy	N.T.H.C.	Commonwealth	Private Rental
1979	30	35	13	22
1980	32	33	11	24
1981	36	31	8	25
1982	39	26	8	27
1983	42	23	8	27
1984	45	20	7	28
1985	47	18	7	28

TABLE 3C

KATHERINE: Projected Shifts in % Ownership of Structured Dwelling Stock

Year	Owner/Occupancy	N.T.H.C.	Commonwealth	Private Rental
1979	25	42	12	21
1980	27	42	10	21
1981	28	43	8	21
1982	30	40	8	22
1983	36	34	7	23
1984	38	31	7	24
1985	40	28	7	25

TABLE 3D

TENNANT CREEK: Projected Shifts in % Ownership of Structured Dwelling Stock

Year	Owner/Occupancy	N.T.H.C.	Commonwealth	Private Rental
1979	22	47	7	24
1980	20	50	7	23
1981	18	54	6	22
1982	18	54	6	22
1983	18	54	6	22
1984	17	54	6	23
1985	17	54	6	23

Housing Statistics for NT

251 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What was the proportion of caravan dwellings of the total dwelling stock in the Northern Territory in (a) 1977, (b) 1978, (c) 1979, and (d) 1980?

2. What proportion of the total dwelling stock was rental stock in (a) 1977, (b) 1978, (c) 1979, and (d) 1980?

3. What was the ratio of public to private housing in the Territory in (a) 1977, (b) 1978, (c) 1979, and (d) 1980?

ANSWER

The following answers are based on data derived from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Urban Population Count of 4 July 1979. These are the only relevant statistics available and they relate only to selected areas, viz. the Greater Darwin Area, the Darwin Statistical Division, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy. Accordingly, answers to parts 1(a), (b), (d), 2(a), (b), (d) and 3(a), (b), (d) cannot be given. The answers provided are based on totals for the Greater Darwin Area, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy, plus the differentials between figures for the Darwin Statistical Division and the Greater Darwin Area.

1.(c) As at 4 July 1979, the total number of dwellings (including houses, flats, demountables, caravans, etc, but excluding hotels, motels, hostels, etc) in the above-mentioned areas was 21,937. Caravans totalled 1,742 or 7.9% of the total.

2.(c) As at 4 July 1979, the number of rental dwelling (including houses, flats, demountables, caravans, etc, but excluding hotels, motels, hostels, etc) in the above-mentioned areas was 12,687 which represented about 57.8% of the total stock of such dwellings. The number of rental houses and flats, only, was 12,183, or about 64.2% of all houses and flats. The percentages are approximate as some dwellings were recorded in the count as being occupied other than on an owner-purchaser or rental basis, while the basis of occupancy of some other dwellings was not stated.

3.(c) As at 4 July 1979, the ratio of government to non-government dwellings (including houses, flats, demountables, caravans, etc, but excluding hotels, motels, hostels, etc) in the above-mentioned areas was approximately 1.43 to 1. The ratio for houses and flats, only, was approximately 1.54 to 1. The ratios are approximate for the reasons given above.

Survey Branch - Consultants

252 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Which were the 6 consultant survey firms employed in the Survey Branch of the Department of Lands and Housing in the financial year 1979-80?

2. How much was paid to each firm for its services?

ANSWER

During 1979-80 the 6 survey consultants firms and the amounts paid for their services were as follows -

Name	Total Paid
1. James, James & Lea	$ 85,604
2. Gutteridge, Haskins & Davey	$ 96,753
3. Chrisp de Vries	$ 15,010
4. Qasco	$ 8,570
5. P.R. Coppin	$ 9,707
6. Brian Vaughan	$ 2,340
	$ 217,984

Leanyer and Karama Subdivisions

253 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Did the department have available to it, at the beginning of the 1980 calendar year, cost estimates for public sector development of the Leanyer and Karama subdivisions?

2. If so, what was the estimated cost that the department was able to offer residential blocks to the public?

3. What were the estimated costs of private sector development of the subdivisions of (a) Leanyer and (b) Karama at the beginning of 1980?

ANSWER

1. The department did not have accurate cost estimates at the beginning of 1980 for public sector development of Leanyer or Karama.

   The 1979-80 Budget Paper No. 5 will show that the government intended to construct headworks only to Leanyer and so an estimate for internal development of that subdivision was not considered necessary.

   In June 1979 the official estimate for full development by the public sector of the then proposed 1085 lots in Karama was $16,200,000. This figure was not up-dated again as the decision was then taken to develop Karama by private enterprise.

2. Under the system of land sales inherited from the Commonwealth the cost of developed land was rarely recouped by market sales. Based on prevailing prices, in June 1979 the estimated revenue from sale of Karama lots was approximately $12,000,000. It should be noted however, that land prices rose at 2 subsequent government auctions after this time.

3. There is no formal reporting of private sector development costs, either as estimates or on completion of works.

Department of Lands and Housing - Consultants

254 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What fees were paid to private consultants by the Department of Lands and Housing in the financial year 1979-80?

ANSWER

During 1979-80 fees paid to private consultants were -

Management Services Division	Nil
Survey & Mapping Division	$ 350,749
Planning & Land Development Division	$ 109,402
	$ 460,151

Management Services Division - Budget Item

255 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he identify items upon which funds were expended under the 'Other Services Section' of the Management Services Division of the department in the financial year 1979-80?

ANSWER

Under the 'Other Services Section' of the Management Services Division of the department, in the financial year 1979-80 the sum of $101,300 was expended. This sum was a one-off reimbursement payment to the Northern Territory Housing Commission who had originally paid Australian National Railways for improvements on residential lots which have since been resumed by the Department of Lands.

Details of lots affected and amounts paid are as follows -

Part Lot	$
4882	22,600
4883	8,800
58	7,400
59	---
4981	15,800
4982	13,900
4985	15,500
4986	17,300
	$ 101,300

Housing in NT

256 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What is the present stock of dwellings in the Northern Territory by urban centre?

2. What is the per annum increase in dwelling stock required to meet demand projections in each centre?

ANSWER

1. The latest available statistics of dwelling stocks in the Northern Territory, by urban centres, are presented in the following table:

Stocks of Dwellings (a): Selected Areas: Northern Territory

	1979 (b)				1981 (c) (d)			
	Houses	Flats	Other (e)	Total	Houses	Flats	Other (e)	Total
Greater Darwin Area	10,485	3,562	1,930	15,977	11,948	4,356	n.a.	n.a.
Darwin Statistical Division	11,420	3,580	2,433	17,433	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Alice Springs	3,000	1,004	236	4,240	3,387	1,094	n.a.	n.a.
Katherine	608	148	217	973	646	192	n.a.	n.a.
Tennant Creek	509	139	150	798	605	192	n.a.	n.a.
Nhulunbuy	720	178	77	975	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Includes government and non-government dwellings but excludes hotels, motels, institutions, etc.
(b) As at 4 July.
(c) As at 30 June.
(d) Estimates only.
(e) Includes demountables, caravans, etc, n.a., not available.

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Darwin, for 1979; Department of Lands, Darwin, for 1981 estimates.

2. The Indicative Planning Council for the Housing Industry in its 1981 report estimated medium-term housing demand in the Territory, on average for the triennium 1981-2, in the range of 2,000 to 2,400 dwelling units.

However, the Council in suggesting the above-mentioned estimates of demand noted that its method of applying its household formation and demand model to the Territory may be deficient for several reasons, including:

- Difficulties in satisfactorily estimating functions for projecting household headship rates because of the small population base and the heavy involvement of the government in providing housing and housing finance, which can have a considerable effect on household formation.
- The backlog in demand for structured dwellings and the uncertain extent of the movement of households from non-structured and mobile dwellings to structured dwellings during the triennium.

Department of Lands and Housing - Staffing of Various Branches

257 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What staff are based in Darwin in (a) Management Services Division, (b) Survey and Mapping Division, (c) Building Authority Branch, (d) Planning Branch, (e) Land Development and Housing Policy Branch, and (f) Land Administration Branch of his department?

ANSWER

Currently, the number of Department of Lands staff based in Darwin is -

(a) Management Services Division - 51; (b) Survey & Mapping Division - 121;
(c) Buildings Authority Branch - 22; (d) Planning Branch - 33;
(e) Land Development Branch - 25; (f) Land Administration Branch - 35.

Department of Lands and Housing - Termination of Employment

258 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What were the reasons for termination of employment of 2 permanent employees within his department during 1979-80?

ANSWER

The 2 permanent employees of the Department of Lands were terminated following a continuous period of unexplained and unauthorised absence from duty.

Action was taken under section 51 of the Public Service Act and both employees were duly deemed to have resigned.

Department of Lands and Housing - Costs

259 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

During the financial year 1979-80 -

(a) what was the cost of (i) telephones and telexes, and (ii) travel in (A) Survey and Mapping Division, (B) Planning and Land Development Division, and (C) Management Services Division; and

(b) what were the major items of capital expenditure in (i) Survey and Mapping Division, and (ii) Management Services Division?

ANSWER

(A)(i) During 1979-80 there was no break-down of telephone charges to the 3 individual divisions. All accounts were paid from within the Management Services allocation. As the Department of Transport and Works pays all accounts associated with the NT government switchboard, the only accounts paid by this department are for official telephones and direct lines. The total amount expended during 1979-80 for telephones was $7,094.

As with telephones, all accounts for telexes were paid from within the Management Services Division allocation. The cost of this service during 1979-80 was $3,218.

(ii) The cost of travel for the department is dissected in the following manner, all recreation leave is paid for by the Management Services Division while all duty travel is paid for by the individual divisions. A break-down of costs is as follows -

Recreation Leave Travel	
Management Services Division	$ 126,612
Duty Travel	
Survey & Mapping Division	$ 9,266
Planning & Land Development Division	$ 24,763
Management Services Division	$ 8,607
	$ 42,636

(B) The major items of capital equipment ($1,000 and over) purchased during 1979-80 were -

(i) Survey & Mapping Division, Nil; and

(ii) Management Services Division, 1 vehicle $9,331.

Leanyer and Karama Subdivisions

260 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What is the cost of headworks undertaken by the Northern Territory government in, (a) Leanyer, and (b) Karama subdivisions?

2. What is the projected total cost of development of, (a) Leanyer, and (b) Karama subdivisions?

956.829—34

ANSWER

1. (a) $437,000 - Leanyer; (b) $4,415,000 - Karama.

2. In June 1979 the government estimated that the cost of developing 1,085 lots in Karama would be $16,200,000. No estimate was formulated for full development of Leanyer as the government proposed to provide headworks only to that subdivision.

   There is no formal reporting of private sector development costs either as estimates or on completion of works and so the government cannot accurately predict or calculate the final total cost of development for either Karama or Leanyer.

Leanyer and Karama Subdivisions

261 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In regard to the Leanyer and Karama subdivisions, (a) who are the 5 developers involved in the subdivisions, (b) how many of the anticipated 2,000 single residential stocks will be turned off by each developer, (c) what proportion of (i) Leanyer, and (ii) Karama will be allocated for medium density development, and (d) what proportion of the anticipated residential stocks have been or will be taken up by the Housing Commission?

ANSWER

(a) Developers	(b) Number of lots
1. Syd Hatch Pty Ltd (L1)	259
2. Hooker Rex Estates Pty Ltd (L2 L4)	706
3. Kern Land Pty Ltd (L3)	229
4. Henry & Walker Limited (K1 K4)	650
5. Interconstruction Enterprises Pty Ltd (K2 K3)	423

(c) (i) 12.3%
(ii) 11.7%

(d) 22.1%

Tangentyere Council - Application for Leases

263 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the applications for the following Special Purposes Leases for transient and permanent residents in Alice Springs, lodged by the Tangentyere Council and other incorporated bodies before the minister's statement of 22 May, be approved:

(a) application for Eastside lease lodged by the Ilkalantja-Tuwatja Association;

(b) application for an area along Larapinta Drive lodged by the Ilwemp-Alkerte Association;

(c) application for an area north from the Indapa lease (south of the Gap) lodged by Tangentyere Council on behalf of the Joseph Mantjakura group;

(d) application for an area near Bazzo's farm north of Alice Springs lodged by Tangentyere Council for the use of transient Alyawarra people;

(e) application for land in valley north of Larapinta Drive lodged by Tangentyere Council for the use of transient Western Aranda people; and

(f) application for extensions to (i) Larapinta Valley lease, and (ii) Morris Soak lease?

ANSWER

The government has considered the issue of Special Purposes Leases, including the applications referred to, and has decided to reject them until adequate and rational use is made by Aboriginals of existing land grants.

To this end the Director, Southern Division, of the Department of Lands, will be contacting the Tangentyere Council to discuss the need for future applications for land in Alice Springs.

NZ Beef on Sale in Darwin

264 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Has his attention been drawn to the fact that William Angliss and Co. in Darwin has prime NZ rump steak on sale at $3.95 per kilogram?
2. If so, is this dumping of foreign beef to continue with NT government approval?

ANSWER

1. I am aware that New Zealand beef and veal is imported into Australia in small quantities; and that this meat finds its way from the southern states into the Northern Territory from time to time.
2. The only time New Zealand meat is on sale in Australia is when the market rules of supply and demand make New Zealand meat cheaper than Australian.

Yulara Tourist Village

267 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the value of the government's investment to date in Yulara tourist development?

ANSWER

To date the Northern Territory government has committed $12.031m to the Yulara tourist development. Of this, the Department of Transport and Works has committed $7.144m and the Northern Territory Electricity Commission has committed $4.887m.

Department of Lands and Housing - Renting of Office Space

275 Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by your department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER

The Department of Transport and Works rents all Northern Territory government and warehouse accommodation.

The Department of Lands however occupied the following rented premises as at 31 May 1981:

1. Floors 8 and 9, as well as shops 10, 12, 13 and 14 of the Palmerston Building;

2. Moonta House;

3. the second floor of the NML Building; and

3. a depot at Winnellie.

Department of Primary Production and Tourist Commission - Renting of Office Space

276 Mr LEO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by your department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER

1. (a) $1,039.61 per week;

   (b) (i) Northern Territory Housing Commission;
   (ii) P.O. Box 884, Darwin;

   (c) Lot 3947, Harry Chan Drive, Darwin;

   (d) 1 November 1978 to 31 October 1983.

2. (a) $875 per week;

   (b) (i) Liveris Nominees;
   (ii) P.O. Box 736, Darwin;

   (c) Lot 1654, Corner Day and Harvey Streets, Darwin;

   (d) 1 May 1979 to 30 April 1982.

3. (a) $857.44 per week;

   (b) (i) Central Realty
   (ii) P.O. Box 2455, Alice Springs;

   (c) Lot 444, Stuart Highway, Alice Springs;

   (d) 1 September 1979 to 31 August 1984.

4. (a) $1,190.76 per week;

   (b) (i) Randazzo Holdings;
   (ii) P.O. Box 253, Darwin;

   (c) Radazzo Building, Katherine Terrace, Katherine;

   (d) 1 June 1980 to 31 May 1990.

Guidelines for Funding Cultural Activities

279 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Does the NT government have a policy on the arts which guides it in the allocation of money for artistic and cultural activities?

(b) If so, will he outline that policy or table a copy of it in the Assembly?

ANSWER

Distribution of funds for arts and cultural activities is not subject to rigid guidelines.

Financial assistance is made available to community groups as a response by government to the expressed needs of the community and to assist organisations to plan and conduct activities which meet those needs.

To ensure that the initiative and the responsibility for programming remains within the community, government must maintain a flexible policy.

Unregistered Vehicles on Pastoral Leases

280 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Are bullcatchers and other people who drive unregistered vehicles on pastoral properties permitted to drive on or to cross public roads in such vehicles?

ANSWER

No. It is an offence against the Motor Vehicles Act to drive an unregistered and or uninsured vehicle on public roads.

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Techniques

281 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will his department demonstrate tuberculosis and brucellosis eradication techniques on Crown land and Aboriginal land in the Top End to evaluate the cost and practicability of such techniques?

ANSWER

The north-western third of the Northern Territory, including the Top End, is 'provisionally free' of brucellosis. Residual infection occurs on only 2 properties in the Top End and is expected to be eradicated in the near future.

The campaign to eradicate tuberculosis is operating on private properties and on Aboriginal lands. Currently the program involves fencing, mustering and testing.

As proposed in a plan recently submitted for approval, a later phase of the program will include partial or total destocking. In that phase, Crown lands will also be included.

It is not proposed to fence, muster and test on Crown lands, except in Kakadu National Park. There, plans for the enclosure, mustering and testing of all buffaloes in the park are currently being finalised. A financial study of this buffalo operation has recently been concluded.

If a viewing of tuberculosis eradication technique on an Aboriginal reserve is required, this could be arranged, if adequate notice can be given.

'A Plan for Tuberculosis Eradication from a Property in the Katherine Area' has been published by my department as 'Technical Bulletin No. 37'.

Coffee Bush

282 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to a circular entitled "The Tree' circulated by Darwin environmentalist George Brown?
2. Does Leucaena leucacephala (coffee bush) convert carbon dioxide to carbohydrates as do other trees?
3. If so, why is it being destroyed in Darwin?
4. Is it proposed to establish a vast monoculture of coffee bush on the source of our 2 major rivers, the Daly and the Roper?
5. If so, (a) is the venture intended to satisfy an energy requirement of

a foreign country, and (b) what effect would it have on native plant and animal forms?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. Leucaena leucocephala is considered as a pest on part of the Darwin foreshore because of its thick and prolific nature, and because it is gradually replacing other vegetation forms.

4. Unibeef Australia Pty Ltd has proposals to establish a large plantation of Leucaena leucocephala of the El Salvador variety on Mataranka Station. This station does cover the headwaters of both the Daly and Roper rivers.

   The El Salvador variety of Leucaena has different characteristics from the so-called coffee bush variety in that it grows in a tree form.

   Unibeef is conducting limited trials and the Conservation Commission has liaised with this company and has been monitoring the trials since their inception. Approval for large scale plantings will not be given until Unibeef has submitted an Environmental Impact Statement for examination by government.

5. (a) Not known but export of energy in any form is subject to Commonwealth government policy.

   (b) This will be a major subject of the Environmental Impact Statement to be prepared by the company. The Department of Primary Production has had trials of Leucaena on the Douglas Daly Experimental Station since 1972 and to date no deleterious effects have been observed.

Banning of Export of Barramundi

283 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has he considered banning the export of barramundi from the Territory as a means of eliminating over-fishing of the species?

ANSWER

Yes.

Public Service Housing Commission Dwellings

285 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In regard to NT Public Service Housing Commission dwellings, (a) how many were sold, (b) how many applications were received, and (c) what was the average sale price in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Katherine, (iv) Tennnant Creek, and (v) Pine Creek during the financial years (A) 1979-80, and (B) 1980-81?

ANSWER

(A) 1979 - 1980

(a) Number Sold

(i)	Darwin	104
(ii)	Alice Springs	14
(iii)	Katherine	1
(iv)	Tennant Creek	nil
(v)	Pine Creek	nil

(B) 1980 - 1981

(a) Number Sold

(i)	Darwin	364
(ii)	Alice Springs	39
(iii)	Katherine	5
(iv)	Tennant Creek	nil
(v)	Pine Creek	nil

(b) Number Applications Received		(b) Number Applications Received	
(i) Darwin	219	(i) Darwin	486
(ii) Alice Springs	27	(ii) Alice Springs	44
(iii) Katherine	8	(iii) Katherine	14
(iv) Tennant Creek	nil	(iv) Tennant Creek	nil
(v) Pine Creek	nil	(v) Pine Creek	nil
(c) Average Sale Price		(d) Average Sale Price	
(i) Darwin	$44,919	(i) Darwin	$53,591
(ii) Alice Springs	$39,370	(ii) Alice Springs	$45,236
(iii) Katherine	$30,600	(iii) Katherine	$40,900
(iv) Tennant Creek	--	(iv) Tennant Creek	--
(v) Pine Creek	--	(iv) Pine Creek	--

Public Housing in NT - Capital Expenditure

287 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What was the capital expenditure on general public housing in the financial year 1979-80?

2. What was the estimate of capital expenditure on general public housing for the financial year 1980-81?

ANSWER

1. $17.973 million.

2. $18.842 million.

Housing Commission - Rental Rebate Assistance

290 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

How many Housing Commission tenants were in receipt of rental rebate assistance in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Katherine, and (iv) Tennant Creek?

ANSWER

	(a) 1979 - 1980	(b) 1980 - 1981
(i) Darwin	702	773
(ii) Alice Springs	212	197
(iii) Katherine	75	52
(iv) Tennant Creek	30	35
The above figures are as at 30 June. The total amount expended on rental rebates throughout the year is:	$ 920,027	$ 1,237,962

Public Housing in NT - Sales

291 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many general public houses were sold by the Housing Commission in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Katherine, (iv) Tennant Creek, (v) Pine Creek, (vi) Adelaide River, and (vii) Elliott?

2. What was the average sale price for dwellings sold in each centre during the same periods?

3. How many applications to purchase were received during the same periods?

ANSWER

	(a) 1979 - 1980		(b) 1980 - 1981	
1.	Number Sold		Number Sold	
(i)	Darwin	113	Darwin	105
(ii)	Alice Springs	71	Alice Springs	36
(iii)	Katherine	11	Katherine	5
(iv)	Tennant Creek	7	Tennant Creek	2
(v)	Pine Creek	nil	Pine Creek	nil
(vi)	Adelaide River	nil	Adelaide River	nil
(vii)	Elliott	nil	Elliott	nil
2.	Average Sale Price		Average Sale Price	
(i)	Darwin	$42,998	Darwin	$48,152
(ii)	Alice Springs	$33,190	Alice Springs	$40,799
(iii)	Katherine	$32,644	Katherine	$34,425
(iv)	Tennant Creek	$29,675	Tennant Creek	$35,300
(v)	Pine Creek	--	Pine Creek	--
(vi)	Adelaide River	--	Adelaide River	--
(vii)	Elliott	--	Elliott	--
3.	Number Applications		Number Applications	
(i)	Darwin	189	Darwin	93
(ii)	Alice Springs	89	Alice Springs	27
(iii)	Katherine	12	Katherine	6
(iv)	Tennant Creek	9	Tennant Creek	1
(v)	Pine Creek	nil	Pine Creek	nil
(vi)	Adelaide River	nil	Adelaide River	nil
(vii)	Elliott	1	Elliott	nil

Housing Commission Annual Report

292 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the thirteenth Annual Report of the Northern Territory Housing Commission be tabled in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act?

ANSWER

It will not be so tabled.

Contract Crop Production

303 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Does he intend to encourage growing of crops to overcome farmer inefficiency of which he has spoken so often?

ANSWER

The reference by the honourable member to farmer inefficiency is both gratuitous and superfluous and in any case it is not clear how a system of contracts would overcome the problems implied in the question.

However, I would say that it is correct that my department is presently examining ways and means of providing better security for Top End farmers during the development period of a cropping industry which we trust will be of real economic advantage to the Territory as a whole.

Export of Live Cattle to South-east Asia

304 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has the government, through its instrumentalities such as TDC (finance),

ADMA (grain growing) and the Department of Primary Production (responsible for the cattle and buffalo industry), considered a development plan for the cattle and buffalo industries to supply available markets in South-east Asia with the young breeder buffalo and cattle they require, and which are presently being supplied by other, more distant states?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Production in consultation with the Department of Lands and the Northern Territory Development Corporation is developing a program on behalf of the NT government for a controlled, domesticated, disease free, buffalo industry to service markets in Australia and overseas. It will be noted that buffalo are not available from other states as implied in the question.

Overtures were made to industry to provide locally bred Brahman cross Friesian dairy cattle for South-east Asia. Without guaranteed markets and prices the industry showed little interest.

Breeder cattle of the Brahman type are available in the NT but because of tuberculosis infection in most Top End herds it is less costly and time consuming for South-east Asian countries to purchase breeder cattle from TB-free herds in Queensland.

Discussions have been held between the Department of Primary Production and the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority to run disease free cattle and or buffalo in conjunction with the crop projects on ADMA project farms. These cattle and or buffalo would be ideal for South-east Asian breeder markets.

Fisheries Enforcement Unit

305 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

(a) What was the cost of the department's fisheries enforcement operations in the financial years 1979-80 and 1980-81?

(b) What capital equipment is owned by the enforcement unit?

(c) What was the cost of leasing equipment used by the fisheries enforcement unit in the financial years 1979-80 and 1980-81?

(d) What action has been initiated by the department to overcome the inadequacies in patrolling the prawn fisheries at Groote Eylandt referred to in the department's annual report for the financial year 1979-80?

ANSWER

Fisheries enforcement is now a function of the Northern Territory Police.

(a) The cost of the department's fisheries enforcement operations in the financial year 1979-80 -

Capital items	$ 472,000
Administrative expenses	$ 175,000
Salaries	$ 282,000
TOTAL	$ 929,000

The cost of operations in the financial year 1980-81 -

Capital items	$ 41,327
Administrative expenses	$ 214,912
Salary - permanent staff	$ 287,659
Salary - boarding party	$ 35,757
Plus indirect costs	$ 28,838
TOTAL	$ 608,493

(b) Capital equipment held by the Marine and Fisheries Unit is as follows -

fishing patrol vessel 'Salloo', fishing patrol vessel 'Pobassoo', police patrol vessel 'Norlaw', 5 Toyota 4 x 4 utilities, and 1 Holden utility.

(c) Fisheries enforcement did not lease any equipment in the financial years 1979-80 and 1980-81.

(d) The 18.48 metre fisheries patrol vessel 'Salloo' was based at Nhulunbuy on 4 November 1980. It has carried out patrols of the western side of the Gulf of Carpentaria. This work has included extensive surveys of the trawler operations in the Groote Eylandt area.

Weed Control

306 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What action is the government undertaking to combat the problems of weed infestation in the Territory?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Production is undertaking control operations on Mimosa pigra, Parkinsonia, Noogoora burr, Water hyacinth, Salvinia, Caltrop and Khaki weed in the Darwin district; on Parkinsonia, Noogoora burr, Devil's claw and Parthenium in the Katherine district; on Noogoora burr, Bathurst burr, Patterson's curse, Saffron thistle and Onion weed in the Alice Springs district.

It is also conducting research projects on Mimosa pigra, Jatropha gossypifolia, Parkinsonia aculeata, and Hyptis suaveolens.

The department's extension activities cover weed advisory services to primary producers, home gardeners and other government authorities; presentation of show exhibits and preparation of information for publication.

Poultry Farms for Aboriginal Communities

308 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

(a) What government involvement was there in the establishment of a poultry farm on Bathurst Island?

(b) Are there plans to establish poultry farms at other Aboriginal community centres to meet local demands for eggs?

ANSWER

(a) The initiative for the establishment of the poultry farm on Bathurst Island came from the Nguiu Community on the island. The community's own funds were used for the project and construction of the layer shed was commenced in early 1979. During the construction phase, a good deal of advice was given to the community by Darwin's 2 large egg producers.

Officers of my department have maintained contact and provided technical advice to the community since the project began.

Currently, there are 800 laying hens in production and these provide sufficient eggs for the Tiwi people on Bathurst Island and at Snake Bay and Garden Point. The community intends to maintain this level of production and work towards further improving an already economically viable operation. To this end, my officers will continue to assist with technical advice.

The Nguiu Community has no intention to further expand or sell eggs elsewhere.

(b) The Daly River Community currently has plans to commence a poultry project with similar objectives to the one on Bathurst Island. That is, to provide economically fresh eggs as well as additional employment for the people.

My Department of Primary Production has already been contacted for advice on this project.

Mimosa and Hyptis - CSIRO Studies into Biological Control

311 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

(a) What is the NT government's proposed financial commitment to the CSIRO Division of Entomolgy investigation into biological control of Mimosa pigra and Hyptis suaveolens?

(b) What is the anticipated total cost of the investigation?

(c) What is the proposed distribution of funds between Australia and Brazil?

ANSWER

(a) $47,000, 1981-82 to 1982-83.

(b) $158,500.

(c) Australia $49,000 (30.9%), Brazil $109,500 (65.1%).

Australian Quarantine Service - Inspection of Vegetables

312 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

In the financial year 1979-80 -

(a) what were the sources of the 14 consignments of vegetables inspected by the Australian Quarantine Service prior to overseas export; and

(b) what were the sources of the 9 consignments of vegetables inspected by the Australian Quarantine Service before interstate export?

ANSWER

I should preface the answer to the question by pointing out that page 20 of the 1979-80 Annual Report of the Department of Primary Production under the heading 'Quarantine' is misleading.

The last sentence of this reads -

'Overseas export inspections were carried out on 14 consignments of vegetable (sic), and on 9 consignments for interstate export'.

(a) Only 4 of the 14 consignments of 'plant material' exported overseas referred to, involved commercial quantities of vegetables.

These were:

1. 55 cases of lettuce originating from R.G. Hersey of Katherine exported to Singapore;
2. 23 kg of beans, same source and destination;
3. 15 cases of celery originating from L. Sumich & Sons, Myalup Gardens, WA, to Singapore; and
4. 50 cases of tomatoes originating from Beccaria Bros, Dolandella, QLD, to Singapore.

The remaining 10 consignments comprised various plants and seeds from scientific organisations and the general public addressed to assorted

overseas destinations.

(b) No commercial quantities of vegetables were included in the 9 consignments of 'plant material' addressed interstate.

Tourist Commission Offices - Staff Establishment

315 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What was the (A) approved staff establishment, and (B) the number of limited tenure employees as at 30 June 1981 in the following Tourist Commission offices -

(a) Head Offices - (i) Alice Springs, and (ii) Darwin?

(b) Bureau Offices - (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Adelaide, (iv) Melbourne, (v) Sydney, (vi) Brisbane?

ANSWER

Approved Establishment		Limited Tenure Employees	
Head Office	19	Alice Springs	1
Darwin Regional Office	4	Adelaide	2
Darwin Bureau	5	Melbourne	1
Alice Springs	5	Sydney	2
Adelaide	6	Brisbane	1
Melbourne	6	Head Office	3
Sydney	5	Darwin Regional Office	1
Brisbane	3	Darwin	1
TOTAL	53	TOTAL	12

Tourist Commission Sales 1980-81

317 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. What was the value of Tourist Commission Bureau sales for the period July-December 1980 in (a) Darwin, (b) Alice Springs, (c) Adelaide, (d) Melbourne, (e) Sydney, and (f) Brisbane?

2. What was the value of Tourist Commission Bureau sales for the period January-June 1981 in (a) Darwin, (b) Alice Springs, (c) Adelaide, (d) Melbourne, (e) Sydney, and (f) Brisbane?

ANSWER

	Tourist Bureau Sales	
	July - December 1980	January - June 1981
Darwin	$ 375,788	$ 399,978
Alice Springs	$ 187,116	$ 176,800
Adelaide	$ 595,347	$ 791,810
Melbourne	$ 642,361	$ 589,578
Sydney	$ 360,346	$ 412,860
Brisbane	$ 159,175	$ 283,896
	$ 2,320,133	$ 2,654,922

Beef - Restricted Export Licences

330 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has he considered the issue of restricted export licences as a means of exploiting South-east Asian markets for beef?

ANSWER

Yes.

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service *383
Aboriginal communities -
  Community Health Centres 326
  essential services 407
  fire control services 351
  health insurance 315
  medical fees 328
  poultry farms 466
  special purposes leases 322
Aboriginal Community Worker Training Unit 437
Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority 372, *382
Aborigines -
  electoral roll 432
  employment as rangers 434
  imprisonment rate *396
  mining royalties *383
Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority 329, 330, 344
Air fares -
  increase 318
  NT public servants 370
Airport facilities, Alice Springs and Darwin 335
Alcohol abuse in NT 362
Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit *383
Aldermen, fees and allowances 319
Alice Springs -
  Bath Street Women's Centre 353
  Child Health Unit 338
  effects of gambling 432
  FM radio 442
  funding of roadworks *394
  High School, vandalism 441
  horticulture 331
  Hospital 350, 376
  magistrates 365
  prison farm 373
  railway crossing 360
  recreation lake 332
  solar pond project 376
  Stott Terrace, acquisitions 320
  Stott Terrace-Undoolya Road 372
  Stuart Highway, upgrading 358, 378
  Todd River, responsibility for 379
  Women's Centre 334, 344, *385
Arltunga gold field 347
Arnhem Highway, repairs 328
Attorney-General's Department, renting of office space *388
Auditor-General's Report 1979-80 435
Australian Fishing Zone, observer program *393
Australian Quarantine Service, inspection of vegetables 467
Ayers Rock-Alice Springs, air fares 318
Bagot Road flyover 374
Bali, Australian government representative 445
Barramundi, banning of export 462
Batchelor Airstrip 358
Beef exports to South-east Asia *387
Beef Industry Consultative Committee *395
Beef industry, effect of rumours 356
Beef prices *394, *396
Beef, restricted import licences 468
Beef sales, Woolworths and Coles *394

Berrimah -
  Prison 339, 436
  water supply 349
Bonaparte Gulf, gas reserves 450
Brucellosis and tuberculosis, eradication campaign 331, 444
Buffalo, control of 346, *397
Bushfires Regulations *395
Cape Don Lighthouse 378
Car parking strategy, Darwin 317
Carpentaria College site 343
Casuarina Hospital -
  staffing 330
  treatment of burns 374
Cattle, mustering on national parks and reserves *384
Chicken feeding trials 324
Chief Minister's Department, renting of office space *388
Child-minding centre, environmental impact study 359, 370
Children's Week 369
Chronically-ill, health insurance 363
Coal and lignite resources *392
Cobourg Peninsula, anchorages 333
Coffee bush 334, 461
Collia Tin Mine *380
Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Service 343, 344
Community Health Centres -
  charges 326
  medical practitioners *383
Conservation Commission, free trees 362
Crop production, encouragement 464
Cultural activities, guidelines for funding 460
Daly Street basketball court 353
Darwin air terminal, access 359
Darwin-Ambon Yacht Race 316
Darwin Community College -
  courses for seamen 375
  degree course 339
  hospitality course 450
  music course 338
Darwin, funding of roadworks *394
Darwin Hospital, pathology laboratory *385
Darwin, local government boundaries 373
Darwin power-station -
  coal supplies 449
  sites 446, 450
Darwin Star, allegations 315
Darwin Trader 354
Debtors in NT prisons 363
Definition of 'sittings' 345
Department of Community Development -
  grants-in-aid 399
  renting of office space *389
Department of Education -
  dollar-for-dollar subsidy 329
  renting of office space *390
Department of Health -
  advertisements for debt collectors 350
  employment of chiropractors 372
  internal reviews *397
  renting of office space *389
  staff training 327, 329
  treatment of patients in southern hospitals 354, 360

Department of Lands and Housing -
consultants 454
costs 457
renting of office space 459
staffing 456
termination of employment 456
Department of Mines and Energy -
Construction Safety Branch *392
industrial safety 319, 321
inspection of machinery *392
renting of office space *389
Department of Primary Production, renting of office space 460
Department of Transport and Works -
Auditor-General's Report *386
renting of office space *390
use of private organisation for recruitment *388
Disabled persons, legislation for *396
Doctor's Gully, lease 375
Donkey Camp project, Katherine 326, 328, 329, 331, 356, 358, 360, *397
Douglas-Daly area, farms 319, 345
East West Airlines *381, *382
Education Act, regulations 334
Electricity supply, Darwin 448
Elizabeth River Dairy 361
Energy audits of government accommodation 377
Ethnic schools, grants *396
Eva Valley and St Vidgeon Stations *397
Export of live cattle to South-east Asia 464
Fannie Bay golf course 377
Fenton, Mr F. *394
Fisheries Division program 368
Fisheries Enforcement Unit 465
Fruit and vegetable crops, commercial production 352
Fuel tankers on city roads 360
Generators, Elliott and Newcastle Waters 427
Georgina River, bridge *387
Gold refining process, Tennant Creek 340
Government Printing Office, apprenticeship scheme 356
Grants-in-aid -
Department of Community Development 399
guidelines *385, 438
sporting bodies *394
Harts Range, gem survey *391
Henbury Avenue Special School 321
Henry and Walker Pty Ltd, shares 317
Horsemeat sold as beef 351
Horticultural convention 364
Horticultural project, Alice Springs 331
Hospital advisory boards 430
Hospital patients, security of belongings *386
Housing Commission -
annual report 464
cost of organisation review *391
rental rebate assistance 463
rents 358
sales to public servants 462
Housing statistics for NT 453, 455
Humpty Doo -
High School 366
Primary School 337, 343

Industries Training Commission *382
Jabiru -
  bylaws 342, *397
  retail trading 330
  teachers' accommodation 333
  traffic signs 375
Jindalee, aircraft problems 378
Kakadu National Park 327
Katherine -
  agricultural lease valuations *396
  Community Welfare Office *380
  funding of roadworks *393
  Gorge, dam 338
  government-funded workshop *395
  Health Centre 344, *398
  High School, cleaning tender 407
  land auctions *396
  Meatworks 324, 341
  NTEC employees strike 319, 370
  Racecourse Reserve *396
  railway station 377
  Rural Education Centre 335, 368, 428
  Terrace, maintenance of pavements *395
  water supply *380
Koerner, Richard *381
Lake Nash, health clinic *387
Lake Phillipson, coal deposit 446
Leanyer and Karama Subdivisions *388, 454, 457, 458
Leanyer Primary School 378
Lease applications *388
Local government, maintenance of private land 355
Lot 282 Kemp Street Alice Springs 365
Lottery and gaming legislation 327
MacDonnell Ranges National Park 446
McArthur River mining, feasibility study *392
McMinns Lagoon 332
Malak, bus service 332
Management Services Division -
  budget item 455
  staff *393
Marina proposals 329
Meneling Abattoir 358
Mental Health Act, report 327
Metallurgical Research Centre *392
Midwifery courses in NT hospitals 351
Mines Services Branch, expenditure on roads 1979-80 *391
Ministers, travelling allowance and travel 429
Mudginberri and Munmarlary Stations, ownership 317
Nabalco, royalty payments 440
Nabarlek Mine, spillage 336, 354, 355, 365, 367, 370, *397
Napperby Station -
  health clinic 348
  sublease *385
New Zealand beef, on sale in Darwin 459
Nhulunbuy -
  Community Health Centre 361
  Community Library 364
  housing needs 321, 322
  sale of Housing Commission homes 352

Noble's Nob Mine *392
Northern Airlines -
  bans *382
  replacement by TAA 426
Northern Meat Exporters -
  interest rate on loan *383
  special assistance loan 427
Northern Territory Air Charter 320
Northern Territory Development Corporation -
  loans 428
  motel projects 436
Northern Territory Port Authority, tug 320
Northern Territory Public Service, disabled employees 431
Northern Territory stations, failures *396
Northern Territory Teaching Service 333
Northmeat Farm, sorghum production *395
Northumberland Insurance Company 371
Noxious weeds, chemical control 354
NTEC -
  debtors 374
  linesmen, training 342
Nutrition research, cattle and buffalo *395
Oil field lease, Central Australia 347
Oil industry, use of modern technology 361
Old Naval Headquarters 352
Ornamental nursery industry *392
Packaged milk, expiry date 438
Palmerston -
  contracts 315
  fault lines 350
Palm Leaf Beetle 329, 360, 375, *392
Palm Valley, gas 337
Pastoral leases -
  Elsey and Hodgson Downs *380
  unregistered vehicles 461
Pastoral properties, under-age employment 378
Plenty River Mine *391
Police Association, submission on public drunkenness 341
Population growth projections for NT 451
Pound for large animals 321
Power supply to remote communities 339
Prawn fishery *393
Primary schools -
  specialist teachers 323
  student-staff ratio 337
Public housing in NT *390, *391, 463
Pularumpi Council, reorganisation of adult education 348
Radiation safety training 445
Rape in southern region of NT *384
Restricted Hansard, distribution 346
Rice production in NT 349
Rum Jungle, rehabilitation 324, *397, 425
Sadadeen High School, link courses with CACC 426
Sadadeen Primary School 335
Sales Tax Rebate Scheme 326, *387
Sand and gravel mining, rural area 353
School buses, tenders *381
School crossings 346
Seamen, education facilities 445

Security firm employees, firearms 434
Seed production in NT *393
Shops, trading hours 322
Solar appliances, tax concessions 342
Sole Brothers Circus 359
Student assistance in NT *383
Sunday trading 373, 374
Supervising Scientist's report on ponds at Nabarlek 356
Survey Branch, consultants 454
TAA, bid for Connair *381
Tamarind Centre, refugees 430
Tamani Desert Road *387
Tangentyere Council, application for leases 458
Taxes in NT 364
Tennant Creek -
  funding of roadworks *393
  motel projects 436
  remuneration for mayor 436
  Town Plan 353, 368
Todd River -
  crossing 341, *386
  maintenance 335
Tourist Commission -
  office establishments 468
  renting of office space 460
  road show 365
  sales 468
Tradesmen for remote areas *380
Transecutive pilots 426
Transport ministers meeting 343
Treasury and Department of Industrial Development, renting of office space *389
Tuberculosis, incidence in 1979-80 *387
Uranium mine sites, rehabilitation 425
Veterinarian assistance to South-east Asia 340
Warrego Mine, redundancies 330
Water Hyacinth 333
Weed control 354, 466, 467
Winton, sealing of road 362
Women's Centres, funding 431
Yipirinya School 362
Youth organisations, subsidy 361
Youth Sport and Recreation Branch, renting of office space *390
Yulara Tourist Village *384, *388, 459

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.

Zone Taxation Rebates

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the intention of the government to seek a new inquiry into the level of zone taxation rebates or, at the very least, to ask the federal government to reconsider its decision in the light of the serious criticisms made of the conduct of the inquiry by Mr Slater, one of its members?

ANSWER

The Leader of the Opposition was kind enough to write to me along these lines a couple of days ago. Unfortunately, he omitted from the letter that he sent me an enclosure to which he referred, namely a letter from Mr Slater to the Treasurer. I have responded to the Leader of the Opposition's letter asking him to let me have a copy of that letter. I would certainly be very interested to see the contents of Mr Slater's letter of criticism of the methodology of the inquiry.

The Northern Territory government believes that it and other parties, including the opposition in the Northern Territory, put very sound and well-reasoned submissions to the inquiry. One would have thought that this was a well-constituted inquiry. The members of the inquiry were people of distinction in their various fields and we believe that the arguments that the Territory government, the opposition and various other parties throughout northern Australia put forward to this inquiry were cogent and convincing. It was a matter of grave disappointment to us that the inquiry came out with what we regarded as very niggardly recommendations. In fact, had the federal government acceded to the recommendations of the inquiry, Darwin would have been taken out of zone A and the people of Darwin would have been significantly disadvantaged as a result. At present, my personal views are that to press for a reopening of the inquiry may not get us anywhere and may simply result in a great deal of hard work and hot air. I believe that the matter has progressed from an administrative procedure to the political field, and that it will be necessary for us to attempt, by political means, to exert pressure for increases in the allowances.

I say that, Mr Speaker, not having seen the letter that the honourable Leader of the Opposition has apparently received from Mr George Slater. I am sorry that Mr Slater did not see fit to send me a copy of the letter as well because I had discussions with him during the course of the inquiry and he knew of my feelings on the whole matter. I believe that Mr Slater was sympathetic to the aspirations of the Northern Territory. When I have that, I will make my decision. Certainly, we will not let the matter rest. We believe that it is necessary for people living in the Northern Territory to be more handsomely compensated for some of the disadvantages of living in isolation than they are at present.

Community Health Centres

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

If I could set the record straight for the Chief Minister, Mr Slater did not send us that letter. It fell off a truck

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will ask his question.

Mr B. COLLINS: Will he examine the more liberal attitude to charges imposed at community health centres in other states with a view to moderating charges at centres in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I can assure him that this government would be happy to compare its community health services and its charges in that area with those operating anywhere else in Australia. We would find that our services and charges are not unreason-

able given the environment in which we work. If the Leader of the Opposition could provide me with details of places with which the Northern Territory should compare itself, I would be happy to take the matter up and write to him later.

Prawn Trawling in Fog Bay

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Following his meeting with local prawn trawler skippers, has any agreement been reached on limiting the size of nets to be used in the Fog Bay area? If so, when will those limitations be implemented?

ANSWER

Representations were made to the government, through myself, by private prawn trawler operators. Some of the representations involved the closure of the Fog Bay area, which I have since authorised, the restriction of certain net sizes and the length of the rope involved with the nets. Those representations are still under consideration. I promised the operators at the time that some of their representations would be sent on to Canberra. I indicated that representations the Northern Territory government had made to Canberra over the years had been unsuccessful in respect of limiting the number of vessels involved in the northern prawn fishery, but we were not prepared to discontinue our representation on their behalf.

Nursing Staff Resignations in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware of the high number of resignations of senior and highly-trained nursing staff in the Alice Springs Hospital and will he give an undertaking to investigate the reasons for these resignations and report back on them to this Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to forward the contents of his question to the secretary of the department. When I have received a suitable response, I will forward it to the honourable member.

Zone Allowance Negotiations

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he in a position to report to the Assembly on results of zone allowance negotiations with the federal Treasurer for areas outside of Darwin?

ANSWER

I am able to report to the Assembly. The position is as I mentioned earlier in response to the question from the honourable Leader of the Opposition. Darwin is retained in zone A. As I recollect, Alice Springs remains in zone B. The other Territory towns remain in the zones in which they were before the inquiry was held. As a consequence of the inquiry, the only significant advantage to people living in those urban centres is that the allowance for dependants has been increased by some 50%, which of course is some help. However, people living some 200-250 km from urban centres have now been significantly advantaged. I think the level of population of the urban centre from which the distance was measured was in the order of 2000 people. Special allowances have now been made for those people so that the many citizens of the Territory who reside in remote areas will be significantly advantaged as a consequence of that decision.

Child Welfare Legislation

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

New child welfare legislation has been in preparation for a number of years in the Northern Territory. Is that legislation ready to be introduced this sittings?

ANSWER

The legislation is certainly not ready for introduction at this sittings. The job of preparing new welfare legislation for the Northern Territory has been a very comprehensive one. The work was started on a fairly intensive basis following the welfare report that was prepared in the Northern Territory some time ago. The department has engaged experts in various fields of welfare to assist it in the preparation of new legislation to ensure that the Territory can have efficient and modern legislation. I cannot put a specific time on it, Mr Speaker, but I would hope to have it prepared for introduction in the early part of next year.

Inquiry into Operations of Police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit

Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that there is a departmental inquiry into the operations of the Police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit? If it is a fact, what are the terms of reference of the inquiry?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, to my knowledge, there is not.

Motel at Tennant Creek

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

There has been publicity surrounding the building of a motel at Tennant Creek which has caused some speculation. Can he inform me of the position regarding the building of this motel, having regard to the fact that the operation of the Territory Development Corporation comes within his portfolio?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Territory Development Corporation has assisted a number of hotel and motel operators throughout the Territory. Details of individual loans are not normally provided as they are confidential business matters. I thank the honourable member for not bringing specific names into her question. The project at Tennant Creek has had some problems due to a contractor failing during the course of construction. Work was delayed for some time as a result of that, but has recommenced now. It should be completed by April 1982 and adequate steps are being taken to ensure that government funds provided for the project are secure. The Territory Development Corporation has adopted an attitude of trying to sort out the problems which occasionally occur when works that it is funding or partly funding fall into some difficulty. It will try very hard to have such projects continued and completed. We are trying, and I believe succeeding, to build an infrastructure of tourist accommodation throughout all centres of the Northern Territory. We have badly needed these for a long time and, despite the odd problem that comes along from time to time, as will happen with construction in some of the remoter areas, we will continue to adopt an attitude of seeking to solve the problem with a view to having the project completed rather than taking an easier way out, calling it quits and withdrawing funds and support.

Nursing Home at Palmerston

Mr HARRIS to MINISTR for HEALTH

It was recently announced that a nursing home would be established at Palmerston. Is he able to indicate what other areas were considered for the establishment of a nursing home?

ANSWER

The government intends to establish nursing homes in every major community throughout the Northern Territory. The proposal to establish a nursing home at Palmerston results from a proposition put by a Melbourne firm which already operates a home in Melbourne and which sought an opportunity to open a private nursing home in the Northern Territory. I might add that the Melbourne firm had sought and obtained from the Department of Social Security an option over the establishment of a 40-bed home in Darwin. That option gave the proponents a right to a federal government social security benefit payment towards the operation of a private nursing home. In fact, the proponents have 12 months in which to exercise their option. The proponents of the home approached the government seeking its cooperation and views on the establishment of the home and have received the full support of this government.

So far as the exact siting in Darwin is concerned, the proponents looked at using existing infrastructure at the annexe to the old Darwin Hospital. In their view, the cost of operating that infrastructure was so high that they would need $0.5m subsidy each year just to maintain the boiler room, airconditioning plant and other ancillary services, apart from any bed subsidy that would go towards the cost of operating the home. In their view, the cost of going into the Darwin annexe was outrageous and prohibitive. The proponents also looked at sites in the northern suburbs and found them to be too small for possible future expansion. The government suggested to the proponents that an area in the Palmerston town development would be made available if they were interested. They indicated an interest and have taken up a site. I believe that, at this stage, they are discussing the development proposal with their architects and the Palmerston Development Corporation and all the other people involved in moving to Palmerston. I believe there is also room in the planning and discussion stage that is taking place at the moment for other developments to take place, such as a private hospital at Palmerston if that should ever be seen as an economic and justified requirement for the area. If that answers the honourable member's question, I am happy. If he needs any other information, I would be happy to provide it to him.

Complaints about Kern Company

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has he received a report from the Consumer Affairs Commission on its investigation into the complaints of Mr Kell and others about the standard of building carried out by the Kern company and will he provide members with a copy of the report?

ANSWER

Yes, I received a copy of the report at 9 am today. It has been most unfortunate that there were delays in getting this report to me. However, I am advised that the experts who went from the Department of Transport and Works to inspect the house and provide a detailed report on it on behalf of the Commissioner of Consumer Affairs found that they had a fairly sizeable task in front of them. Of course, one does not want to rush such reports. They should be put together with the best detail and knowledge available to us. The report has only just been received by my office and, until such time as I have an opportunity to read it myself and decide what course of action should be taken,

I believe it would be unwise for me to circulate a copy or table it in the Assembly. I may take both those courses of action but I believe it would be wise to consider the content of the report before deciding on a course of action.

Schooling for Pintupi People

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I preface my question by drawing his attention to the Pintupi people resident in the Kintore Ranges since August of this year. When will he commence schooling for the children in that community?

ANSWER

Part of the question that the honourable member just asked contained one of my problems in this matter. He mentioned 50 people, as I heard it. Nonetheless, for the information of the Assembly there is an Aboriginal organisation which calls itself the Western Desert Outstation Council. It has moved from Papunya. They are Pintupi people. The Papunya area, of course, is not their land. The organisation moved from Papunya to the Kintore Ranges some 350 miles west of Papunya. Like anyone else, the Aboriginal people will be well aware that when a section of a community leaves an area where all government services are provided and moves some 350 miles into very difficult and arid country, obviously there will be some penalty, at least in the short term, relating to the provision of government services. Of course, education is not excluded from that. The problem is to work out who is there, what numbers, how many children and what the demand may be.

Mr Paul Parker is a person who may describe himself as a latter-day Moses. I name him because he has been associated with newspaper releases on the matter. Mr Parker claims that there are some 177 people at Kintore, of whom about 70 are children. Three officers of the Department of Education visited Kintore on 1 October. On that day, a significant number of the people had gone to Balgo Mission in Western Australia. They were able to identify 30 persons at Kintore, of whom 15 were children of school age. It would seem from that information that 130 people had gone to the mission in one truck on that particular day. In other words, there is a very serious question about the number of people who are there. The current position as far as the government is concerned is that we need to establish whether or not the community is a permanent one, whether or not it will be a permanent community in itself or whether or not Kintore is to be the hub of a series of outstations. All these questions have a very significant bearing on the ability of a government department of the size of the Department of Education in the Northern Territory to provide services to a community which has moved to such an extremely remote area.

Mr Speaker, the people there have a water supply drawn from hand pumps. There is no other facility out there. They have to face what will be a particularly difficult summer. Of course this will include the school vacation period. I think we could be very unwise to commit the taxpayer to pursuing this community into the desert, and I use that term quite deliberately, until such time as we find out whether or not it will be a stable community. If DAA recognises it as such and the Department of Community Development recognises it as such, then it commits not only the Commonwealth but also this government to significant expenditure indeed.

Mr Speaker, let us find out what the nature of the community is, see how stable it will become, and then make decisions based upon that information.

Housing Commission Houses in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the combined will of the Housing Commission and the Department of Law yet found any way of selling Housing Commission houses in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, my colleague the Minister for Community Development expects to be able to introduce legislation into the Assembly in the course of this sittings. At my last discussion with the joint venturers at Gove, they indicated to me that, once legislation was tabled in the Assembly and they had an indication of the government's attitude towards the legal solutions for their problems in providing land in that area for the purpose of Housing Commission use, particularly the provision of Housing Commission houses for sale, we could really get down to taws in negotiation with them. I would hope that, well before the passage of any such legislation in this Assembly, very firm solutions will be found to the problem.

Plenty Highway Signposts

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that the eastern end of the Plenty Highway near the Queensland border is sadly lacking in signposts? As a matter of urgency, will he have his department erect signposts on this lonely section of the highway to ensure the safety of motorists?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the situation there but I will have the matter investigated and take whatever action is necessary.

Ranger Mine Closure

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Mr Speaker, I will ask the question in 3 parts to avoid any supplementary questions. Why was the Ranger mine closed? Why did the breach of regulations exist for so long without being picked up by the Department of Mines and Energy inspectors? Why wasn't the matter reported by the company?

ANSWER

In reference to the second and third parts of his question, I will be able to give the Assembly more advice later in the day or early tomorrow morning. If the honourable Leader of the Opposition will bear with me until a written report is compiled on the matter, that would be helpful.

The mine was closed last night at the direction of the Secretary of the Department of Mines and Energy because he was concerned at the lack of activity that has taken place on the lease and at the lack of cooperation he was getting at such a late hour in answer to questions that needed to be answered. The only way for him to get the matter into proper perspective was to close the mine until the inquiry relating to the alleged incident was conducted, completed and acted upon. I will report to the Assembly again when further information is available.

Private Hospital for Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the answer just given to my previous question on nursing homes, is the government still considering applications for the establishment for a private hospital at the site of the old Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

I am happy to advise that the period for persons to register their interest and submit their tenders for the use of the Darwin annexe as a private hospital site is still open. I believe tenders close at the end of this month. We hope that an assessment of these applications will be completed during December and January. We will be in a better position in the New Year to know whether the

Darwin annexe does have any appeal to the private sector for use as a hospital and, if so, under what terms, conditions and costs.

Geothermal Energy in NT

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has a decision been made on a mechanism for the investigation of possible sources of geothermal energy in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The geothermal technology to which the honourable member refers has been around for some time in other countries. It has recently been proposed by a Western Australian firm that we apply the technology in the Northern Territory with a view to establishing a geothermal resource which would be an asset to the Northern Territory. The difficulty so far has been the legal position of any person exploring for geothermal energy within the Northern Territory because geothermal technology requires that the area be rather large and definitely in excess of the 5000 square kilometres that we give out under an exploration licence. Further, there is a need that any company exploring for geothermal energy in a particular area does not have a right to any other mineral or element found in that area. The department has been working now for some 6 to 9 months on this problem. It is not just a problem for the Northern Territory because state governments are studying similar proposals. We hope to have legislation ready for March next year which will enable geothermal exploration to go ahead.

Essentially, it would follow the same premise of exploration that we have now for the oil and gas industry in that a special exploration licence for geothermal energy could be issued over a rather large area. The large areas are required because satellite and infra-red technology are important aspects of the exploration program. An exploration licence could be offered over a large area to a company that would have a work program of some millions of dollars to complete in a specified time. Having worked on that block it would have no right to any other element that might be on the block that it is given. Some people in the industry may see this as a conflict but it is no different to mining companies which have exploration licences which cover all the base metals and elements whilst oil and coal explorers have the rights over a similar block for what they are seeking. I hope that answers the honourable member's question. Hopefully, we will have the legislation early next year.

Conservation Commission Plan of Management for Recreational Use of Gunn Point

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he table the report recently completed by the Conservation Commission on a management plan for the recreational use of the Gunn Point area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, no.

Detached Dwellings in Palmerston

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

It was recently announced that the Palmerston Development Authority is considering the provision of 400-square-metre blocks for detached dwellings. Can he tell me what proportion of the lots allocated for detached dwellings would be of this size?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, if I have anything to do with it, none. Of course, there have been none to date. The proposal was floated in the general context of a push

that the government has been conducting towards lower-cost housing. The Palmerston Development Authority suggested to the developers that they might examine the possibility of blocks of considerably smaller size than the 800 square metres normally recommended for Darwin. The developers were not of the view that that would be wise - 3 cheers and full marks for the developers. In certain areas, given broader spacing around smaller residential land holdings, it is possible to come down to about 600 to 650 square metres a block, provided they are not one after the other because that is hardly commensurate with a tropical environment. The answer is none. As usual, the NT News - I am certain it would be the NT News - got it all messed up again. No such blocks have been developed or contemplated to the best of my knowledge.

Motel near Alice Springs

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

There has been some publicity surrounding the building of a motel near Alice Springs. It has caused some speculation. What is the position regarding this motel having regard to the fact that the operation of the Northern Territory Development Corporation comes within his portfolio?

ANSWER

As I mentioned in answer to a question earlier this morning, occasionally, particularly in the more remote areas of the Northern Territory, people get into trouble with the construction of buildings, the retention on site of contractors and the provision of materials. The Northern Territory Development Corporation has been assisting some people to build a very worthwhile project outside Alice Springs. It is on a site where a motel is very much needed according to our tourist advisers. The project is in fact nearing completion. However, some difficulties have arisen in regard to the portion of the funds to be raised by the owners of the property as distinct from the portion of funds loaned by the Northern Territory Development Corporation. As a result, there are some creditors who remain unpaid at the present time. The building is not yet complete. The government is not involved. The problem of the outstanding creditors is one between the owners and the creditors themselves.

The Northern Territory Development Corporation is currently examining ways of arranging for completion of the building so that the original intention can be fulfilled. Solicitors have been engaged to represent the corporation's interest. I point out that the NTDC is the only mortgagee of the property and the government's funds in this matter are completely protected. However, it is a complex matter and we are currently tackling it with a view to having the project completed as a priority. Then it can serve its purpose and earn some money so that various people can be paid. The Territory will end up with another very valuable resource as part of its tourist infrastructure.

Water Storage Tank East of Sadadeen

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

Will he give an estimate of when the water storage tank being built east of Sadadeen will be commissioned?

ANSWER

The contract had been suspended for a short time because of design problems that became apparent at the time of excavation. However, the work will be completed in September 1982.

Conversion of Roller Skating Rink to a High School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he advise the Assembly of the government's position in regard to the proposed conversion of a disused roller skating rink into an independent high school at Humpty Doo?

ANSWER

I am surprised the honourable gentleman did not ask us what our attitude would be to converting that into a university. That is more his style.

Mr B. Collins: That's tomorrow.

Mr ROBERTSON: I am sure the honourable gentleman refers to a rather remarkable proposal that has been put forward by a committee in the Darwin rural area. This of course is a matter that I have spoken of at length in this Assembly. You will recall that, under no circumstances, could I accept the proposition put forward by the committee for a temporary high school for Humpty Doo. The fact is that it is totally unsound educationally. This proposal is reminiscent of Don Quixote. It is probably the most absurd proposition I have ever heard.

Mr Speaker, as I understand the matter, the committee had a public meeting some few weeks ago at Humpty Doo at which a constitution was put before the public. I understand that the committee did not even want the public to see the constitution much less delay it for a period of time for consideration. Mr Speaker, I would caution people in the rural area against being led along by what I can only describe as well-meaning but ill-informed zealots. If any proposal for such a private high school is of the same standard as the proposal for a temporary high school, then such a high school would have absolutely no propsect whatsoever of being registered under the Education Act. If it were not registered under the Education Act, it would have no prospect of government funding. Indeed, while it would not be the intention of government to see prosecutions, I would also remind parents that they would be in breach of the Education Act, by providing their children with an education which, in most circumstances, would be most likely to be unsatisfactory.

I can only repeat myself and caution people in the area against being misled by others who for some extraordinary reason are not now satisfied with the tremendous efforts that this government is making to provide secondary education in the rural area. The government is working towards the establishment of a full range of facilities in the Humpty Doo area for commencement in the 1983 school year. This has been placed ahead of all other priorities in education and to the disadvantage of some other communities which have been waiting much longer, for example Tennant Creek. I am talking about the high school there and the people who have waited so patiently. This government has gone out of its way to satisfy the secondary educational needs of the people of the rural area. Notwithstanding all of that, we have this absurd proposition for the establishment of a high school in a disused skating rink.

Salaries in the Northern Territory Public Service

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the government aware that substantial salary movements are occurring in the Australian Public Service, other public services and the private sector? Are similar moves being sought in the Northern Territory Public Service and, if so, what is the likely impact on the Territory budget?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, salary claims in the order of 20% have been lodged by most public service unions with the Public Service Commissioner. The increases so far negotiated in the Australian Public Service and elsewhere are somewhat less than this figure. On discernible trends to date and depending on the outcome of negotiations in the Territory which will occur in the near future, it appears likely that the cost to the Territory this financial year of salary increases to come out of the latest round of pay claims will be in the order of $7m.

Norforce

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

As his government has a policy of encouraging Northern Territorians to join Norforce and a policy of encouraging private employers to cooperate, would he inform the Assembly why members of the Northern Territory Fire Brigade are forbidden to join the force?

ANSWER

I have been informed by the Director of Fire Services that members of the fire brigade could be called out at any time to service the needs of the community and, because of that, they are not permitted to join Norforce.

Stamp Duty Exemption

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is the stamp duty exemption for first-time house purchasers or house builders on rural residential allotments yet available?

ANSWER

I am not exactly sure what the honourable member for Sanderson is getting at. If she could give further clarification, I will have the matter followed up.

Ms D'Rozario: The stamp duty exemption is currently only available to persons who are building on allotments of less than 2.04 hectares.

Mr PERRON: I undertake to give a response to the honourable member during the course of the sittings.

Reconstruction of Smith Street Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Have funds yet been allocated to the Alice Springs Town Council for the reconstruction of Smith Street and, if so, when were the funds allocated and what was the amount of the allocation?

ANSWER

The government has not specifically allocated any funds to the Alice Springs council for this project.

Inland Fishing Industry

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Does he have any plans for the development of an inland fishing industry?

ANSWER

The department has no specific plans for the development of aquaculture, but there are some proposals currently before us which we are studying with great interest. We are prepared to give whatever support we can by way of extension services and scientific advice.

Domestic Violence

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the government considering taking any action to counter the problem of domestic violence in the Northern Territory community particularly in the pre-wet season by establishing domestic violence committees similar to those in the states with a view to taking some of the burden off the Police Force?

ANSWER

Naturally, the government is concerned at the incidence of domestic violence and presently the police bear the brunt of attempting to assist in this area. It has always been a matter of concern to the government that the Police Force is at the pointy end of the stick in dealing with community problems such as the apprehension of drunken people, disorderly people and people committing acts of violence. Obviously, a policeman's lot is not a terribly happy one and it is not helped by the innumerable criticisms that are levelled at it. To this end, the government is prepared to consider anything reasonable towards the amelioration of the situation not only of the police but also to assist people who are subject to domestic violence. Domestic violence is a difficult matter to deal with unless one of the parties complains. There are counselling services available in the community to assist in marriage guidance. I understand these services are used extensively.

I hope to introduce the Criminal Code this sittings. The Leader of the House has just mentioned to me that he and the Leader of the Opposition think that the session may not go beyond this week. I would hope that it will, Mr Speaker, even it we have to filibuster, because I want to introduce the Criminal Code during this sittings. I do not think it will be ready for introduction until next week because of its volume and the obvious difficulties of getting it and other legislation through the Government Printing Office. The provisions of the Criminal Code will improve the situation. There are provisions relating to offences between the sexes. I hope that, with these and with the facilities already available in the community, advances can be made.

As to the suggestion of establishing committees in the community on the problem of domestic violence, I have adverted to that myself. I think it is more properly the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister for Community Development. It may be that he has the matter under consideration or that it could be referred to him for consideration.

Fruit Entering Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

In view of the second outbreak of Mediterranean fruit fly in Alice Springs does his department envisage a permanent check on fruit entering the Alice Springs area, similar to that which now applies in Adelaide?

ANSWER

The situation in South Australia is quite different to that in the Northern Territory. The cost in South Australia of an inspectorial workforce is approximately $1m per year. Our situation is that we have an outbreak that we hope to eliminate. I think that will cost in the vicinity of $50,000. We provide checks at the entry points, mainly at the railway station and the airport. Until such time as the fruit fly has been eradicated in Alice Springs, we will maintain those checks. I have a report from the senior scientist who advised me yesterday. The second round of bait spraying was completed on Saturday 21 November and a third round will commence Wednesday 25 November 1981. One fly was trapped on the final day of the first round of spraying but none has been detected now for 8 days. He is confident of containing the outbreak in due course.

NT Portion 1097

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I remind him of a grant he made earlier this year to Messrs Conway and Lander of a Crown lease over Northern Territory Portion 1097. Did he, by letter or personally, advise the solicitors for the proprietors of Tempe Downs that consideration of adding NT Portion 1097 to their lease could not be given because it was subject to claim under the federal Land Rights Act?

ANSWER

The honourable gentleman is asking me to recall possible correspondence going back over a very lengthy period of time. I ask him to place the question on notice.

Nursing Sister at Garden Point

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What are the details regarding the withdrawal of the position of nursing sister at Garden Point on Melville Island?

ANSWER

I would like to emphasise to members of the Assembly that there is no determined plan to withdraw sisters from communities where the communities wish the sisters to remain. For the benefit of honourable members, I would like to spend a moment outlining some of the changes of direction that are taking place in the Department of Health at the moment so far as the provision of medical services to Aboriginal communities is concerned.

All members would be aware that in about 1975, the Department of Health set up an Aboriginal Health Worker Training Program which has the ultimate objective of allowing Aborigines to become competent in the field of providing medical services in their communities and ultimately to take over those responsibilities themselves. The training program that we have now has been under way for 6 years and some of the Aboriginals in the program have reached a very high level of proficiency. I might add that some of the people officially admitted to the Aboriginal Health Worker Training Program in 1975 had already been working with departmental people for 7 or 8 years as helpers in the field for visiting rural sisters and doctors.

Mr Speaker, we have now reached a point where some communities are saying quite openly - and they put it to me at the Aboriginal Health Workers Conference in Alice Springs last year and again in Darwin this year - that they feel a time has come for the department to hand over responsibility in some of the communities. I fully support this proposal where the communities want it and the Aboriginal staff of the department have demonstrated the confidence to take over and do what needs to be done. There is no policy of abandonment or of force in this particular measure. It is really one of consultation and cooperation between the department and the communities that the department serves.

In one particular case, the community wrote back and said: 'Yes, we are not shy about taking over our clinic'. This is in East Arnhem Land. 'We are happy for you to withdraw the rural sisters. We won't be fussed if they go. However, we would like the doctor to call for half a day a week if that is still possible'. In another instance, a young man took over an Aboriginal Health Clinic where he has been working for 12 to 14 years and demonstrated an undoubted capacity to carry out his duties.

Not all communities share the feeling of confidence that some people in remote areas have. As the honourable member for Tiwi suggested in her question this morning, people at Garden Point are a little hesitant about making the move. The response I expect from those communities that are not keen to move in a hurry - and I know Dr Trimmings feels the same - would be that it is all right

and that they will do it when they are ready and not before. In the meantime, the opportunity is there for communities to take up the option if they so wish.

I think this highlights a great advance in the area of health care delivery in remote areas. The objective of the department and of the program has always been to prepare for the day when Aboriginals take over these clinics and functions and administer them themselves. Unfortunately, a situation can arise in some places where there is a structure which just does not enable it to happen because all the European sisters are needed there because of the Europeans in the community. Thus, a stage is never reached where the Aboriginals take over for themselves. Nevertheless, where communities are determined that they want to do this, they will find the department, and me particularly, cooperative.

Pensioner Air Fare Scheme

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Pensioner Air Fare Scheme which is proposed for introduction by his department on 1 July 1982 requires pensioners to pay the full air fare before they receive the 50% subsidy from the government. Will he amend the proposed scheme so that pensioners only need to raise half the fare before they receive the other half from the government under the scheme?

ANSWER

Officers of the Department of Community Development have been holding talks with the airlines over the last couple of weeks with a view to evolving a system whereby pensioners under the scheme that will take effect from 1 July next year will not have to pay the full cost of the air fare before claiming a rebate. The problem is a little complex as the department must be careful to comply with Treasury and audit regulations and there needs to be some form of protection to try to cover the situation of persons seeking to abuse the system. As members know, it is very easy to travel on air tickets that are issued for other people. It probably goes on from time to time. However, I appreciate the deficiency that could exist under an arrangement where a pensioner is required to buy and use a fare and then present a used ticket in order to obtain a government rebate. I am hopeful that the government and the airlines can work out a scheme whereby the 50% that is to be contributed by the government does not need to be paid first by a pensioner. I cannot say that we have found a solution.

Controlling Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Some of the coconut palm trees around Darwin are looking very sick indeed. He has indicated that the department is looking at the possibility of introducing a parasite to control the palm leaf beetle. Has any progress been made towards finding an effective method of control?

ANSWER

The situation has not changed much since the member asked the question at the last sittings. The search for a natural predator of the palm leaf beetle will need luck to be successful. We will need further advice on this. To this end, an overseas authority will shortly visit Darwin.

Humpty Doo High School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the news announcement this morning that the Humpty Doo High School is proceeding with the appointment of a principal shortly and that children will be enrolled for school year 1982, can he assure the Assembly that he will give this matter his closest personal attention to ensure that the educational needs of the children attending that school are adequately catered for?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, regretfully, there is nothing I can do to ensure that the education of children who attend such a proposed private school is adequate. That is the very thing that worries me. It worries me very deeply. I am to have a meeting today with the convenor of the committee. It is at his request and I willingly acceded to that request. Probably it will take place in the precincts of the Assembly because of the workload of the Assembly. I hope to discuss that issue in particular with the gentleman during the course of the day and at least indicate to him what he is getting himself into. What I have just said is quite wrong. It is not what he is getting himself into; it is what he is getting those children into.

Northumberland Insurance Company

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

My question is about the Northumberland Insurance Company. Is he aware that persons affected by the collapse of the company who have contacted the Territory Insurance Office have apparently received an offer of 50% of their outstanding claims? Could he verify this and state what the latest position on the Northumberland debacle is?

ANSWER

I will read out some information that has been provided to me by the Treasury on this matter, which may in fact answer the honourable member's questions. In September 1980, Cabinet approved a scheme whereby 50% of awarded third-party damages of the defaulting Northumberland Insurance Company would be paid out of the Treasury's trust account and that the moneys would be recouped from money set aside for the repayment of past third-party motor insurance losses. The trust account has been established and all those road accident victims who responded to an advertising campaign conducted in October and November last year have had their cases considered by the Territory Insurance Office. Amounts of compensation have been determined and payments will be made as soon as successful claimants have returned a signed deed of release. By signing the release, recipients of payments promise to repay any money subsequently recovered from another source and undertake not to make any further claims on the Northern Territory government. A bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Act is being prepared. Amendments are designed to ensure that the money provided from the compensation fund established under that act - that is, the fund built up from the compulsory $10 levy per motor vehicle - will not be paid to the liquidator of Northumberland Insurance Company and can only be used to repay the Northern Territory appropriation to the trust account.

I think that that statement, whilst it perhaps requires a closer deliberation, provides some of the answers the honourable member for Nightcliff requires.

Police Cadets

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will there be an intake of police cadets in 1982?

ANSWER

The scheme of having police cadets in the Northern Territory which was introduced by the present Police Commissioner a couple of years ago has been very successful. I believe that the current intake of cadets is shortly to pass out. They will be a most valuable acquisition to the Northern Territory and to its Police Force. Most of them, if not all of them, are boys of local families. Indeed, the sons of a couple of policemen are in the ranks of the cadets. A couple of young men of Aboriginal extraction are amongst the cadets as well. I believe that it has been a very forward step on the part of the Police Force. It has worked well and I will fully support the commissioner in having another

intake of cadets for 1982. Not only will it provide additional employment, it will provide a very valuable and worthwhile career for many young men and women and it will add stability to the Northern Territory Police Force because most of them will have had their roots in the Northern Territory for many years.

Housing Commission Rent Review Formula

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the recent Northern Territory Housing Commission rental increase, could he make available to members of this Assembly the Northern Territory Housing Commisson rent review formula for both public service and general public rents, the annual rent review documentation including the source and effect of the resulting calculations - in other words, how this formula was arrived at - and a comparison between Northern Territory rents and appropriate southern rents to enable this Assembly to gain an appreciation of the true costs and values of Northern Territory rents?

Mr SPEAKER: I direct that the question be placed on notice.

Ranger Uranium Mine

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Does he have a report from his officers on the breach of environmental regulations at Ranger?

ANSWER

I have a report from officers in response to the questions asked by the Leader of the Oppposition yesterday.

The Secretary of the Department of Mines and Energy, accompanied by the Director of Mines and senior management staff of Ranger, visited the tailings pond site yesterday. The purpose was to inspect the tailings pond and to seek explanations about a reported breach of an authorisation which required liquid in the tailings pond to be 2 metres above the solids. The inspection confirmed that since 3 November 1981 solids had been permitted to protrude above the liquid to a height of about 10 centimetres over an area of 20 square metres. Until this morning, that situation still pertained.

The mines inspector did not report the matter to his superiors although he noted the circumstances in the Mine Record Book on 13 November 1981. From that time it became a matter of public record. The Department of Mines and Energy's environmental engineer also discussed the matter with ERA on 10 November. Similarly, ERA did not report the matter to the Supervising Scientist immediately because it considered that the matter was minor and it would be reported at the month's end.

The senior district mines inspector yesterday issued an instruction recorded in the Mine Record Book in terms that require the company to cease use of the tailings pond until ERA submits a report satisfactory to the Department of Mines and Energy detailing circumstances surrounding the breaches of authorisation concerning the tailings pond between 3 November and 24 November 1981. Further, ERA is to submit a plan satisfactory to the Department of Mines and Energy to resume the operation of the pond in accordance with its authorisation. A further instruction also requires the immediate covering of all solids in the pond by liquid. ERA is complying with these directives.

I deeply regret, Mr Speaker, that it has been necessary to shut down a most important part of the Territory industry, even temporarily. I have to emphasise, as I have in the past to all mining companies, that they must be sensitive to the requirements of the authorities under which they operate. The fact is that ERA must have operated in breach of a ministerial authorisation for a period before 3 November. After the Department of Mines and Energy

inspector discovered this, ERA was not persuaded to rectify the situation by local officers of the department. The matter finally reached the departmental head and the plant was closed. At no time did the company come to the department or the Supervising Scientist and offer to rectify the situation to bring itself into compliance.

The department has reported the circumstances of the present incident as far as they are known to the Supervising Scientist, the Co-ordinator General, the Department of Trade and Resources, the Northern Land Council, and the Territory supervisory authorities. The department's initial view is that at no time has the incident been a threat to health or the environment. This is because the area of solids exposed was very small and saturated with liquid. ERA quotes radon gas emission from the tailings pond at zero and minute levels during the relevant period. This view must be considered as preliminary pending the receipt of reports from ERA and detailed orders and investigation by the department. I will be in a position to advise you fully, Mr Speaker, when the department has completed a detailed investigation.

While the incident itself may have been of no significance in terms of health or environmental hazards, it is one that saddens me because the industry simply is not listening to the things I have been telling it over a considerable period of time. Recently, I have mentioned that there have been 2 incidents in the uranium province that did not stand the industry in very good stead. I commented that the industry's credibility had been damaged in the eyes of the Commonwealth and the Northern Land Council and others. I said: 'I think there is going to be a great need in the coming years for us as an industry to lift our game in this area'. I understand that many of the people present at the function I refer to were angered by what I said. Unfortunately, it seems that anger was not sufficient for some of them to improve their performance in the areas I discussed.

What I said on that occasion was a repeat of what I said a year earlier. Unfortunately, I have to say it again although I said virtually the same thing when I spoke last week at the official opening of Ranger Mine. In the presence of the entire board of directors of Energy Resources of Australia I said: 'We have a great challenge before us to run the mine in a manner above reproach and in a manner which will put to rest the fears of critics and show us to be responsible corporate citizens. In the light of this development, there was little alternative but for the secretary of my department to exercise his authority and close the mill. When ERA has satisfactorily answered the questions asked of it, it will be reopened'. I hope this government will not be forced to close it or any other mine ever again.

Responsibility for Todd River

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has it been determined who has control over and responsibility for the Todd River?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I take it that the honourable member is referring to that portion which passes through the municipality of Alice Springs. This has been the subject of some speculation in the press. The municipality of Alice Springs passed a resolution saying that it would not accept any responsibility for the bed of the Todd River. I would like to point out to the Assembly and to the aldermen in Alice Springs, whom I have written to on this subject, that there is no way that they can possibly absolve themselves from responsibility for their normal local government functions. The bed of the Todd is quite clearly land within the municipality which is under their care and control. No resolution passed by the council can absolve it from that responsibility.

Government Housing Loan Scheme

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is there a proposal currently under consideration to raise the maximum limit available to borrowers under the Government Housing Loan Scheme?

ANSWER

The answer to the question is no. Naturally, this is something we kept under constant review.

Brinkin Subdivision

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I noted in yesterday's edition of the NT News an advertisement drawing attention to the Kern development at Brinkin in which it was stated that there were no plans to build a school for the area and that existing schools were at capacity. Is this the situation?

ANSWER

The advertisement placed in the newspaper is quite incorrect. The misinformation which has been circulating in the northern suburbs in relation to the proposed Brinkin development by Kern, aided and abetted by the NT News, is completely inaccurate. If we take the existing schools at Nakara and Tiwi and consider the likely maximum primary student population in Brinkin, the Nakara school alone could accommodate whatever children are likely to be living in the Brinkin estate. Nakara has an optimum capacity of 660 students but present enrolments stand at 384. Tiwi is a slightly smaller school with a capacity of 510 and enrolments are 393. At peak, Brinkin would be likely to accommodate some 200 primary school students. Simple arithmetic would indicate that Nakara can accommodate the requirements of the Brinkin estate.

As for secondary students, it is not expected that a great number of such students would be housed in an estate such as Brinkin. Nonetheless, the present accommodation capacity of Dripstone High School is 900 though I would not really like to see it with a population of 900. Nonetheless, that is its designed capacity. There are presently 550 students in that institution. So there is no need for parents to worry on grounds of education.

The question covers what I believe to be gross misinformation, peddled, aided and abetted by the NT News. We ought to really get this whole thing into perspective. The planning instrument itself is probably the best vehicle to set the record straight. I will read from planning instrument D109: 'Under the provisions of the existing R3 zoning, sites A, B and C could be developed for the purposes of accommodating approximately 610 4-storey, 3-bedroom flats'. That is the present zoning. As we all know, and much to the chagrin of the Master Builders Association, flats require development proposals. Just because an area is zoned for flats, it does not mean that one can build dog boxes on it. A development application must be made to the Planning Authority.

I will again quote from the planning instrument: 'The intent of the proposed zoning is to restrict the development of these sites to 242 attached dwellings' - that is from a possible 610 - 'and flats by ensuring that a comprehensive development occurs in accordance with the terms outlined in the documents that are annexed to and form part of this draft planning instrument'. It is a draft planning instrument that we are talking about and it is to vary it from the existing blanket R3 right through that area to a very controlled and well-conceived concept. 'The development of the site as proposed will enable the creation of usable open spaces and fully-landscaped lawns and parks adjoining every home cluster. Such spaces will provide opportunity for the future residents, parents and children, to live and play individually or as a family within a short distance of their homes'. This part is important: 'The provision of 2-storey, attached dwellings in clusters on sites A and C and on

the Ellengowan Drive frontage of site B will ameliorate any detrimental effects likely to be caused to existing or proposed single residences in the locality'.

Mr Speaker, the idea is that, where people have a view from their existing homes, instead of risking the possibility of a 4-storey, little Mediterranea, if you like, along that road frontage, we will have low-profile, 2-storey buildings. If you stand on Ellengowan Drive, you cannot see the beach anyway. It is highly unlikely that you would even see an 8-storey tower.

I am not saying for a moment that I am for or against the proposal put forward by the Kern company as is its right under the Planning Act. The NT News portrayed this as a government initiative. That is utterly untrue. It is an application by the present owner of the land for a draft planning instrument to vary the zoning of the existing zones. It is not at all as portrayed to the public. Why on earth newspapers have to worry their readers unnecessarily with fabrications is quite beyond my understanding.

The matter goes back quite some time. It is said that the government should never have allowed the existing R3 in the first place. The matter was advertised in the NT News. I think some people must read it. That advertisement was in the NT News of 25 January 1980, 30 January 1980, 1 February 1980 and 6 February 1980. The closing date was 21 February 1980. Those 4 notices appeared in the newspapers and the Gazette - not that people read the Gazette. One assumes they read the NT News. As a result of those 4 separate notifications, 4 submissions were received. What else is the Planning Authority to do? In accordance with the act, it displays a proposition to create certain zonings over certain land and 4 comments, not actually objections, were lodged. It was over the Christmas period. It has been argued that it should not have been done at that time. I am not aware that February is more within the Christmas period than is October or November. It is equally detached from it.

In the same newspaper, the same type of criticism constantly comes out about how long it takes government to do things. When government proceeds in the normal course of events, it is rushing. I have written a letter to the editor which I really ought to read out in the adjournment debate because I have no doubt they will not have the intestinal fortitude to print it. I have indicated in that letter that, in the eyes of the NT News, no one can win.

Letter Concerning Tempe Downs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he undertake to table during these sittings a letter, reference PL629 (3)GL2072, of October last year giving details of his department's negotiations concerning Tempe Downs and, if so, when will he table it?

ANSWER

As I indicated before, the member completely misunderstands the operations of the ministry. I deal with thousands of letters in the course of one year. I certainly cannot remember that one. I will look into the matter and advise him later.

Reconstruction of Stuart Highway in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise when reconstruction of the Stuart Highway from Smith Street through and along Telegraph Terrace may commence?

ANSWER

The realignment from Smith Street on the Stuart Highway to Skinner Street on Telegraph Terrace is a proposal for the 1982-83 capital works program. Commencement of the project will depend upon funding at that particular time.

Amendments to the Tenancy Act

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

It has recently been announced that amendments to the Tenancy Act will be prepared to afford a measure of protection to residents of caravan parks. Could he inform me of the progress of these amendments and when he expects to present them in this Assembly?

ANSWER

I do not have any information that I can pass on to the member at this time. There are certainly many amendments to the Tenancy Act to be introduced into the Assembly during these sittings. These particular amendments have been in the pipeline, as it were, for some considerable time and are causing some very severe difficulties in the community. I could not undertake to have them held up pending further examination on the question of caravan parks. I cannot tell her when legislation is likely to be introduced to bring caravan dwellers under the control of the Tenancy Act.

Coastal Surveillance Flights

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he please request the Minister for Defence to vary the flight patterns of coastal surveillance flights?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand the member wishes to know whether I will ask the Minister for Transport to vary the flight patterns of surveillance flights. I do not know the flight patterns of surveillance flights. When one is out on the northern and western coastlines, they seem to come over 2, 3 and even 4 times a day. They seem to be quite frequent. I cannot say that I have set my watch by them so it may be that they are varied from time to time. I will look into the matter and, if these flights appear predictable, in the sense that one can set one's watch by them, then I will ask the Minister for Transport to ask that the patrol times be staggered.

Consumer Credit Legislation

Mrs O'NEIL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Now that both the Victorian and New South Wales governments have introduced consumer credit legislation, when does he expect to proceed with consumer credit legislation in the Northern Territory, as was discussed in the Assembly some years ago?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am surprised to hear the member for Fannie Bay assert that New South Wales and Victoria have commenced consumer credit legislation. I understand that the legislation was introduced in Victoria, and to the best of my knowledge, recollection and belief, it has stagnated in the Victorian Parliament for probably a couple of years because the volume of the legislation involved is extraordinary. There are several bills and they are all enormously complex. It was agreed amongst Attorneys-General at the time that the Victorian government would introduce the legislation in the Victorian Parliament which would act more or less at the testing ground for the legislation and seek public comment and comment from the credit industry on it. As I understand it, this process - which is unbelievably complex - is still going on.

Mr Speaker, I would not like to say that I am infallible on this subject. Certainly, I will check it out and let the member know if the position is different. However, my understanding is that the legislation has still not worked its way through the Victorian Parliament. It could be that the New South Wales government has decided to introduce some sort of consumer credit legisla-

tion on an interim basis. I have not heard of that either but the New South Wales Attorney-General is a rather impetuous young gentleman and he tends to go off at a tangent from time to time. This could be one of those tangential trots of his. I will look into that, but I do not believe that we should be party to what could best be a patchwork piece of legislation in a terribly complex area.

Honourable members may not be aware, although I am sure that you are, Sir, that the purpose of the legislation is to replace hire purchase contracts, bills of sale and all other types of commercial credit of that nature. It is almost revolutionary legislation. I would not want to see the Northern Territory setting the lead in this field because we would find that we were in financial quarantine if we did.

Passengers in the Rear of Utilities

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the recent horror crash in which a utility carrying 21 people overturned, killing 2 of them, is the government considering placing restrictions on the number of people to be carried in the back of utilities and trucks in an effort to reduce the possibility of similar accidents occurring?

ANSWER

This is a very complex question. It involves many problems not only in the city area but in the rural area where most of the fatalities of that nature occur. The chairman of the Road Safety Committee that was in Darwin just recently spoke on this particular topic and alluded to the fact that the committee was trying to come up with recommendations as to how that particular problem could be solved. Mr Katter, the chairman of that committee, stated that a requirement to fit some kind of handrail or seat-belt in the back of vehicles could be imposed on owners who wished to carry people in the back. Until such time as somebody can come up with an equitable way of allowing people to transport people in the backs of vehicles, it will be difficult for us to come to a firm decision.

Whilst in the rural area we have this problem of accidents occurring and people being seriously injured as a result of being thrown from the back of trucks, at the same time there is a very strong lobby in the Darwin area - especially through the schools and community organisations involved in sporting activities - to allow parents to transport children to various sporting venues. That is one of the problems that we have. On occasion, I have discussed this problem with the Road Safety Council and asked it to address itself to determining how we could achieve a fair measure of safety whilst still allowing people to use the backs of motor vehicles to transport people. Until such time as we can come to a firm conclusion, I am unable to provide the member for Port Darwin with any further information.

Administration of Gunn Point Area

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Could he indicate why that portion of the Gunn Point area formerly administered by the Forestry Unit is being changed in the Gazette to the administration of the prisons branch. Its forestry reserve will now be administered by the prisons branch and I ask him to indicate why.

ANSWER

The question should perhaps be directed to the Chief Minister. However, I am aware that it has been decided by the government that the Conservation Commission will no longer care for the forestry area at Gunn Point. It will be brought under the control of the prison out there. In fact, a great deal of the work in the forestry area at Gunn Point has, in the past, been done by

prisoners from Gunn Point Prison Farm anyway. We consider the prison farm to be a successful operation in the Northern Territory. It is a low-security prison and they have achieved a great deal out there. It is the cheapest possible way to keep prisoners. The concept of expanding it further into the forestry area is part of the government's initiative in this regard. It is really removing the responsibility for the forestry area from the Conservation Commission and giving it to Correctional Services.

Horticulture in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will he report on any progress towards establishing an horticultural area near Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The honourable member has been very interested over the last couple of years in establishing horticulture in a larger way in the Central Australian area. One of the recommendations of the Lapidge Report was to create a position of horticultural officer in Alice Springs. We have done this. That officer took up his appointment in the middle of the year. His work so far has been delineating areas within a 80 kilometre radius of Alice Springs. His report on what areas may require development will be before the government early next year.

Housing Loans Interest Rate

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has he made representations to the federal government to contain the pres-pressure for increasing the interest rate for housing loans and, if so, what is the outcome of his representation?

ANSWER

The government continuously makes representation to the federal government on matters such as the interest rates in Australia, particularly those affecting home buyers. This is a matter that the Chief Minister has taken a particular interest in and has raised continuously in correspondence between himself and the Prime Minister. Indeed, my office also has had correspondence with the federal Treasurer on this matter. In answer to what effect they have had, one only has to look at the national scene and movement in interest rates. It has not been downwards unfortunately. The federal government has the Campbell Report which officers of the Northern Territory government are also studying with a view to taking a particular stance on various aspects of the report. There is no doubt that the reforms proposed by the Campbell Report are very far-reaching as far as financial administration systems in Australia are concerned. Of particular interest to politicians throughout the country is the effect the recommendations are likely to have on interest rates for home buyers. It is not a subject which can be canvassed during question time in the Assembly. I can assure the honourable member that the matter of trying to bring pressure from any quarter to reduce interest rates for home buyers is very much on our minds.

Northern Territory Development Corporation

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will he consider the appointment of a Territory farmer to the board of the Northern Territory Development Commission?

ANSWER

When vacancies come up on boards such as the Territory Development Corporation, the government assesses applicants for the particular vacancy and decides at that time who should be appointed to the board. The honourable member's

point has been taken. The government will appoint to its boards persons it feels are best able to contribute to the boards.

Fire Control

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Are amendments planned for legislation concerning fire control and prevention?

ANSWER

A total review of fire services legislation is in progress. That will cover all aspects of fire prevention. No amendments to existing legislation are planned because new legislation is being prepared.

Health Department Staff Workloads

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he undertake a review of workloads of his departmental staff as a result of a change in staff functions since the introduction of the new health care arrangements?

ANSWER

I can assure the member that there is a constant review of workloads of people within the department. As the member is aware, there are 3011 people in the Department of Health. Because of its size, it needs constant revision, updating and improvement.

Rumours about Reassignments of Departmental Heads

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

I understand that there are rumours circulating around the public service of reassignments of departmental heads. Is he able to inform me if there is any truth in such rumours?

ANSWER

I am surprised to hear of such rumours because, if members care to glance around the Australian scene, they will find that the administrative arrangements under this government - that is, the portfolios allocated to ministers, their length of service and stability in those portfolios and likewise the arrangement of departmental heads and heads of statutory authorities - are as stable as any. In fact they are without question the most stable in Australia. I can say that, certainly at the present time, there is no intention on my part to vary the arrangements regarding departmental heads and heads of statutory authorities whatsoever.

Public Access to Gunn Point

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What access to the Gunn Point area will be allowed to the general public when the forestry reserve is handed over to the prisons by gazettal next week?

ANSWER

The public have never had free and open access to the area north of the prison farm in the past because the roads to the area are fenced. There is an arrangement whereby one must seek permission and obtain a key to go into this area. The road does in fact go through a forestry reserve which is an area where public access was controlled because of the possibility of fires and so on. It was also the access to the Gunn Point Prison Farm.

In looking at this area and making some changes, the government's attitude has been that the maximum possible public access to all recreational areas at

Gunn Point will be allowed. The boundaries of the prison farm will enable roads to be installed that can enable the public to have access to beaches and recreational areas in the vicinity. In some cases, the amendments to the boundaries will provide for roads to be put in where there are none at the present time. This is an important issue. The roads that are there at present are there for specific purposes, such as access to the prison farm, and they are not acceptable, permanent public access points.

We propose to draw up a plan to provide access to all the beaches concerned. There are some very nices beaches at Gunn Point. Also access will be provided to areas such as the Vernon Islands, the mouth of the Adelaide River etc. The public should have access to those places and our proposal is that it shall be under a much better arrangement than existed in the past.

Ward System for Alice Springs Town Council

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Does he envisage the introduction of a ward system for the Alice Springs Town Council and, if so, when would he envisage such a system being introduced?

ANSWER

The government does not have any plans to initiate a ward system for local government elections in Alice Springs. Normally these matters would be raised with the government by the corporation itself and then the matter would be examined. As members will be aware, the ward system of election for local government operates in Darwin but the other municipalities elect their aldermen from a single electorate. There are some advantages and disadvantages with such a system. At present, the government has no intention of changing the system that operates in Alice Springs and has received no representations on this matter.

Treatment of Burns at Casuarina Hospital

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

During the last sittings of the Assembly, in answer to a question on notice, he said that there were no special facilities for the treatment of burn cases at the Casuarina Hospital. Is it true that such a facility has in fact existed at the hospital for 18 months but that the plumbing that was required has only been connected to it in the last 48 hours?

ANSWER

I will be visiting Casuarina Hospital at lunchtime. I will provide the honourable member with an answer this afternoon.

Water Reticulation in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he able to advise me yet of an overall plan for water reticulation for the rural area and in particular the McMinns Lagoon area?

ANSWER

While there is no current scheme to reticulate water in the McMinns Lagoon area, consideration is being given to the possible improvement of supply to rural consumers. There are numerous issues involved and much more investigation is required before such a policy is finalised. Those investigations are in hand including a ground pollution study which will take approximately 10 months to complete. I shall write to the honourable member with more details.

Sanderson Health Clinic

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it proposed to relocate the Sanderson health clinic? If so, what are the reasons for the relocation and what will be the new location?

ANSWER

There is a definite plan to relocate the Sanderson health clinic in the vicinity of Casuarina shopping centre in Monterey House. Over the road, a new premises is being developed and the department will be taking up floor space for the provision of community health facilities. I believe that the department's 6 dialysis machines will also be operated from there. This will be a new service so far as the northern suburbs are concerned.

The reason for this is that the current Sanderson health centre is not in a suitable geographic position for the people of the northern suburbs. The

honourable member will recall that there was a proposal to build a health centre about 150 yards down the road at Dripstone. It is quite practical and feasible and will offer a better service to all the people of the northern suburbs if the Sanderson and the Dripstone facilities could be located in the one building which is about to be developed.

The most important consideration in the siting of the health centre was really the provision of public transport. An argument has always been put that Dripstone is a good spot to have it because it is central to the people. The map of the northern suburbs shows that Dripstone is on the southern end of the northern suburbs and services a very distinct area. However, the rest of the northern suburbs is devoid of cover and it was felt appropriate that, as the Casuarina shopping centre area was the focal point for the bus terminal and most people conduct their shopping and other activities there, it would also be an appropriate place to put the community health centre.

Mr Speaker, I have been in close contact with the department over this matter for a long period of time. If any member of the Assembly envisages a particular problem with the new proposal, I would be happy to hear from him and discuss the matter in detail. I can assure honourable members that the whole matter has been researched thoroughly and the proposal, in my view, will stand up to just about any scrutiny members may like to give it.

Petrol Sniffing at Papunya

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of any action taken by his department to attempt to alleviate the problem of petrol sniffing at Papunya?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am reminded by the honourable Minister for Community Development that a ministerial statement has been made to the Assembly on this subject. In any event, I would suggest that the question would be better directed to my colleague, the Minister for Community Development, because one would imagine that the problem comes within his area of responsibility.

Mr BELL: Mr Speaker, may I redirect the question to the Minister for Community Development?

ANSWER

It is all a matter of communication. A statement was made on this subject fairly recently and is currently on the Notice Paper. The Department of Health and the Department of Community Development both have a very real interest in the problem of petrol sniffing. How to control, or preferably eliminate, petrol sniffing in Aboriginal communities is a very severe and very vexing problem. However, I do not have any specific answers for the honourable member for MacDonnell. He may perhaps write to my colleague and myself seeking a delineation of responsibilities between the Departments of Health and Community Development.

Northern Territory Public Service Superannuation Fund

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has a decision been made yet as to who will manage the Northern Territory Public Service superannuation fund and what the accumulated funds will be used for?

ANSWER

I have in my possession a copy of the Superannuation Bill which I propose to seek the leave of the Assembly to introduce without notice this morning to end speculation in relation to this matter. In fact, the Northern Territory Public Service superannuation scheme will virtually mirror the Commonwealth legislation in that area. The Northern Territory is simply moving to take over

another state-like function, which is the provision of superannuation for its public servants. This superannuation is currently carried by the Commonwealth's superannuation fund.

There will be a board of management of the superannuation fund in much the same way there is a board of management of the Commonwealth fund. I understand the 4-member board of management that Cabinet approved for the Northern Territory fund was to be comprised of the Public Service Commissioner, the Under-Treasurer, a person elected by contributors and a person appointed by the government with investment and financial expertise. However, that is a matter for discussion in this Assembly when the bill comes up for debate. I would not like to foreshadow that too much. This board would be responsible for placing the moneys of the fund in investments of a reputable nature. I imagine there would be some investment in the Northern Territory by the fund. No doubt, a great deal of its investment would be in the normal type of trustee securities. I dare say that the greater proportion of the fund would be invested around Australia.

Flooding at Railway Dam

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What action is his department proposing to take to overcome the problem of recent flooding affecting the Railway Dam community in Darwin?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, a detailed study of the problem is being carried out by the Department of Lands in conjunction with the Department of Transport and Works. It is one of those cases of omission in that there is no existing easement over the privately-owned property. Of course, it was the activities of the owner of that property which caused the problem. Obviously, the Department of Lands and Housing will have to look at the possibility of acquiring part of the land for an easement should that be necessary. We would certainly seek first to enter into negotiations with the owner of the land to encourage him to provide proper drainage for the area and overcome a problem which I believe he has probably created himself.

Carpentaria College Site

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he indicate yet when a development plan for Carpentaria College site will go on public display?

ANSWER

If the honourable member would like to see me when the Assembly rises for lunch, I will have a yarn with her about it then. I have a copy of the plans in my office and will be quite happy to discuss it with her at that time.

Kookaburra Aircraft Memorial

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise when the Kookaburra aircraft memorial in Alice Springs will be completed?

ANSWER

The tender for the Kookaburra diorama which is to be erected at the Araluen Foundation site in Alice Springs has been let and construction is about to commence. I have seen the plans of the building; it looks quite attractive. It will be completed by the end of January 1982.

Ranger Uranium Mine

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Last night the management of Ranger stated that it could comply with the standards for environmental protection if they were lowered. Is he considering such a lowering of the standards?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. I might add that, since the events of Monday, I have received no communication from the company whatsoever about its intentions?

Nhulunbuy Health Centre

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will there be any further transfer of services from the Nhulunbuy Health Centre to the Gove District Hospital?

ANSWER

I cannot answer that question off the top of my head. If he would give me an hour's notice of such questions, I might be able to answer them at question time.

Sadadeen Primary School

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he give an assurance that the Sadadeen Primary School will be ready for occupation in April 1982 as he indicated in the August sittings?

ANSWER

On my advice from the contracting company, the core of the primary school will certainly be available probably for the beginning of the school year, certainly in April at the latest. The stage 2 development will probably be available for occupation in about June.

Consumer Affairs Council

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the reason for appointing only 7 members to the incoming Consumer Affairs Council whereas the outgoing Consumer Affairs Council consisted of 10 members?

ANSWER

The Consumer Affairs Act provides discretion for a range of members to be appointed to the Consumer Affairs Council. I cannot think of the exact numbers. I think the minimum is 6 and the maximum is 12. All positions expired fairly recently and it was sought to restructure the council, as the government has done with a number of boards in the Northern Territory, to give additional people the opportunity to contribute to government input. All major centres - Nhulunbuy, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek - are represented on the board and people from various backgrounds and interests are represented. I believe that such a board should have such representation in its advice to government. I think that the board of 7 can work very well.

Weeds in Inland Waterways

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What is being done about the existing and potential weed problem in inland waterways which is affecting fish? Will steps be taken to eradicate water weeds?

ANSWER

I circulated a paper on weeds some months ago. It certainly is a vexing question that the department has to contend with. I do not believe there is enough money in Australia to deal adequately with the weed problem. There are far-flung rivers in the Northern Territory that have weeds by the thousand acres. I guess his question comes back to what is being done about the weeds in respect of fisheries. I am unaware of any controlled fisheries that have a weed problem. Certainly, we are aware of several infestations of weeds that are causing us some concern and we are attempting to deal with those problems.

Humpty Doo High School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What stage of development has been reached in the building of the high school at Humpty Doo?

ANSWER

The Department of Transport and Works has let selected contracts in order to produce results quicker than would normally occur by the normal tendering process. That work is currently under way and it is anticipated that the first set of classrooms and specialist facilities for that high school will be available by the beginning of 1983. The scope of the project is such as to provide for a specialist block, 4 classrooms and the administration block in stage one. That should be finished by January or February of 1983.

Henbury Avenue Special School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will the sad saga of the Henbury Avenue Special School be concluded satisfactorily by the beginning of the 1982 school year?

ANSWER

As I have previously indicated in the Assembly, I wish I could give assurances on what the Leader of the Opposition quite rightly describes as a 'sad saga'. The contractors indicated that it should be completed by November this year. Giving them another 3 months after that, one would hope that it would be ready by the beginning of the next school year.

Winton to Boulia Road

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can he advise if he has yet had a reply from the Queensland Minister responsible for main roads about the unsealed 88 km section of the Winton to Boulia Road? The sealing of this section would be of great benefit to the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. I wrote to the honourable Russ Hinze, Minister for Main Roads in Queensland, in September. To date, I have not had a reply but we are pursuing the matter.

Out-of-turn Housing Allocations

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the government's attitude to the establishment of an appeal system for those applicants who have been refused out-of-turn allocation by the Housing Commission and who still consider their situation warrants further action?

ANSWER

There are appellants in this country who go all the way through to the equivalent of our High Court and still believe that they are entitled to further hearings. One can understand that. It is not the intention of the government to introduce any such further appeal system. We believe that the system at present is equitable and we believe that it would be an unnecessary burden to go any further.

Sadadeen Primary School

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What provision has been made to house students of Sadadeen Primary School until the school opens?

ANSWER

The member would be aware that the subdivisions which gave rise to the original fear that Ross Park Primary would be grossly overcrowded by this year and certainly next year do not appear to be coming to pass. Indeed, there are no new homes as yet in the Sadadeen stage 1 and 2 subdivision. There will be no overcrowding at all during this school year and it is doubtful that there will be significant overcrowding next year. It is not envisaged at this stage that there will be a problem. If there is a problem, it will be a temporary one, perhaps 3 or 4 months. In that case, it may be necessary to provide 1 additional mobile classroom. Certainly, we will not put in demountables because these tend to become permanent.

Future Management of Northern Territory Hostels

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What arrangements have been made for the future management of those Northern Territory hostels currently managed by the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Service which the federal government has announced is to cease operation and for which the management contracts are due to run out shortly?

ANSWER

As members will be aware, the decision of the Commonwealth was taken quite unilaterally - as were all decisions pursuant to the Razor Gang recommendations announced by the Prime Minister which have caused governments around this country difficulties - and has caused this government considerable difficulty. There is a contingency plan and there is no point in going into it at this stage. The Chief Minister has been communicating with the Prime Minister to try to clarify the federal government's role. We believe this precipitous withdrawal is quite unfair to us and we certainly want some further lead time in order to handle this matter properly. If the answer from the federal government is in the negative, then I would be happy to advice the Assembly at a later stage of what we propose.

Future Use of Bagot Park Area

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has a decision been made on the future use of the Bagot Park Speedway area?

ANSWER

To my knowledge, no future use has been finally determined by the city council. The area is vested in the care and control of the Darwin city council. Whilst I am aware of 1 or 2 recreational and sporting groups which have approached the council with a view to taking over the Bagot Park area for their own uses after the speedway moves, I am not aware that the council has as yet made any decision on the matter. Certainly, I think it is one that the council should resolve fairly quickly so that the various groups can get on with planning.

Hospital at Jabiru

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it true, as many residents of Jabiru appear to think it is, that the hospital being constructed at Jabiru will not be opened as a hospital and people requiring hospitalisation from Jabiru will be sent to Casuarina?

ANSWER

Let there be no doubt in anybody's mind that the hospital at Jabiru cannot be all things to all people. There will certainly be people coming from Jabiru to Darwin for certain forms of treatment, just as people from Tennant Creek, Katherine, Gove and Groote Eylandt go to the larger centres for certain treatment. It is not true to say that the hospital will not open as a hospital. It will. The functions that will be carried out in the hospital are yet to be determined. I might add that there is still some dispute between the Commonwealth and ourselves over funding levels for the hospital. That is really an internal matter that has to be sorted out. As soon as these things are resolved, we will get on with the business of running the hospital.

New Cell Blocks at Berrimah Prison

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the current development stage of the new cell blocks at Berrimah Prison?

ANSWER

The accommodation at Berrimah Prison will be expanded quite significantly shortly. Accommodation for another 40 prisoners has been planned and I think I advised the Assembly earlier this year that arrangements had been made for this accommodation to be installed. It is hoped that by mid-December this year units will be completed to accommodate a further 40 prisoners, bringing the total Berrimah single-cell accommodation to 150. The government has also approved the creation of 9 additional positions of prison officer to cater for the increase in accommodation at Berrimah. Hopefully, for a period to time, this will give reasonably adequate accommodation for prisoners in Darwin. In the past, there have been times when the prisoner accommodation at Berrimah has been over the maximum that the facility was designed for. However, hopefully that situation will not arise very often in the future.

Channel Island Power-Station

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the progress of site investigations in respect of the proposed Channel Island power-station?

ANSWER

There are people doing preliminary survey work on the Channel Island site at the moment. I cannot tell the honourable member the degree of work that has been done. If she is keen to know exactly what has been done, I can undertake to get a list of all the things that have been completed and provide them later in the sittings.

Public Access to Gunn Point

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

When a management plan for the recreational use of the Gunn Point area is finally prepared and accepted by the government, who will have the administration of access? Will it be the Conservation Commission or prison staff?

ANSWER

An acceptable management plan has not yet been prepared. A draft management plan has been prepared which was rather grandiose. I referred it back to the Conservation Commission with a few suggestions because I believe that it is a passive recreation area rather than an active one. In my view, there are no particular natural features at Gunn Point which would justify creating a national park in that area. I believe that the area should be open to and available for recreational purposes by the people of the city of Darwin and its environs. The people of Darwin unfortunately lack areas to which they may repair for recreation. When Gunn Point is developed to the extent of access roads to the beaches and to a creek - I think we might be proposing to put in a boat ramp - then I believe it will provide a most attractive feature in this part of the world.

I might say also that discussions are being held between the Conservation Commission and the Department of Lands and Housing in relation to other recreational activities. I believe that the Minister for Lands and Housing will be meeting a group of people in Alice Springs in the course of the next week or 2 to discuss further provisions that may be afforded in the regrettably rather tight situation that the Northern Territory finds itself in in relation to areas of general recreation.

Jervois and Mollie Hill

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise when medical facilities may be provided to the Jervois and Mollie Hill mining communities in central Australia?

ANSWER

The department has a role of providing services to people in remote areas. I am not aware of the exact level of service that will be provided to the communities at Jervois and Mollie Hill. I believe that there are about 130 people in these places and, at one particular site, there is already a nursing sister. The degree of service that we would provide and the level that the communities expect is something that really should be taken up by the company with the department. We do not have an automatic obligation to follow every community that pops up in the Northern Territory with fully fledged community health centres and hospitals. In this particular case, there would be some expectation that the company would do something to help itself. We would try to provide the level of service that is satisfactory to the communities.

Phosphate Deposits at Batchelor

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Considering the increased and still rising cost of superphosphate, will he further investigate the potential of known phosphate deposits in the Batchelor area so that Territory producers will be able to supplement imported fertilisers with a Territory product?

ANSWER

The question of fertiliser and phosphate at Batchelor has been under consideration for quite some considerable time. I recall that the department did tests on the product from that area about 2 years ago. The results were fairly inconclusive. I seem to recall that the product is unsuitable without considerable treatment. If the honourable member has any new information, we would be pleased to take the matter up again.

1978.821—20

Nhulunbuy Community Library

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the Department of Education's assessment of the new community library in Nhulunbuy as an educational facility?

ANSWER

Yes.

Shopping Complex in Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of any proposal to site a shopping complex on the existing city council car-park next door to Woolworths?

ANSWER

I am unaware of any such proposal. I will certainly have the matter investigated and inform him later.

Ranger Uranium Mine

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERYG

Is it true that if the environmental regulations at Ranger were complied with by the company - that is, to have 2 metres of water over the top of the tailings - that body of water could not reasonably fit into the tailings dam as it is presently constructed?

ANSWER

I cannot answer that but I give him an undertaking that his question will be addressed in the report that is being prepared by the department.

Stott Terrace Connector Road

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

Is he aware that reconstruction of Undoolya Road will be very inconvenient and possibly quite dangerous without the detour that could be provided by the arterial connector road from Stott Terrace bridge? When can we expect some action on this connector road?

ANSWER

I understand that plans are well advanced for the design of the new connector road leading off the Stott Terrace bridge. I have spoken previously about the difficulties that we have had on this matter and there is no point elaborating on those. As a result of a new route having been found, extensive redesign is necessary and we would hope that this is done within the next couple of months. I certainly agree with the member that the reconstruction of Undoolya Road will cause inconvenience. I would not necessarily accept that it will cause a dangerous situation. Obviously, when reconstruction of that nature takes place, certain traffic control measures are taken such as greatly reducing the speed limit. I suppose it is also true to say that any reconstruction of an arterial road causes inconvenience. I think anyone who chooses to come via the Bagot Road-Stuart Highway intersection would agree. Nonetheless, a temporary inconvenience is often woth while for the benefit of the longer term traffic flow.

National Estate Grant for the Encouragement of Bark Painting

Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has he taken any action in respect of a National Estate grant from the federal government for the encouragement of bark painting in the Top End?

ANSWER

I have no details with me on this matter and I suggest the member place the question on notice. We receive a number of specific purpose grants from the Commonwealth which we administer through our own arts and heritage authorities. The one the member specifically mentioned does not come to mind and I will have the matter followed up.

Feral Buffalo and Cattle in Kakadu National Park

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Because the Conservation Commission falls within the portfolio of the Chief Minister and because of his liaison capabilities with his federal counterpart who has the responsibility for the administration of Kakadu National Park, does he know the plans for disposal of feral buffalo and feral cattle in the park during this Wet?

ANSWER

The member for Tiwi makes a few assumptions in asking that question. She assumes that I have a capacity for liaison with my federal counterpart in this particular area of national parks. Actually, I have a very limited capacity for liaison with that gentleman because he comes to the Northern Territory and avoids me like the plague despite invitations to meet me on several occasions. In this Assembly, we should adopt the policy of answering questions relating to our particular responsibilities. Quite obviously, Kakadu National Park is not, at this stage, a direct responsibility of the Northern Territory government but it is certainly an area of responsibility that the Northern Territory seeks. I am sure, in due course, by arrangement with the Aboriginal people of the area and with the federal government, our aspirations will be met even though the road may be rocky and long. I have caused a telephone call to be made to the ANPWS and I am informed that not a great deal of culling goes on during the wet seaon. If the member for Tiwi would like to make a similar telephone call, she will be given full particulars.

Licensing of Insurance and Mortgage Brokers

Mrs O'NEIL to ATORNEY-GENERAL

There has been wide discussion in Australia recently on the desirability of licensing insurance and mortgage brokers. I think this follows a recommendation of the Law Reform Commission. Is consideration being given to such action in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I understand that the Treasurer is involved in the process of formulating legislation in relation to the registration of insurance brokers. It apparently falls within his area of responsibility and he may be able to give the honourable member for Fannie Bay more details on the matter than I can.

Mrs O'Neil: Mr Speaker, may I redirect the question to the honourable Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Development?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think it is suffice to say that the government is examining the matter of the reasonableness of introducing legislation to license and control insurance brokers in the Northern Territory. The relevant government officers held talks with various arms of the insurance industry on the matter and I believe that a Cabinet submission may be ready for consideration in the near future.

Shopping Complex in Darwin

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of any proposal to site a shopping complex on the existing city council car-park, next to Woolworths in Cavenagh Street?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, when I heard the member for Port Darwin address his question regarding a shopping complex to the Minister for Lands and Housing I mentioned to him that the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of the Corporation of the City of Darwin telephoned me yesterday to say that he has a proposal in relation to a department store. From memory, it is to be erected on that car-park in Cavenagh Street next to Woolworths. He said that he would send me a copy of this proposal which he had received from certain people who apparently want to build the department store and run it. I thanked him and said I would look forward to receiving it. That was about the sum total of the conversation. I do not have any precise details at this stage, but there certainly is a project in the air which may result. That is all I can say. The Lord Mayor made it quite clear that there is no commitment on the part of the council to the project at this stage; it is merely a proposal that he has received in his capacity as Lord Mayor. I suppose he gets plenty every week, as I do, for turning water into gold and things like that, and seeking finance to that end. No doubt it will be considered by the council and, if there is any assistance that is needed by it from the Territory government then I am sure - if the proposal is a worthwhile one, and on the face of it one would think that Darwin could well use a department store having reached this stage of its growth and progress - then the Territory government would assist in whatever reasonable way it could.

Reef Fish and Mackerel Fishing

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What investigations have been undertaken into reef fish and mackerel fishing and are Northern Territory waters suitable for the introduction of mackerel and the subsequent catch?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has spent quite a bit of money looking at the potential of reef fish and mackerel fishing to enable diversification away from the barramundi fishery. The results to date have been quite inconclusive. The fishery itself is obviously not strong enough. More work is required before I can advise the member further.

Stott Terrace to Undoolya Connector Road

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

Can he give an estimate of how long it will take to build the Stott Terrace to Undoolya connector road once the tender has been accepted?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer the member but will seek information and provide it to him at a later hour.

Liquor Advertising

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has he undertaken any consultation with the alcohol industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

ANSWER

The short answer is no, not because I am not interested, but because the control of advertising for the alcohol industry, as with most other industries, is outside the prerogatives and responsibilities of the Northern Territory government. I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that the alcohol industry is in no doubt about my attitude towards the excessive consumption of alcohol in the Territory. However, the government cannot control the levels and methods of advertising.

Traffic Lights at McMillans Road-Stuart Highway Intersection

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the importance of the intersection of McMillans Road and the Stuart Highway, when will the traffic lights there be in operation again as they have not been operating for 3 days.

ANSWER

The member has just made me aware of the problem at that intersection. I will have the department remedy this situation as soon as possible.

Review of Staffing at Casuarina Hospital

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Following the review of staffing undertaken at the Casuarina Hospital, in which areas have there been found to be shortages?

ANSWER

I cannot answer the member off the top of my head. I can advise him the review was carried out in no less than 17 or 19 sections of the hospital. It affected everybody from the medical superintendent all the way down the scale. I will undertake to get an answer for the member and advise him later of the complete review.

Draft Planning Instrument for Brinkin Area

Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Would he consider extending to 90 days the display period for the draft planning instrument for the Brinkin area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have already issued instructions to the person holding my delegation under the Planning Act that the display period in this instance be extended to 90 days. By your leave, Sir, I might take the opportunity to make a couple of comments on the petition which has just been tabled as it is within this context. The government, of course, notes that particular petition, but I would like to point out that there has never been R1 zoning in that area; in fact, it was previously zoned 'future uses'.

National Park at Tempe Downs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it the intention of the government to declare a national park on Tempe Downs in the vicinity of Kings Canyon and, if so, what consideration is being given to the traditional associations of the Kultitja, Murrathurra, the Luritja and Pitjantjatjara in that area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question would probably be better addressed to the Chief Minister as minister responsible for national parks and for the Conservation Commission. It is the intention of the Northern Territory government to establish a significant national park in that area. Needless to say the Conservation Commission has a consistent policy in areas where Aboriginal people have an association to try to involve them to the maximum extent not only in the running but also the planning of such a national park. However, the question should be answered in a fuller sense by my colleague.

Driving Licences for 16-year-olds

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the minister considered the subject of issuing driving licences to 16-year-olds in certain circumstances and, if so, can he outline his plans on the matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have received several representations on this subject, including a couple from the honourable member herself, and can inform the Assembly that the problem is receiving consideration at the national level. The Australian Transport Advisory Council is considering the question of a minimum licensing age as part of a general review of licensing of drivers in Australia. The Commonwealth Office of Road Safety has reported possible advantages in making restricted licences available to 16-year-olds. The Commonwealth House of Representatives Standing Committee on Road Safety is also in the process of reporting on driver education, training, and licensing. I shall have the progress of these studies monitored and, should it appear that there is additional support for allowing 16-year-olds some form of licence, I will have the appropriate legislation prepared for consideration by this Assembly.

Assembly Sittings in 1982

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Chief Minister consider asking yourself, Sir, to increase the frequency of sittings in 1982?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I noted the comments of the Leader of the Opposition last week in relation to the frequency and duration of sittings of the Assembly. It was certainly as gladdening to my ear as it must have been saddening to some of the journalists in the box, who have been bleating about the need for more frequent and longer sittings, to hear the Leader of the Opposition state that this Assembly certainly sat for long enough to transact its business. As every honourable member knows, the Assembly can sit as long as it needs to transact its business. I thought the the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition was a good one. I have asked for a paper to be prepared for discussion in Cabinet and the preparation of suggestions to you, Sir. As a preliminary thought on the matter, perhaps we could split the proposed November sittings next year into 2 sittings of 1 week each to meet the requirements of the member for Fannie Bay who complained last week that the budget sat around for too long to be debated. We could have a 1-week sittings in September or October and then have a 1-week sittings in November. This would suit not only the Deputy Leader of the Opposition but my colleague the Treasurer who is a bit like a mother hen until the budget has been passed. It would kill 2 birds with one stone.

International Year of the Disabled Person

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Following completion of the International Year of the Disabled Person how will continued government support of the principles of that year be manifested in 1982?

ANSWER

I have a Cabinet submission on this subject. It addresses the various options which are open to government in the period following the International Year of the Disabled Person. My department has had a look at the various options open within the policy of government and I hope to make an announcement shortly.

Nomad Aircraft

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Recently, he announced that there would be a review of the use of Nomad aircraft in the Aerial Medical Service. Has the review been concluded and, if so, what is the outcome?

ANSWER

The review is complete and is being assessed by the department. I have not read the review myself but, as soon as the department's comments on it are complete, I will read the review and the comments so that we can look at the future of aircraft for the Aerial Medical Service.

Financial Assistance to Barramundi Fishermen

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has he, through the Treasurer, made an application to the Commonwealth for special funds to assist Northern Territory barramundi fishermen to transfer out of that section of the fishing industry, bearing in mind that a barramundi boat cannot be used effectively for any other kind of fishing?

ANSWER

Like all the states, the Northern Territory was party to a submission to establish a rural adjustment scheme for fishermen. At a meeting held earlier this year in Melbourne, the Northern Territory still subscribed to the Commonwealth's wish that that scheme be implemented. Most of the states backed out

because the Commonwealth refused to put up the money. That is not to say that the Northern Territory government will not pursue it over the coming weeks.

Land for Agricultural Development and Marketing Scheme

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is it the intention of government to obtain more land for the ADMA scheme by compulsory acquisition?

ANSWER

The government is certainly desirous of obtaining more land for agricultural development. Agricultural development in the Northern Territory cannot proceed past its present point unless further land is obtained. The Northern Territory government is seriously considering the ways and means available to it to obtain the land necessary to implement stage 1 of the Agricultural Development and Marketing Scheme.

TB-infected Feral Animals

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Do tuberculosis-infected feral animals present a serious obstacle to the eradication of the disease in cattle?

ANSWER

Significant levels of tuberculosis in feral animals are confined to buffalo and pigs. TB in buffalo is a major problem. It can only be overcome by using the control measures effective in cattle. Those measures include intensive testing, the culling of reactors and the destocking of animals which cannot be mustered. TB in feral pigs appears to be less of a problem than it is in buffalo. Experiments are being carried out at the Berrimah research station where pigs that are heavily infected by TB are deliberately run with TB-free buffalo. The pigs do not appear to transmit TB to cattle. The trials are continuing and, if the situation is confirmed, we could then say that the infected feral pigs do not represent a disease hazard to buffalo and cattle which are free of tuberculosis.

Southern Treatment for Juvenile Psychiatric Cases

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are available for juveniles receiving psychiatric treatment to be transferred to southern cities for the purpose of long-term care and management in institutions which are specifically equipped to handle such cases?

ANSWER

The department has long-term arrangements with the South Australian government for the treatment of people who need psychiatric care. The decision to send people to South Australia is taken on medical grounds only. The cost to the Northern Territory is quite high but it is our responsibility and we meet it. As the honourable member is aware, with our small population, it is not possible to have a psychiatric unit that provides all services for all persons. For that reason, we will always have to send some people interstate, which is regrettable. Nevertheless, if the member has a particular case that she would like to raise confidentially with the department, I would be happy to have the matter taken up on her behalf.

International Year of the Tree

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

He is doubtless aware that, to many people's delight, next year is the International Year of the Tree. Would he indicate what special funding, if

any, is being made to any organisations to promulgate the International Year of the Tree?

ANSWER

The subject of trees, their preservation, conservation or eradication does not fall within my portfolio areas. The Treasury looks after funding right across the board, so I do not have the information in front of me. Perhaps she should redirect the question.

International Year of the Tree

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I redirect my question to the Chief Minister.

ANSWER

I am delighted to hear from the member that next year is the International Year of the Tree. It is a subject that is very dear to my heart. I was disappointed when I heard some weeks ago on the ABC that next year was to be the International Year of the Mother-in-Law to improve the status throughout the world of mothers-in-law. This was reported in quite a serious manner. It seems to me that mothers-in-law are there and there is not a great deal that we can do. I think they will always be the butt of some jokes from sons-in-law and daughters-in-law. As I say, I am delighted that it is to be trees rather than mothers-in-law. I am quite sure that the Conservation Commission will gear itself up to mounting a massive program on educating people on the benefits and advantages of trees. As you know, Mr Speaker, in the Northern Territory, forestry is a purely conservation function and there is virtually no exploitation of trees except for round pole houses and fences. I would say that we are already planting more trees each year than we are destroying. That is as it should be and it is a shame that it cannot be said for other areas of the world. In some countries, unfortunately, all the trees have been felled and the countryside is bare. I hope that next year will be one in which many more people in the community will become aware of the importance of trees to the environment.

Alice Springs Rifle Range

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

Has a decision been made on the relocation of the Alice Springs rifle range?

ANSWER

No.

Ranger Uranium Mine

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of the fact that the Ranger Mines Environmental Impact Statement and the Fox Report both recommended that the coverage of tailings should be between 2 metres and 3.5 metres of water, why were those standards lowered?

ANSWER

Without referring to the 2 inquiries to which the honourable member just alluded, I would say that the requirement by the Supervising Scientist so far as the coverage of the tailings in the dam is concerned has always been that they be kept under water. The company's proposition in its application for its authorisation was to keep the tailings under 2 metres of water and that was agreed to. The company applied subsequently to have its authorisation varied and the Supervising Scientist, the NLC and the technical people in my department agreed to the variation. That is why it was allowed to have the variation.

Bagot Park Speedway Area

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH SPORT and RECREATION

What steps will he take to ensure that the people of Millner are consulted about the future use of the Bagot Park Speedway area?

ANSWER

It is difficult to answer the question because it is a matter for the Corporation of the City of Darwin. I would ask that the honourable member request information from the city council regarding its future proposal for that area.

Red Milfoil in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Could the minister advise what action has been taken to counter the outbreak of red milfoil which has been discovered in the water system of the Alice Springs Casino?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Production and the Conservation Commission are working closely to contain the outbreak of red milfoil at the Alice Springs Casino. It is an indigenous water weed that is spread by birds throughout Australia. It has been found in the Finke and Hugh Rivers and the Barkly Tableland. Recommended treatment is with diquat at 2.5 mls per cubic metre of water. The water should not be used for irrigation for 10 days after treatment because diquat is toxic to fish. The casino has been advised to treat its reservoir, according to instructions, with diquat. For the 10-day holding period it should water its lawns directly from the bore.

Howard Springs Primary School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What plans are there to control the expected overcrowding at Howard Springs Primary School next year?

ANSWER

It is true that there is a possibility that the number of students at Howard Springs Primary School will exceed the design capacity of that school pending the opening of the Humpty Doo Primary School in the second semester of 1982. I am informed that the principal is of the view that he can cope with expected student numbers. If it is subsequently found that he is unable to do so, a similar set of circumstances would arise to those which occurred at the Ross Park Primary School in Alice Springs. We would probably provide a mobile classroom as a short-term measure. Again, it would not be one of the so-called demountables or transportables which tend to become permanent, but something that is strictly of a temporary nature to overcome the peak period which may occur some time next year or perhaps even in the first semester of 1983.

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What progress has been made towards the acceptance by the government of a management plan for the East Point Reserve and adjacent areas of land?

ANSWER

I have not been involved directly in any plan of management in respect of East Point since I left the portfolio of Minister of Community Development. It certainly is not a lands function. The Lands Department would become involved in it if it required a variation of zoning or a variation of boundaries. I know

of no further development since that time. The honourable member for Nightcliff has recently written to me on the proposal of the lakes project which adjoins the East Point Reserve. In that context, it would be true to say that the East Point Trustees would be of the view that they do not need the private development proposal in terms of their own development plan. Certainly, it would be true that the developers would need the cooperation of the East Point Trustees. It is not a matter directly related to my portfolio. I would assume that the present Minister for Community Development would be the right person to put the question to.

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I redirect my question regarding management plans for East Point Reserve to the Minister for Community Development.

ANSWER

I do not recall all of the honourable member's original question. The East Point Reserves Board, under a statute of this Assembly, has responsibility for the management of East Point at the present time and has had for a number of years. The East Point Reserve Trustees have engaged consultants in the past and have completed a fairly extensive report on the future of East Point and there are other parties interested in this subject. The city council have always taken an interest in East Point and its future. As the honourable Minister for Lands indicated, there is also a private proposal for the area which bears to some degree on the periphery of East Point. The Department of Community Development is preparing a submission on the subject for me taking into account the views of all parties concerned so that we can make a decision on the future of East Point. There are a number of matters unresolved at present and the government has received applications from groups in the community, not just to use some of the existing facilities at East Point, but to take some form of tenure over some of them for their own purposes. These matters are quite serious, of course, and will need to be addressed when looking at the entire future of East Point. I hope that, during the course of the next 6 months to a year, we can completely resolve the matter.

Billing of Outpatients in Remote Townships

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he recommend a system of bulk-billing for outpatients at hospitals and medical centres in remote townships which have no medical insurance office?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, the issue of bulk-billing is not one that can be resolved by the Northern Territory alone. It relates to Commonwealth law and its control over medical benefits funds. I am more than happy to consider the issue of bulk-billing and outpatients. In fact, I am not at all pleased with the operation of the funds in the Northern Territory at the moment. Most of the funds have set up facilities in Darwin and Alice Springs but Gove, Tennant Creek and Katherine are not suitably serviced by the facilities of the funds. In some cases, the funds are happy to collect revenue for contributions locally but insist on the processing of claims being done in places thousands of miles away. I wrote to the funds on this particular issue and did not get any joy. I will take one further step to try to break the nexus; that is, to offer to any fund which is prepared to set up contribution and payout facilities in every town of the Northern Territory space in our hospitals to provide its facilities. People who go to Outpatients could then get their accounts and walk over to a teller and obtain refunds. The funds are pretty competitive amongst themselves and I think they will not warm to this but, if we can get one of them to break ranks, it will be to the advantage of all citizens of the Northern Territory.

National Park at Tempe Downs

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the intention of the government to declare a national park on Tempe Downs in the vicinity of Kings Canyon and, if so, what consideration is being given to the traditional associations of the Kultitja, the Murrathurra, the Luritja and the Pitjantjatjarra in that area?

ANSWER

The Conservation Commission has been negotiating now for more than 10 years, I believe, with owners of Tempe Downs Station to acquire, by purchase or otherwise, an area of land surrounding Kings Canyon. Having seen it, I believe it to be one of the outstanding natural features of the Northern Territory. As well, there is unique vegetation and other features in the area which deserve preservation. At present, there is absolutely no protection afforded, in any statutory sense, to the Kings Canyon area. I think that the Conservation Commission has been very forbearing in the length of time that it has taken on these negotiations with the various owners. In any event, the matter is now drawing to a head, and it has been indicated to the owners of Tempe Downs that, unless they are prepared to negotiate expeditiously a reasonable price for the sale of the area to the Conservation Commission, then acquisition action will have to be taken. As the Minister for Lands and Housing indicated in his answer earlier, which I thought was more than sufficient to cover the question asked by the member for MacDonnell, the Conservation Commission will be taking into account the interests of people traditionally connected with the area. I would think that the declaration of a national park is one of the best ways of protecting their interests. It would certainly seem to me to be, from their point of view, a situation superior to the present situation whereby it is part of a pastoral property.

Channel Island Power-station

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it a fact that agencies acting on behalf of the Commonwealth government have suggested that, in view of Darwin's reduced rate of growth, the construction of the proposed Channel Island Power-station be deferred?

ANSWER

Not to me, Mr Speaker.

Aboriginal Development Commission Headquarters

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Is the Chief Minister aware of the need at Numbulwar for houses and cyclone shelters? Will he bring this need to the attention of the chairman of the Aboriginal Development Commission which recently purchased a building for $4m for its headquarters?

ANSWER

Throughout the Northern Territory, additional facilities are needed in various communities. I was intrigued at the question from the honourable member for Sanderson who indicated that, according to her, the growth of Darwin had slowed and the new power-station is not to be constructed. I found that rather extraordinary in view of the fact that subdividers are beating my door down trying to get into Palmerston. It seems that, despite what papers say, the growth situation in Darwin is evidenced very strongly by the fact that people want to put their money where their mouth is and carve up more land out there to sell to the people whom the honourable member for Sanderson says do not exist. I take the point that the Aboriginal Development Commission has purchased a building for its headquarters. I imagine that would be well within the legitimate power

of the commission. Allocation of its funds is a matter for the commission to decide on and I would imagine that, as the commission has to account to the Aboriginal people in due course, it would have considered whether it would have a headquarters building as an investment or provide additional facilities to remote communities. No doubt, the people of Numbulwar and other communities will ask the commission the basis on which it makes decisions on priorities.

Export of Horticultural Crops

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What produce is included in the government's scheme for the development of a small but highly profitable export of certain horticultural crops from the Northern Territory to South-east Asia?

ANSWER

The Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority is mainly concentrating its marketing efforts on mangoes and rock-melons at present. We sent some cartons there and the attitude towards the produce was interesting. In fact, it was demonstrated to us very clearly that the product currently being grown here is not exactly what the market wants. The market is looking for a smaller and sweeter rock-melon than we currently provide. The mangoes had a fairly mixed reception. I think the experience in testing the market the way we did will augur very well for the future of horticultural development in the Territory.

Juvenile Crime

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he received any evidence connecting school truancy with juvenile crime, especially house-breaking?

ANSWER

I certainly have not received any firm evidence connecting school truancy with juvenile crime, especially house-breaking, but the member has asked an interesting question. I am told by the police that no precise figures are kept but, on their experience rather than any empirical basis, they estimate that the percentage of juvenile crime connected with school truancy could be in the order of 30%. Obviously, it would be in the interests of the community to minimise truancy.

Burn Cases at Casuarina Hospital

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Further to the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition regarding a special burns facility at Casuarina Hospital and the minister's subsequent visit to the hospital, can he now inform the Assembly whether or not Ward 2B is used to hold patients who are suffering from methycillin staph resistant infections? If this is in fact the case, does it mean that burns patients do not have access to the special burns facilities in that ward because of the danger of such infections to them?

ANSWER

In response to a question on notice asked by the Leader of the Opposition, I was advised that listed on the 1981-82 minor new works program is a special burns bath for installation in Ward 2B at Casuarina Hospital. Burns patients are nursed in protective isolation in single rooms in the surgical ward and are bathed in bed or, until recently, in a bath kept solely for burns patients. Work has been completed on the installation of the burns bath and it became operational about a fortnight ago. This piece of equipment has been at the hospital since October last year but had not been installed until recently because of unresolved medical considerations as to whether the equipment was

appropriate and where it should be located. I must stress, however, that, in the interim, burns patients have had exclusive use of alternative, satisfactory, bathing facilities. The matter of bathing for burns patients is, in medical terms, quite complex and I would be happy for members to be briefed by the doctors who are involved in the exercise so that they can get a better understanding. I leave that invitation open to them.

Board Controlling Satellite Communication

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he had any indication whether or not it is possible for the Northern Territory to be represented on the board controlling Australian satellite communications?

ANSWER

Through the office of the Co-ordinator General, I have been monitoring the domestic satellite program and, where information can be obtained, we are getting it. In fact, only about a month ago, the Northern Territory government sent 2 officials to represent it at a conference in Canberra of proposed users of the domestic satellite. The Northern Territory officers put the Territory view that there must be adequate consideration for people in remote areas for educational programs and the like. It is the Northern Territory attitude that we do not want to see the domestic satellite monopolised by commercial interests. I think there is little danger of that but, unfortunately, the Minister for Communications announced the board that will control the operations of this domestic satellite some 2 or 3 weeks ago. To the best of my knowledge, the Northern Territory was not consulted beforehand - at least I do not think I was - and so far as I can recall I was not asked to nominate anyone to this board. I think it would be fruitless to take the matter of a nomination up at this stage because these people have been so recently appointed, but honourable members may rest assured that I will do my very best to get representation for the Northern Territory on this board as vacancies occur. I will be writing to the Minister for Communications in that regard. Mr Speaker, as you know because the lady in question resides in your electorate, the Northern Territory has been fortunate since the advent of self-government in gaining direct representation on the ABC in the person of Commissioner Val Michell, and it is the objective of the Northern Territory government to see that the Territory's interests, wherever possible, are represented on national boards of this nature. That policy will be maintained.

Enrolments at Aboriginal Teacher Training Centre

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

The number of applications for places in the Aboriginal Teacher Training Centre at Batchelor have dropped from 120 this year to 46 for the 1982 school year. Has this been caused by the non-replacement of Aboriginal trainee teachers in schools?

ANSWER

The honourable member asks me for information which I could not possibly have; he would have to ask the people who have not turned up. I would be happy to undertake an investigation of the matter and write to him in due course.

New Health Care Program for Aboriginals

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer to his press release of 7 October regarding his department's new Aboriginal health care program. What consultation with Aboriginal health workers and their communiities did his department undertake before announcing the new policy on the Aboriginalisation of health centres?

ANSWER

As I outlined to the Assembly last week, the policy ultimately to hand over health facilities in communities to Aboriginal health workers was established in 1975. The announcement that the honourable member refers to relates to the next step in that policy: to break the nexus and move out the European staff who have been present for some time. As I also mentioned the other day, the degree of consultation necessary to achieve this will be very great. It is not just a matter of abandonment on the part of the government to achieve its policy; it is really a matter of negotiating with the community concerned how, where and when to achieve the objective. As the honourable member is aware, there are some communities in the Northern Territory which do not wish to see their European sisters go away from their community. There are other areas where the community is happy for the transfer of power to be accomplished as early as possible.

The honourable member for Tiwi mentioned the other day the concern of her constituents at Garden Point. They raised the legal issues that relate to the removal of the European sister and the responsibilities placed on the Aboriginal health workers. All of these things have to be worked out between the department and the community. If the honourable member knows of any particular problems that confront us in this exercise, I would be more than happy to take the matter up with him. If he believes that adequate consultation and negotiation are not taking place, I would be keen to hear from him on that matter. The exercise is a transfer of power in an orderly manner and at the rate at which a local community wants it and is prepared to receive it.

Section 21 of Education Act

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many parents have been prosecuted this year under section 21 of the Education Act?

ANSWER

By the tone of the question, I assume it refers to that section which relates to prosecutions for non-attendance of children at schools. The answer is none.

Control of Fisheries

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

He made a statement last week that the Northern Territory was not able to control fisheries outside the 3-mile limit. The Fisheries Act, as amended in 1978, provides for this to happen. Mechanisms were provided for the Commonwealth and states to consult and agree on the management of a particular fishery irrespective of whether or not the fishery is within or beyond the 3-mile limit. Given that this is a fact, will he ensure that this agreement is sought so that a greater return from this Territory source can flow to the Territory?

ANSWER

I also stated at the time that a joint decision would have to be taken by the Territory, Queensland, Western Australia and the Commonwealth. The honourable member is losing sight of the fact that the Northern Territory has fought for fisheries over a number of years. In fact, we fought for fisheries west of the Wessels to be for Northern Territory fishermen only. We fought against the increase of the number of boats in the fishery. We fought against the subsidies allowed to shipbuilders to go on and on. If the honourable member thinks that we are walking away from looking after the rights of Territorians, I guess he is wrong. Again, the public could be misled by the NT News of yesterday. It is unfortunate that we have to keep slicing up the News for its misleading headlines. The headline is 'Fishing Not a Federal Matter Says Kerin'. Obviously, Mr Kerin's

positive commentary and contribution to debate is likely to have a non-positive effect on people who read the newspaper. I think that people should be aware of that.

NTDC Action on Loans Recovery

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In June of this year, he said in reply to a question on notice that the Northern Territory Development Corporation was taking follow-up and review action on drought relief, flood relief, Primary Producers' Board and Darwin business relief loans that were in arrears. Could he advise the Assembly if action has been taken?

ANSWER

I do not have specific information before me. I suggest that either he place the question on notice or write me a letter.

Letter PL629(3)GL2072 Relating to NT Portion 1097

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I preface my question by once more recalling the alacrity with which he read into Hansard the letter PL629 of about May this year in relation to NT portion 1097. Will he table a further letter PL629(3)GL2072 of October 1980 giving details of negotiations of his department in this matter?

ANSWER

The letter is dated 6 October. I have a copy here. I am not certain whether I have a spare copy. I certainly have no objection to either reading the letter into Hansard or tabling a copy of it. I would prefer not to take up the Assembly's time. The letter is dated 6 October 1980 and is addressed to Messrs Duncan and Gillman. I think the member indicated in a previous question that he thought it was addressed to solicitors Messrs Duncan and Gillman. The letter - and it is from myself - says:

> *I am writing in reference to discussions between yourselves, my predecessor, the honourable Mr Marshall Perron MLA, and Mr Ron Wright of my department about the possible release of vacant Crown Land to the south of your lease as an extension of the existing pastoral lease. As you are aware, the area is subject to an Aboriginal land claim which precludes any action for the time being to facilitate the release of this land. I do not believe I should give any commitment in relation to your application now because circumstances could well have changed if and when the land becomes available for release.*

Mr Speaker, at the time of writing that letter, I was wrongly under the impression that it was a continuation of an existing land claim. Upon discovery that the initial land claim had been withdrawn, I drew the conclusion, in accordance with government policy, that it was a second land claim. Thereupon the property did become available for release. At that time, I called for both files, made a decision as to which of the applicants in chronological order of application was most deserving of a grant of a Crown lease and acted accordingly.

Jabiru Police Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the Commonwealth financial commitment to the building of the Jabiru police station?

ANSWER

Under the funding arrangements for the provision of social amenities and infrastructure at Jabiru, the Commonwealth, in accordance with clause 67 of the Memorandum of Understanding, has accepted the commitment of $1.186m for the construction of a police station complex including a vehicle storage compound and a police officer's residence.

1978.821—21

Water Supply at Yarralin

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has he received advice that the water supply at Yarralin community is reported to be faecal contaminated, that this has been known or suspected for more than a year and that the water pumps are continually breaking down because of their age and lack of maintenance? I might add that the resident female anthropologist was quite seriously ill last year and hospitalised in Katherine for some time because of drinking contaminated water.

ANSWER

I do not recall being advised of the specific case mentioned by the honourable member for Victoria River. There are quite a number of areas in the Northern Territory where the water supply is considered unsatisfactory. The water does not meet World Health Organisation minimum quality for human consumption. These matters are not easily overcome particularly as many Aboriginal groups are very reluctant to move from their present areas for reasons known to themselves. The government has had very extensive bore drilling programs throughout the Territory and some of these have been unsuccessful in finding water within the reasonable vicinity of a group of Aboriginal people. If they choose not to move and continue to drink water that is available, which is often surface water which may be quite badly contaminated, then finding a solution presents real problems. In conjunction with the Department of Transport and Works, my department is investigating such matters as solar distillers to try to obtain suitable low maintenance machinery that could be put into the field to produce water, at least for human consumption, even if in relatively small quantities. This is an ongoing program because we are concerned about the standard of water in quite a number of areas. I do not recall specifically the problem in relation to the group the honourable member mentioned.

National and International Airlines and the Northern Territory

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Can the minister advise what action has been taken by himself and hard working officers of the Tourist Commission to encourage more national and international airlines to visit the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question is quite unexpected. I think the facts virtually speak for themselves in terms of the number of visitors attracted by and coming to the Northern Territory and the establishment of new air routes by the airlines. The Perth to Townsville route had its inaugural flight last month. The Minister for Transport and Works and I were on that flight. That is a weekly service and is fully booked until after Christmas. The Chief Minister has written to Ansett about establishing a weekly service between Brisbane, Alice Springs and Perth. At this stage, we have had no response from the Ansett people. The international scenario looks promising. Royal Brunei has asked, through the federal Department of Transport, to be considered for the operation of a service into Darwin and representatives from MAS are coming next April to see what possibilities exist for them to establish a service to the Territory also.

Aboriginal Teacher Training Program

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In compliance with a direction from the minister earlier this year that control of the program for Aboriginal teacher training at Batchelor should be given to the Darwin Community College, is it true that a proposal has been reached by the community college and the Department of Education that the course

should be split in half, the first 2 years being done in Batchelor and the last 2 years at the Darwin Community College?

ANSWER

At this stage, there is discussion between my department and the Darwin Community College as to the best method of implementing the decision I have taken. I would like to take the opportunity of clarifying what that decision was. Quite obviously, we would not want to see the Darwin Community College campus further split. Goodness knows, it has put up with that problem for long enough. As far as the teaching side is concerned, if we are going to encourage Aboriginal people to go into teacher training, then they must believe that the education they will get in order to become teachers is as near as is possible to that which is obtained by any other person who trains as a teacher. Therefore, I believe that the entire teaching program ought to be done by the Darwin Community College. The residential facilities, however, are at Batchelor. Certainly, we would not want to shift all of that, at enormous capital expenditure, back to the Casuarina campus. In addition to that, the Department of Education will undertake programs which are somewhat similar to those which were starting at Dhupuma; that is, short-course work. It means it is truly a TAFE institution on that section. Basically, the property would remain with the Department of Education but all teaching functions in teacher education, including the first 2 years, would be carried out by the people who are properly trained to teach teachers.

Fresh Water Prawn Farming

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has consideration been given to the possibility of fresh water prawn farming in the Northern Territory as is taking place in some other tropical areas?

ANSWER

Consideration has been given to fresh water prawn farming. The information available is fairly scant as far as the Australian experience is concerned. I understand that this type of activity takes place overseas with some measure of success. In fact, the Director of Fisheries and I inspected a prawn hatchery at Port Broughton last year and we were quite excited about the possibilities for the Northern Territory. I do not think that the Territory is in a position to pursue this particular matter on the scale that it would like to because of manpower, finance and similar restrictions. I think the day will come when we will have to look at it very closely.

Humpty Doo High School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he tell me if the building of the Humpty Doo High School has started yet?

ANSWER

At this stage, site works and compaction are still taking place and we expect that selective tenders will be called on 10 December.

Freight Run to Maningrida

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that a letter bearing 92 signatures from residents of Maningrida has been forwarded to his department protesting at the stopping of the freight run to Maningrida by Darwin General Aviation? If he is aware of this letter, what action is he taking to open up that route as the residents desire?

ANSWER

I have not received that letter from the Maningrida residents. When I do, I will take the appropriate action to make sure that they receive a service.

Petrol Sniffing in Aboriginal Communities

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise what action is being taken by his department to come to grips with the widespread problem of petrol sniffing in Aboriginal communities?

ANSWER

The problem of petrol sniffing is certainly a very serious one in the Territory. It appears that it is not getting any better. Recent reports of serious instances of petrol sniffing at Papunya and Maningrida have come to our attention. The Department of Community Development, in conjunction with the Aboriginal Liaison Office of the Department of the Chief Minister, has sent people to Papunya to examine the matter there and to talk with the Aboriginal elders and the council on the matter. They will be reporting to me within a matter of days. Following that, it is proposed that a number of departmental officers will go to Maningrida to compile information for the government on the extent of the problem and possible answers particularly from the more senior Aboriginal people. Petrol sniffing has been going on for a considerable time in some communities. Whilst governments have anguished over the question, the finding of solutions is very difficult. We do not propose to leave the matter there. Hopefully I will have some more information and a plan of action to be undertaken by government in the near future.

Small Business Advisory Service

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is there a proposal currently under consideration to establish permanent offices of the Small Business Advisory Service in all centres of the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I am not sure that an office would be fully engaged if one was established in places like Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy. It must be borne in mind that the Small Business Advisory Service is exactly that. There is quite a division between the type of advice given and getting involved in a company in the way that an accountant might. The Small Business Advisory Service is very successful but to contemplate putting offices in all Territory centres would be somewhat of an overkill.

Rapid Creek Water Gardens

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Given that the Rapid Creek Water Gardens project already had 2 signs, 1 being a conventional Transport and Works sign and the other a pictorial representation of what the garden will look like, what was the purpose of erecting a third much larger sign identifying the project and what was the cost of the third sign?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

'Boozers are Losers' T-shirts

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it true that some 2000 T-shirts with the slogan 'Boozers are Losers' were printed in Adelaide?

ANSWER

The position is that 240 T-shirts for the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign were printed in Adelaide at a cost of $4 each. I am told that that had to be done because of shortage of time. The government had set a particular time limit for the launching of the campaign in the pre-Christmas period in the hope that it would have an effect on alcohol abuse during the month of December. As January is a time when many Territorians are absent on holidays, it was thought that the campaign should start in the pre-Christmas period. Thus, in a sense, the government must accept responsibility for that happening because we insisted on the particular time limit.

I am told, of the $130,000 that has been budgeted for this campaign, a total of approximately $100,000 will go to Territory businesses in one form or another. Invitations were issued to advertising agents to put forward proposals for the campaign and the proposal was selected. Unfortunately, no advertising agency is resident in the Northern Territory. In any event, the fact that one was established in the Northern Territory might not necessarily mean it had the capability even though the government would certainly want to support it and would hope that in due course the marketing industry will establish itself in the Territory. Clear directions have been given that, in the expenditure of funds in a campaign such as this, all possible resources that are available in the Territory must be used providing they are economical. I am told that the commercial was shot in Darwin and that local talent was used for the acting in the ads. The first round of TV, press and radio ads will put $12,414 in the pockets of the local media.

Certainly, it is the policy of the Territory government that, wherever possible, local business will be used and indeed there is the preference provision in relation to the awarding of contracts. The government has issued those directions and it will reiterate those directions. I am instructing the Co-ordinator General to take up with the heads of all departments and statutory authorities the question of using Territory businesses to the maximum extent. I must say that the Territory government, like every government, is charged with the efficient administration of taxpayers' funds. If a quote comes in from Darwin at $800 and 1 from Syndey for $500, it is obvious that the taxpayers' interests have to be protected. After all, we are all Australians. I would hope that Territory businesses can be competitive and can obtain business in a fair tender situation without having to rely too much on the preference system. If those businesses are operating efficiently, they will have no problems at all. I will be directing again that all government department and authorities ensure that so far as possible all work that goes out from them is made available for tender to Territory businesses.

Transfer of Services to Gove District Hospital

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will there be further transfers of services from the Nhulunbuy Health Centre to the Gove District Hospital?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I undertook to obtain the information for the honourable member last week. I have not received it yet but, as soon as I receive it, I will pass it on.

Management Plans for Gunn Point Area

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

When a further management plan for the recreational use of the Gunn Point area is prepared and presented to the Chief Minister, will he undertake to put the plan on public display before final acceptance for input from people who wish to use the area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not know what undertaking I am prepared to give in relation to this particular matter at present. I would not necessarily call such a proposal a draft management plan. As I explained to the Assembly in answer to a question from the honourable member for Nightcliff last week, I have my own ideas on that. It is for that reason that I referred back to the Conservation Commission its first proposal. These proposals are very interesting, but one notices sometimes that certain interests creep into them. In any event, when I receive a further proposal from the Conservation Commission, if it is acceptable to me and to Cabinet, then certainly I envisage that public input will be called for at that stage. I dare say that, in due course, copies of proposals for Gunn Point could be tabled in this Assembly if it is thought necessary. That will be a matter for decision at the time.

Occupational Licence on Undoolya Road

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

Has the honourable minister seen fit to grant an occupation licence to the Alice Springs group of Territory Tidy Towns for an area of land out on Undoolya Road for which it applied?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was most interested in the proposal put forward by the Alice Springs electorate branch of the Territory Tidy Towns organisation. It has been broken up into electorates. Certainly, Mr Speaker, an occupation licence will be issued to that organisation. I think we can all be grateful for the effort that they are going to put into it. It is purely for the purpose of cleaning up an area which has been uncared for. They will probably provide parkland seating, perhaps barbecues, and that type of thing.

Nuclear-Safeguards Agreement between Australia and Japan

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the Assembly whether a nuclear-safeguards agreement has yet been signed between Australia and Japan? If not, will this affect the marketing of uranium from Ranger to Japan?

ANSWER

I am not privy to the negotiations between Australia and Japan on this very sensitive issue. However, I believe they are very close to agreement and there is hope that the matter will be resolved in the next month or two. My understanding of the contracts between Ranger and Japan is that contracts that were signed prior to 1972 are not being held up as a result of the non-signing of the treaty but will be embraced in the treaty. I will get further information on that for the member.

Territory Awareness of Fishing Industry Potential

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Does he intend to take steps to make Territorians more aware of the fishing industry and its potential worth and will he stress this in comparison with the mining, pastoral and tourist industries?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes. I think the process that we have adopted of trying to communicate with people is working satisfactorily. When we have further information that needs discussion, that information will be made available to the public in the same way as other booklets that have been produced by the technical officers in Fisheries Division.

NT Road Maps

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is he aware that road maps available to tourists and others in the Northern Territory are significantly out of date? What action is being taken to upgrade these maps?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any specific action taken to upgrade maps for the benefit of tourists and travellers in the Northern Territory. It is a matter that no doubt we will be advised about by the tourist promotion associations or the Tourist Advisory Council. I am quite happy to take the matter on board and see what improvements are needed.

Urban Lands Unit

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the role of the Urban Lands Unit and how many people comprise that particular unit?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice. I do not have in my head all the details of the various government departments that the member may seek to refer to.

Departmental Inquiry into Police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he comment on the statement made by the member for Nightcliff yesterday to the effect that there is a departmental inquiry into the Police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit?

ANSWER

I noticed what the member for Nightcliff said yesterday afternoon in that she abjured me to believe her when she said that there was in fact a departmental inquiry going on into the operations of the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit of the Police Force. I certainly know that the member for Nightcliff has some very good sources for the information that she usually comes up with in this Assembly about the fisheries area. Her sources, I understand, are well known to the police. In any event, I spoke to the Police Commissioner about this because I do try to take as seriously as I can the remarks of the member for Nightcliff from time to time. I am assured by the Police Commissioner who, in my hearing, checked with the Deputy Commissioner, that there is no departmental inquiry of any nature going on into the operations of the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit at present so the informant had better get his ear to the keyhole once again.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 18 November 1980

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?

From 24 February 1981

Elsey and Hodgson Downs Pastoral Leases

126 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What efforts are being made to have land excised from Elsey 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?

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 sub-divisions on the Gorge road, and to Katherine Gorge?

From 3 March 1981

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?

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?

From 2 June 1981

Interest Rate on Loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

195 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What rate of interest is being charged on the $1.4m special assistance loan granted to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd?

From 9 June 1981

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service

198 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the present staffing of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Centre? Are there plans to increase the staffing levels and, if so, what positions?
2. What are the functions and duties of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service?
3. During the 6 months to 31 May 1981, (a) how many Aboriginals have been treated per week by AIMS, (b) what are the major categories of illness, and (c) where do the Aboriginals, in the main, come from?
4. How many Aboriginal liaison officers are attached to Casuarina Hospital; what hours do they work; and are there plans to increase the numbers?
5. Are any Aboriginal liaison officers to be employed at Darwin Hospital?

Student Assistance in NT

201 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students in the Northern Territory are, (a) receiving assistance under the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme, and (b) how many are in receipt of the full allowance?

Medical Practitioners Servicing Community Health Centres

205 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many doctors have been servicing community health centres, and how many of these are private practitioners?

From 18 August 1981

Rape in Southern Region of NT

210 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. (a) How many rapes have been reported in the Southern Command region since 1 July 1980 to 10 June 1981, (b) how many have resulted in charges being laid, (c) what is the state of these charges, and (d) have any reports of rape been false?
2. What facilities and resources are available for the psychological counselling of women raped in (a) the Alice Springs region, and (b) the Tennant Creek region?
3. Has he received any representations from women's organisations regarding the level of rape counselling services in the Territory?

4. If so, (a) what organisations have made representations, (b) what has been the basis of these representations, and (c) what has been his response?

Alice Springs Women's Community Centre

223 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When will the Women's Community Centre in Alice Springs commence operations?
2. If the centre has not been opened by the end of June 1981 will the Department of Health continue to fund St Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army to enable these agencies to provide services to destitute and homeless people until the new centre is open?
3. If not, why not?
4. If so, have these agencies been informed that their funding will be maintained until the new centre commences operations?

Darwin Hospital Pathology Laboratory

224 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can he inform me as to the fate of the pathology laboratory at the Darwin Hospital?
2. Has he considered the future of the laboratory in the light of a lack of such scientific facilities in the Department of Primary Production?

Security for Belongings of Hospital Patients

225 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are made to ensure the security of the belongings of hospital patients, for example psychiatric and geriatric patients, who are unable to care for themselves?

Beef Exports to South-East Asia

239 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER AND MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will he government commission a survey of markets for beef in South-East Asia and other areas?

Incidence of Tuberculosis in 1979-80

241 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What was the incidence of tuberculosis in 1979-80 in (a) Australia, and (b) the Northern Territory?
2. Is his department undertaking any program to eradicate tuberculosis in humans similar to the program being undertaken to eradicate tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle?

Grants-in-Aid - Darwin Sporting Bodies

322 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Darwin sporting bodies during 1980-81?

Grants-in-Aid - Alice Springs Sporting Bodies

323 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided by the NT government through Grants-in-Aid to Alice Springs sporting bodies during 1980-81?

Grants-in-Aid - Tennant Creek Sporting Bodies

324 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Tennant Creek sporting bodies during 1980-81?

Grants-in-Aid - Katherine Sporting Bodies

325 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Katherine sporting bodies during 1980-81?

From 19 August 1981

St Vidgeon Station and Eva Valley Station

346 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What is the future of St Vidgeon Station where Aboriginals are building stock yards, etc?
2. What is the future of Eva Valley Station?

From 25 August 1981

Health Centre at Katherine

353 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why is a health centre to be built at Katherine within 1 mile of the existing community health centre?

From 24 November 1981

Special Purposes Lease Application for 15-mile Camp

357 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

(a) Is he aware that a group of Aboriginal people at the 15-mile camp in rural Darwin (Electorate of Tiwi) is seeking a Special Purposes Lease to this camping site?

(b) What discussions within his department and negotiations with the Aboriginal group have been held on the granting of such lease?

(c) Does he intend to grant a lease to the 15-mile camp or any alternative site known to be suitable to the group?

NT Pastoral Leases

364 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he please table the following information:

(a) The names and sizes of pastoral leases in the Northern Territory,
(i) where the lease is held by Australian citizens as lessee-occupiers,

and (ii) where the lease is held by companies registered in the Northern Territory, (iii) where the majority of directors and shareholders live in the Northern Territory, (iv) where the lease is held by companies registered in the Northern Territory but where the majority of directors and shareholders live outside the Northern Territory, and (b) where the lease is held by companies registered outside the Northern Territory?

(b) The names of the companies registered in the Northern Territory and which hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?

(c) The names of the companies registered outside the Northern Territory and which hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?

(d) The location of registration of the interstate companies which hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?

(e) The names and addresses of individuals who live outside the Northern Territory and who hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?

Ministerial Statement on Health

376 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. In a ministerial statement he stated that officers have visited Aboriginal communities. How many communities have been visited and by whom?

2. He stated that the number of authorized beds is to be reduced from 312 to 292. As this number includes a 12-bed surgical day ward, what else does it include?

3. He also stated that staff is to be reduced by 70. When does he intend that this reduction take place, what staff will be affected, and where?

Health Clinic at Lake Nash

377 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Is it true that his department sought the use of the former police station at Lake Nash as a health clinic, but that the former Director of Health decided that the station would be better used as a home and office for a stock inspector?

2. If so, what arrangements are being made to establish and staff a health clinic at Lake Nash?

Sexual Assault Cases

379 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many sexual assault cases have been seen at the major Territory hospitals in (a) 1980-81, and (b) 1979-80?

Kailis Fishing Company - Trucking Route

468 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Is it accurate to describe the proposed trucking route to be used by the Kailis fishing company between Roper River and Darwin as an 'all weather' route?

2. How much of the route is unsealed?

Interpreter Service for Aborigines

469 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What action does the government intend taking in response to the working party's report on the need for Aboriginal interpreter services in the NT?
2. If such services are to be established, what will be (a) their nature, (b) their funding, and (c) anticipated commencement date?

Sexual Harassment

470 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What action has been taken by departments and authorities to develop policies and procedures for resolving cases of sexual harassment at the workplace since the circulation of the guidelines on sexual harrassment to departmental heads and prescribed authorities by the Public Service Commissioner on 29 June 1981?
2. Have any complaints of sexual harassment been made and, if so, how many and what action followed?

Aboriginal Liaison Unit

471 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the allocation for travel for the officers of the Aboriginal Liaison Unit for 1981-82?
2. How much was expended in 1980-81?

United Nations Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women

472 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has the NT agreed to accept the United Nations Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its present form?
2. If not, what sections of the convention does the NT wish to be changed?

Domestic Violence in NT

473 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the government consider there is a need to take action on the problem of domestic violence in the NT community and, if so, what action does it consider is necessary?

Strategies for Employment of Aborigines

474 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the strategies being undertaken for increasing employment of Aboriginals by the NT government?

Department of Community Development - Counselling

475 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many officers are involved in counselling in the Department of Community Development?
2. What are the qualifications of the officers?

3. What is (a) the average baseload, and (b) the average number of clients seen per week by each counsellor?

4. What percentage of the clients are Aborigines?

Emergency Overnight Accommodation for Females

476 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the government aware of the need for emergency overnight accommodation for females in the NT?

2. Does the government intend to provide subsidies to willing organisations such as the Salvation Army and the St Vincent de Paul Society who have corresponded with the government on such a service and, if so, when?

Aboriginal Camping Area in Katherine

477 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the government aware of and does it agree with the decision of the Katherine Corporation to allow Aborigines to set up a camping area in Katherine, despite the existence of Kalano Farm and the Corroboree Motel?

Free Health Care for Pensioners

478 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has he considered extending free health care to all pensioners regardless of whether they qualify for a disadvantaged or PHB card, as occurs in New South Wales?

2. If not, why not?

Treatment of Trachoma in Aboriginal Communities

479 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he provide details of the evidence available on the effectiveness of tetracycline eyedrops in the treatment of trachoma in Aboriginal communities?

Occupational Health Hazards

480 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

During 1980-81, (a) what occupational health hazards have been reported, (b) what areas have been identified as 'at risk', and (c) what expansion has there been in the occupational health capacity?

Health Insurance Claims

481 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What actions has been taken to ensure that health insurance claims will be processed more quickly?

2. Are claims still taking up to 8 weeks to be processed?

Waiting Time at Casuarina Hospital

482 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Is action to be taken to reduce the average waiting time of 70 minutes

for non-urgent cases and 30 minutes for urgent cases at the Casuarina Hospital casualty department?

2. If so, what action?

Direct Telephone Line from Katherine Hospital to Police Station

483 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is there a direct telephone line from the Katherine hospital to the police station for emergency use?

Out-of-Turn Allocations by Housing Commission

484 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the government establish an appeals system for those applicants who have been refused out-of-turn allocation by the Housing Commission and who still consider their situation warrants further consideration?

Mentally-retarded Children in NT Primary Schools

485 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many mentally retarded children are attending primary schools in the NT?

2. What specialist staff is provided for such children?

Australian United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association Convention

486 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Following the government's public announcement of its encouragement for a Territory horticultural industry, were any Department of Primary Production officers present at the third national convention organised by the Australian United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, understanding that the 4-day discussions involved growers, wholesalers, retailers, transporters and those working in packaging?

Fisheries Division Program

487 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What results are forthcoming from the new Fisheries Division program aimed at boosting the total Top End catch; that is, the program looking at Spanish mackerel, shark and demersal fish?

Government Cattle at Elizabeth River Dairy

488 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will he advise details of the records and milk samples of the dairy cattle belonging to the Department of Primary Production at Fitzgerald's Elizabeth River dairy?

Government Expenditure on Agriculture

489 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will he provide a breakdown of government expenditure into seasonal requirements and agricultural development initiatives for the 1974-75 season up to the projected figures for 1981-82?

Point Stuart Abattoir - Payment for Cattle

490 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is he aware that the Cattlemens Union passed a resolution expressing concern at the slowness of payment by Point Stuart abattoir for cattle received for slaughter?

Contract Beef Production

491 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is he aware of the decision of the Cattlemens Union to support in principle the contract growing of beef and cattle for specific markets?

Powell Creek Telegraph Station

492 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is the Powell Creek telegraph station being stripped of roofing iron, water tanks and paving stones, and being completely neglected by its present lessee?
2. If so, will the government take steps to preserve this historic complex immediately?

Prawning Licences

493 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many prawning licences were granted by the Department of Primary Production in 1979-80 and 1980-81?
2. How many prawning licences were in existence as at 30 June (a) 1978, (b) 1979, (c) 1980, and (d) 1981?

NTDC Loans

494 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many applications for Northern Territory Development Corporation loans were received from the agricultural and horticultural industries in (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
2. How many applications were successful and for what activities were loans granted?
3. What was the average repayment period associated with loans granted?
4. Were any interest or repayment holidays granted on any loans to the rural sector?

Shell Island Powerhouse Site

495 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Regarding the siting of the powerhouse on Shell Island, is he aware of the mean height of the island and has he taken into consideration the surge level of the island?

From 25 November 1981

Complaints under the Fish and Fisheries Act

496 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. How many complaints have been laid for illegal fishing under the Fish and Fisheries Act?
2. How many of those complaints have resulted in prosecutions?
3. How many convictions have been recorded?

Research on Industrial Crops

497 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What research, if any, is presently being undertaken on the industrial crops cassava, sugar cane, kenof and leucaena?

From 1 December 1981

Housing Commission Rental Assistance to Pensioners

498 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that the federal government will not pay supplementary rental assistance of up to $8 maximum to pensioners who become tenants of the NT Housing Commission after January 1982 but will continue to pay it to eligible pensioners accommodated by the Housing Commission prior to January 1982?
2. If so, can he give an assurance that those pensioners not in receipt of supplementary assistance will pay no more in rent than those pensioners who continue to receive supplementary rental assistance after January 1982?

Detoxification Centres in NT

499 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Does the government support the establishment of detoxification centres, pick-up services and halfway houses for the Northern Territory?
2. What is the government's attitude to the introduction of a concessional differential on low alcohol beer?

Liquor Campaign

500 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is being spent on the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign?
2. For what reason was the contract awarded to a southern firm?
3. Has any contact been made with the liquor industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

Leucaena Trials at Mataranka

501 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What progress has been made with Leucaena trials at Mataranka?

1978.821—22

Northern Territory Public Service

502 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the average female earnings in the NTPS?

2. How many (a) male, and (b) female university graduates are employed in the NTPS?

Darwin Central Community Health Centre

503 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the government considering relocating the Darwin Central Community Health Centre and, if so, where is it to be located and for what reasons?

Chest X-rays - National Tuberculosis Act 1948

504 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Since the introduction of the 'user pays' medical and health charges on 1 September 1981, (a) what arrangements have been made by his department under the National Tuberculosis Act 1948 for the general public to have chest X-rays at no charge at general hospitals throughout the NT, and (b) if arrangements have been made will they be advertised in the media throughout the Northern Territory?

Attendance Figures at Outpatients

505 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. From 1 September to 31 October 1981, how many people (a) who attended outpatients departments in NT hospitals, and (b) who were hospitalised, were (i) insured, (ii) uninsured, or (iii) held disadvantaged and PHB cards?

2. How do those figures compare with those for the same period during 1980?

3. What was the percentage of Aboriginals in each of those categories?

Non-urgent Outpatients Treatment

506 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people wanting non-urgent treatment at outpatients departments in NT hospitals have not been seen because they have not had the necessary fee since 1 September 1981?

Anti-depressant Medication

507 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Are patients in NT hospitals who are not suffering from a psychosis prescribed anti-depressant medication without their knowledge and consent? If so, under what conditions?

2. How many (a) inpatients, and (b) outpatients were prescribed anti-depressant medication during 1980-81?

Allocations to Community Health Centres

508 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is he allocating from the Commonwealth's general revenue fund

of $20.6 million to community health centres, hospitals and school dental services for each hospital and community health centre?

2. How much is the NT government allocating to these areas in 1981-82, for each community health centre, hospital and school dental service?

3. What was expended under these headings in 1980-81?

Drug Education Program in NT

509 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What are the drug education programs to be conducted in the Northern Territory during 1981-82?

Commonwealth Health Grants

510 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has the Commonwealth provided $9 million for health planning and research in the form of grants to the states and the Northern Territory (on a $1 for $1 basis) and to institutions and persons?

2. If so, (a) how much has been allocated to the Northern Territory, and (b) for what purposes?

Guidelines for Grants-in-Aid

511 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What action has been taken to correct the following unsatisfactory controls relating to grants-in-aid commented upon by the Auditor-General in 1978-79 and found to be still unsatisfactory in 1980:

(a) inadequacies in the promulgated conditions for grants;

(b) the absence of reference to formal acceptance of the conditions and purpose of grants;

(c) the legal entity of grantees;

(d) the witholding of moneys for non-compliance with grant conditions;

(e) the lack of current formalized departmental procedures and guidelines covering functional responsibilities and criteria for the evaluation of grant applications and the monitoring of peformance of grantees; and

(f) the apparent absence of follow-up action by his department in certain instances where it is not evident that grantees had complied with the conditions of grants?

Collia Tin Mine

512 Mr B. COLLINS 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;

(f) are police trying to contact the previous leaseholder who disappeared and, if so, do they know in which state he is residing?

Public Housing in NT - Applications

513 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for general public housing were received during (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81, and how many applications were outstanding at (c) 1 July 1980, and (d) 1 July 1981 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Katherine, (v) Nhulunbuy, and (vi) Pine Creek?

2. How many outstanding applications were there for general public housing (a) at 1 July 1980, and (b) at 25 June 1981?

3. How many applications for general public housing were received in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

4. How many applications for general public housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

5. How many tenants were accommodated in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

Housing Commission Rental Rebates

514 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What percentage of Housing Commission tenants are in receipt of rental rebate on public housing?

2. How many tenants receive the full rebate?

3. What proportion of tenants receiving rebates are pensioners or social security recipients?

4. How many public servants are in receipt of rental rebate?

5. Are any public servants at executive level in receipt of rental rebate?

Allocation of Public Housing

515 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for out-of-turn allocation of public housing from 31 October 1980 to 1 September 1981 were (a) received, (b) accepted, and (c) rejected?

2. How many applicants whose applications were accepted or rejected were in receipt of (a) supporting parent benefit, (b) unemployment benefit, (c) other pensions, and (d) were one income families?

Expenditure on Aids to Disabled People

516 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he ascertain and advise how the funds were spent in 1980-81 which the Commonwealth provided for aids to disabled people who were not eligible under Commonwealth-state programs?

Internal Reviews of Health Department

517 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. He stated during the June 1981 sittings that his department had reviews taking place on all aspects of medical services offered to the public, and referred to an internal review of community health services. What were the details and outcome of this review?

2. In regard to other internal reviews conducted during the past year, (a) in which areas were they conducted, (b) who have the committees comprised of, (c) how many times have they met, and (d) what has been the outcome of these reviews?

3. How many internal reviews are being conducted at the moment?

Petrol Sniffing in NT

518 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Will he provide details on the prevalence of petrol sniffing in the Northern Territory?

2. What action, if any, is being taken to reduce the incidence of petrol sniffing?

Applications to Health Department for Grants-in-Aid

519 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many (a) applications for grants-in-aid were lodged for 1981-82, and (b) which organisations were unsuccessful?

Variations Between Bed Costs in NT Hospitals

520 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why do the bed costs in NT hospitals vary between $78 and $254, and where does this variation occur?

Central Health Office

521 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What functions of the central office of the Department of Health could more appropriately be carried out by regional offices?

Rationalisation of Health Services

522 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In the light of the new health charges, he said he would reduce staffing at the Casuarina Hospital and close a ward in order to obtain possible savings, and he also spoke of reviewing community health centres. How will health services be rationalised to take account of these changes?

Staff Reductions at Casuarina Hospital

523 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Which staff organisations at the Casuarina Hospital have agreed to staff reductions affecting their memberships?
2. In which areas have staff reductions already been affected?
3. How many people have been affected to date?

Consultants' Fees for Hospital Services

524 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what specific purposes have the allocations of $76,000 for consultants fees for hospital services and $38,000 in health services been made?
2. In 1980-81, (a) how many consultants were employed, (b) for what purposes, and (c) what payments were made to each consultant?

Health Department Debt Collectors

525 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many debt collectors are to be employed as a consequence of the new health charges?
2. What is the 1981-82 budget allocation for their employment?

Health Charges

526 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

He stated that emphasis would be placed on debtors who can afford to pay health charges rather than those who cannot. How does he expect this differentiation to be made?

Report on Nursing and Administration of Medicine

527 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When does he expect the report on manpower requirements for nursing and the administration of medicine to be completed?

NT Patients Transferred Interstate

528 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What are the details of the medical agreements under which NT patients can be trasnferred to each state?
2. How much was spent and on how many patients under each scheme during 1980-81?
3. How much as been allocated in this year's budget?

Separate Facilities at Casuarina Hospital

529 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has he rejected his working party recommendations to erect separate facilities at Casuarina Hospital for psychiatric, handicapped and geriatric patients?
2. If so, why?

3. If not, has any money been allocated for their establishment in 1981-82, and when does he expect such facilities to be operational?

Nursing Home Care

530 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many elderly patients does he anticipate are in need of nursing home care?

2. How many are Aborigines?

3. Are there any plans to establish separate facilities for the elderly Aborigines?

Outpatients Services

531 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does he expect any increase in the use of outpatients departments as a consequence of the new health charges? If so, are there any plans to upgrade the services of outpatients and in what way?

Disadvantaged Cards

532 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people does he estimate could be classified as disadvantaged who have not yet received a disadvantaged card and what percentage of these are Aborigines?

Psychiatric Services

533 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the overall strategy of the government to improve psychiatric services?

2. What are seen as the main priorities?

Psychiatric Services

534 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what reason is psychiatric services included in the general administrative expenditure for health services?

2. For what reason has the level of funding for psychiatric services been reduced from $510,000 to $475,000? Where will this cut be felt?

Health Funding

535 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When does he expect to re-examine the Territory's revenue raising capacity with the Commonwealth Minister for Health?

2. Is he compiling the necessary statistics previously not available, to strengthen our case for additional Commonwealth funding? If so, what do these statistics comprise?

Private Hospital in Darwin

536 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many tenders have been received for establishing a private hospital in Darwin?

Transfer of Psychiatric Patients to South Australia

537 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much was spent in 1980-81 on the transfer of psychiatric patients to South Australia?
2. How many were transferred?
3. What was the average length of stay per patient?
4. When does the NT government expect to provide suitable secure premises for chronic patients in the Northern Territory?

Doctor-Patient Ratios in NT

538 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the current ratio of doctors per patient at each hospital in the NT?
2. What are the duty rosters of doctors and nurses? How does this compare with last year?
3. Is the precentage that salaried doctors can earn on top of their income to be increased from 25%? If so, to what level?

School Dental Therapists

539 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many rural areas are covered by school dental therapists in mobile teams?
2. How many areas are not covered?
3. When does he expect the service to extend to those presently not covered?

Occupational Health Service

540 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Of whom is the occupational health service comprised?
2. What are its main functions?
3. How does it carry these out?
4. What was its expenditure in 1980-81?
5. What is its allocation for 1981-82?

Staffing Levels in NT Hospitals

541 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Where does he expect staffing levels in Territory hospitals to be reduced and by how many and when?

Expenditure on Community Welfare

542 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Could he itemise how much was expended in 1980-81 and how much has been allocated in 1981-82 in the following areas of Community Welfare (a) substitute care for children, (b) youth services, (c) family services, (d) income maintenance, (e) subsidies and grants-in-aid to

community organisations engaged in welfare services, (f) community work, (g) policy and planning, (h) information, (i) ethnic affairs, (j) administration, and (k) handicapped persons?

2. Can an itemisation of allocation under each program be provided where possible with details of which organisations received grants-in-aid? How many unsuccessful applications were there? When was the closing date of applications for grants-in-aid and when were these oganisations notified of their funding?

3. What is being allocated in cash in 1981-82 and for which Aboriginal communities under the essential services program of Community Government? What are the proposed new projects?

4. Could he detail where the 400 Aborigines employed within their own communities on the construction of essential services are?

5. How much has been allocated in 1981-82 for the introduction and development of community government councils? Are any community government councils to be established and, if so, where?

6. Could he provide details of the budget allocation in 1981-82 for community services in the 4 divisions?

7. Who is receiving grants-in-aid in Arts and Cultural Affairs and Youth, Sport and Recreation, and how much?

8. When was the closing date for such applications and when were the successful organisations notified of their funding?

9. How many successful grants-in-aid applications were there in 1981-82 for these sections?

School-to-Work Transition Program

543 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Has there been an evaluation of the school-to-work transition programs in the Northern Territory? If so, what was the nature of the evaluation and the results? If not, is an evaluation planned?

2. In 1980-81 how many students, at what level of education, were involved in the school-to-work program?

3. How many teachers, for how many hours per week and where, were involved?

4. Where did the students go for their work experience? In what numbers?

5. What increase and expansion of the program is planned for 1981-82 with the significantly increased funding allocation? How many students will it cater for? Which schools are to receive cash grants and how much?

Regulatory and Advisory Council Meetings

544 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many Regulatory and Advisory Council meetings for schools are expected in 1981-82? What is the average cost per meeting?

Yipirinya School in Alice Springs

545 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action, if any, has been taken by the Department of Education on the application for registration of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs?

Aboriginal Teaching Assistants

546 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many Aboriginal teaching assistants are expected to be employed in 1981-82 and at which homeland centres?

Litter Campaign

547 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How much was spent on the anti-litter campaign?

2. Why was the contract for the campaign awarded to a southern firm?

Lapsed on resignation of Mr Isaacs

6, 147, 158, 159, 160, 161, 164, 165, 206, 222, 286, 289, 345, 385, 391, 392, 393, 394, 396, 397, 398, 404, 414, 415, 418, 421, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 457, 458, 459, 463, 464, 466.

Katherine Community Welfare Office

134 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Why did Mr Peter Ryan or 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?

ANSWER

1. On 8 January 1981, Mr Peter Ryan placed a notice on the office door referring people to Community Welfare staff in Darwin or to Mr MacFarlane's office. This unauthorised action occurred during a period of heavy workloads and the immediate pressure of 2 crisis cases.
2. The filling of an existing staff vacancy and the move to more suitable office accommodation within the next few weeks will ensure that this action does not occur again. Instructions have been issued to the effect that there should be no recurrence of this action.

Tenders for School Bus Runs

152 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

153 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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?

154 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is it a fact that the tenderer awarded tenders 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?

155 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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?

ANSWER

Collectively the questions (Nos. 152-155) are designed to elicit information concerning the assessment of tenders for school bus runs by the General Tender Board. The Board is constituted by law as an independent body free from ministerial direction. If anyone should feel aggrieved by a decision of the General Tender Board there is provision under law for the matter to be referred to the Northern Territory ombudsman who can investigate the circumstances while preserving the confidentiality that is essential to the operation of the Tender Board. It would completely frustrate the intention of the legislation if the deliberations of a Tender Board and details of individual tenders were to be made public.

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?

ANSWER

Yes.

Mining Royalties Paid to Aborigines

178 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he ascertain and advise -

1. The amount paid to Aborigines in the NT from mining royalties in (a) 1978, (b) 1979 and (c) 1980?
2. What level are these mining royalties expected to reach in 1981?
3. What funds the Aboriginal Development Commission has to invest in the NT in 1980-81?
4. Are mining royalties paid to Aborigines considered as taxable income?

ANSWER

1. The amount paid into the Aboriginal Benefit Trust Account in the NT from mining royalties is:

   (a) 1979-79 - $1,135,820.00;
   (b) 1979-80 - $2,084,072.30; and
   (c) 1980-81 - estimate $4,097,953.81.

   N.B.: Each of these figures is a gross figure. A mining withholding tax of 6.4% is deductible from each.

2. In 1981-82 mining royalties are estimated to total $5,896,000.

   N.B.: The same mining withholding tax of 6.4% will be deducted.

3. In reply to this question the Aboriginal Development Commission has supplied the following response:

'The commission does not allocate funds on a state or regional basis. Funds are allocated to the various functions performed by the commission, in accordance with its view of the priority of each function.

'The commission's funding for the financial year 1980-81 is from the following sources:

Commonwealth appropriations to the General Fund	$ 13,838,000
Funds carried forward from previous commissions	$ 4,114,000
Income from investments (est.)	$ 500,000
Revenue from loan repayments (est.)	$ 3,000,000
	$ 21,452,000

'The commission allocated the funds from these sources as follows:

Land acquisitions	$ 2,358,000
Enterprise assistance	$ 5,287,000
Housing loans	$ 10,907,000
Administration	$ 2,900,000
	$ 21,452,000

'Moneys for housing loans have not been expended in the Northern

Territory this financial year (1980-81), as the commission's current policy is to lend only to applicants who are unable to borrow from other sources. Northern Territory applicants are directed to the Northern Territory Housing Commission which offers concessional finance on criteria similar to the commission's.

'In addition to the Commonwealth government appropriation to the General Fund, an appropriation of $10 million was appropriated to the Capital Fund.

'Moneys appropriated to the Capital Fund are solely for investment, and the income derived from those investments made available for the purpose of the General Fund.

'Moneys of the Capital Fund have not been invested in the Northern Territory.'.

4. No. Once mining withholding tax is paid, income from mining royalties is exempt from further taxation.

Mustering of Cattle in National Parks and Reserves

208 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the current policy of the Conservation Commission regarding the mustering of cattle in national parks and reserves?

2. (a) Who pays the cost of the mustering, (b) how many musters have been conducted in Central Australia during the past 2 years, (c) how much did each muster cost, (d) what happened to the mustered cattle, and (e) what payments have been received by the Conservation Commission from pastoralists for mustering services?

ANSWER

1. Under section 113 of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, the director is empowered to authorise the destruction of feral animals on parks, reserves, protected areas or sanctuaries.

   Normally then, where a problem exists with stock, negotiations are conducted with adjoining landholders to discuss the feasibility of a worthwhile muster, and subsequent removal of the animals. In the case of stock, these are usually promptly removed. However, landholders are often not interested in the removal of feral animals such as brumbies or donkeys.

   If adjoining landholders are not interested, tenders may be called for the removal of the animals by live catching or by pet meat operators. The carcasses are used for commercial gain by the successful tenderer.

   Exhaustive efforts are made to effect commercial removal and utilisation of the animls concerned. Only if this cannot be achieved will Commission staff be deployed to destroy the animals.

   The Conservation Commission reserves the right in all cases to take necessary action for the removal of dangerous, problem or wounded animals.

2. (a) The landholder pays the cost, however, the Commission has, in the past 2 years, contributed to the cost of 3 musters.

   (b) Eleven.

   (c) Costs to the Commission were as follows:

Trephina Gorge	$ 1,376

Ormiston Gorge (clearing pound)	$ 625
Simpson's Gap (costs shared with Hamilton Downs and Bond Springs)	$ 500

Other musters - nil cost to the Commission.

(d) Mustered cattle were shared by participating landholders.

(e) Nil.

Yulara Tourist Village

209 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In terms of concept and structural characteristics, what is the nature of each Yulara Village development proposal received to 10 June 1981 by the NT Development Corporation?
2. Have development guidelines as set down in a document entitled 'Development Requirements and Information for Developers' prepared by Goodchild Research Studies for prospective Yulara developers been changed in any way since their release earlier this year?
3. If so, (a) in what regard, and (b) what has been the reaction to this revision or alteration of guidelines in terms of investor and development interest?
4. Will development of Yulara Village be restricted in terms of vertical height?
5. Will development proposals for structures of more than 3 storeys be considered as viable by the NT Development Corporation?

ANSWER

1. The preliminary Yulara Village development proposals indicate that the building construction will be based upon brick, timber, steel and concrete and the proposals appear to comply with normal building codes in respect of these types of construction. One proposal suggested the use of local sand in the manufacture of a mud brick with the normal use of timber, steel and concrete.

   The proponents sought changes to the layout of the village, in line with modern tourist resorts in other parts of the world, to maximise the total energy concept, to minimise transport difficulties of employees living in the village, and to make the village more marketable on the world tourist circuit.

   Final development proposals for the village were submitted on 17 July 1981.

2. The developmental guidelines as set down in a document entitled 'Development Requirements and Information for Developers' prepared by Goodchild Research Studies have not been changed since their release.

   However, each developer has been advised that the 'Development Requirements and Information for Developers' are not strict conditions imposed on them - they are in fact guidelines. Provided any move from the guidelines is well documented and justified, such a proposal would be considered.

3. It is not necessary to answer this question.
4. Yes.
5. The question does not arise. None of the final proposals submitted on 17 July embody buildings higher than 3 storeys.

Napperby Station Sublease

215 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What discussions have been held between officers of the Department of Community Development and the Department of Transport and Works regarding the piping of water to a proposed sublease on Napperby Station?

2. How much will it cost for the equipment and installation of an adequate water supply at the Napperby sublease and who will meet the cost?

3. Will the school and other government-supplied facilities presently being used by the Laramba Community at Napperby be moved to the new sublease if and when negotiations are completed for the sublease?

4. What will be the cost of moving and re-establishing the facilities on the new site?

ANSWER

1. Officers of both the Department of Community Development and the Department of Transport and Works have considered several different methods of augmenting the existing water supply at Napperby to cater for the increasing Aboriginal population.

   In considering proposals for Napperby, it is pertinent to bear in mind that 35 bores, including 4 in January 1981, have been sunk on the property since 1971, at a cost of $70,000. All have been unsuccessful. The Spear Point system installed for the community in 1977 for $18,000 provides the current supply but cannot be developed further.

   Although several alternatives have been considered it is apparent that insufficient information exists as to the overall water resources potential in this area of scarce groundwater supplies.

   Before a decision can be taken on the best course of action, taking into account costs, quality of supply and ability to meet demand, the 2 departments involved have agreed that a total water resources investigation occur within the next 3 months.

2. Until the results of the proposed water resources survey are known, it is difficult to attempt to provide an estimate of costs to install an adequate water supply to the proposed Napperby sublease. A dam would have to be built or water piped 25 miles unless water in good quantities is found closer to the community and either proposition will cost in the order of $1 million. If the government can save any of this money to use on other projects for the Napperby community by locating water nearer than 25 miles away it is obviously in the interests of the people that it do so.

*3. The only government supplied facility at Napperby is the school and at this stage there is no plan for relocation. The location of the community within the proposed sublease will be dependent upon water supply, but will be at least 3 km from the school. It has been agreed with the community that conveyance allowance will be paid for children travelling between home and school with the possibility of a bus being provided in due course.

*4. The cost to relocate the school would be in the order of $80,000.

(* Answers to questions 3 and 4 provided by the Minister for Education).

Auditor-General's Report - Deficiencies in Department of Transport and Works

230 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to the deficiencies in his department noted by the Auditor-General following an audit undertaken in March 1980 and ask:

1. Have standardised procedures for management of repairs and maintenance works been established and are they now available?
2. Has the level of supervision by the department over period contracts been raised, and has the frequency of inspections by supervisors of period contracts been increased?
3. Is there now in existence a format for reporting to management in respect of contractors' performances?
4. In relation to capital works programs, have procedures for the administration of consultants' commissions been revised and, if so, do these revised procedures include a check list for the preparation of payments to consultants?
5. In relation to the collection of both water and sewerage rates, what action was taken as a result of the query by the Auditor-General in 1979 and again in 1980 about defective procedures relating to the preparation and rendition of accounts for services provided?
6. What success has been achieved in improving procedures in relation to the collection of outstanding water and sewerage rates?
7. In regard to water and sewerage rates, have the following issues been resolved -
   (a) the liability or otherwise of the Department of Lands for vacant Crown land;
   (b) union concern regarding the payment of basic charges for members in Commonwealth housing; and
   (c) the incorrect billing of government departments?
8. In the Property Branch of the department have the following issues been resolved -
   (a) problems relating to the formalising and registering of leases by the department; and
   (b) the lack of a property management procedure manual which could be made available to departments and authorities?
9. In the branch of stores and stores accounting, (a) has the new stores computer system been implemented and, if so, (b) is he satisfied that there now exist adequate internal controls and procedural documentation within the stores branch?

ANSWER

1. Standardised procedures for repairs and maintenance have been issued for use within the department.
2. The level of supervision of period contracts has been improved, including increasing the frequency of inspections by supervisors.
3. A contractor's performance report is in use.
4. The procedures for administering consultants' commissions have been reviewed, and in lieu of a check list, the form used for payment has been revised to include the necessary control requirements.
5. Most of the problems related to the poor state of records handed over from the Commonwealth in 1978. Procedures have been reviewed and

streamlined, records checked and verified, and significant improvements made in the total processing of water and sewerage billing.

6. The rate of recovery of outstanding accounts has been increased to a satisfactory level throughout the Northern Territory.

7. The 3 issues mentioned which were affecting the recovery of water and sewerage rates have been satisfactorily resolved.

8. Administrative arrangements have been improved to ensure that lease agreements are finalised without delay, and a property management procedure manual has been compiled.

9. The new stores computer system has been implemented and I am satisfied that adequate internal controls and procedural documentation exist within the Supply Branch.

Todd River Causeway

231 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has his attention been drawn to a recent press report regarding the construction of a causeway across the Todd River to service the new casino, and which stated that the causeway would cost $846,000?

2. How much is Federal Pacific Hotels, which stands to gain the most benefit from the causeway, contributing to the cost of this new river crossing?

3. Did he, or his department, ask Federal Pacific Hotels to meet the total cost of the causeway and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

1. My attention has been drawn to a press statement which did state that a causeway is being built in the proximity of the new Alice Springs casino and would cost $846,000. This is incorrect as the cost of the causeway was $334,000.

2. Federal Pacific Hotels has contributed $50,000.

3. No, because the causeway provides access to other than the casino. The honourable member, as a resident of Alice Springs, should be well aware of the proposed developments in the proximity of the casino - all of these will benefit from the construction of the causeway and associated roadworks.

Health Clinic at Lake Nash

232 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has an application been made by the Department of Health in Alice Springs for the use of the old police station at Lake Nash as a health clinic?

2. If so, what is the result of the application?

3. If not, what plans have been made for the use or disposal of the police station complex?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. Both the Departments of Health and Primary Production sought use of the surplus facility, and the relative needs of each were assessed on their merits. Health already has a presence in the area, whereas Primary Production had a requirement to establish a new facility in the area.

3. The police station has been allocated to the Department of Primary Production for use by a stock inspector-technical officer to accelerate the TB-brucellosis eradication program.

Bridge over Georgina River

233 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Does the government still intend to build a bridge in Queensland over the Georgina River at Camooweal and, if not, why not?
2. If so, (a) when will the bridge be built, (b) how much will it cost, (c) who will do the work, and (d) will the Queensland government be making any contribution?

ANSWER

The project to construct a bridge over the Georgina River at Camooweal in Queensland is not currently listed on any of our construction programs.

Following the initial agreement in principle between the governments of the Northern Territory and Queensland, the Queensland government was requested to allocate the project a higher priority in order to expedite the construction. Queensland demurred and, as a result, the project was then reviewed by the Territory government in the light of other priorities within the Territory. There were projects inside the Northern Territory which had a greater call upon available funds and these were allocated first priority.

Whilst the project has no high priority, discussions are continuing between the 2 governments which are aimed at arriving at an eventual decision to build the bridge.

Sealing of Tanami Desert Road

234 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. When will work re-commence on sealing the Tanami Desert Road?
2. What distance will be sealed in (a) 1981, (b) 1982, and (c) 1983 calendar years?

ANSWER

It is not planned to commence any more major construction works on the road until 1983-84 when approximately 28 km will be sealed. However, in the intervening period, maintenance will continue and materials investigations will proceed to ensure the maximum utilization of available funds.

This road is in the arterial category and competes for funds alongside roads such as the Plenty, Arnhem, Tablelands and Buchanan Highways. The limited funds available have to be expended on a priority basis.

Sales Tax Rebate Scheme

240 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Will the government's sales tax rebate scheme result in cheaper consumer goods in the Territory?
2. Will Territory officers make regular assessments of the rebate scheme to assess the direct benefits to consumers and, if so, when will this information be made available to the public?

ANSWER

1. Yes. The payments are specifically directed at improving the competitive position of local wholesalers over southern sources. Thus where taxable products are obtained locally the cost to the retailer can be expected to be less. It is also expected that market forces will cause this reduction to flow through the retailer to the consumer.

2. (a) Yes.

   (b) Results of the ongoing assessments of government initiatives are reflected in changes to various schemes from time to time.

Lease Applications

249 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications were received during (a) 1978-79, (b) 1979-80, and (c) 1 July 1980-17 June 1981 for (i) horticultural leases, (ii) lease allocation to sporting groups, (iii) lease allocation to cultural groups, and (iv) applications for Aboriginal needs purposes for (A) 'sit-down' areas, and (B) excisions for pastoral leases?

2. In what regions were the above applications made?

3. Which of the above applications were (a) approved, (b) refused, (c) lapsed or withdrawn, and (d) remain unresolved?

ANSWER

1. The following applications in the requested categories were received -

	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
(i) horticultural	10	10	16
(ii) sporting groups	17	9	11
(iii) cultural groups	11	13	8
(iv) Aboriginal - urban	17	6	5
(v) Aboriginal - rural	1	Nil	1

2. Note that the figures provided indicate less than one-tenth of the total pool of applications received by the department over the period and that they have been subject to interpretation to fit the set categories. For example, scout applications were included in the cultural category and amateur radio clubs and the like included in the sporting category.

3. No applications have been received under the guise of 'sit-down areas' and the request has been taken to mean applications lodged by Aboriginal groups in urban areas.

4. Applications have been received from both the Northern and Southern Regions.

5. The status of the applications is -

	(a) Approved	(b) Refused	(c) Lapsed or withdrawn	(d) Unresolved
(1) horticultural	11	10	10	5
(2) sporting groups	11	8	8	10
(3) cultural groups	13	6	8	5
(4) Aboriginal - urban	17	3	5	3
(5) Aboriginal - rural	1	Nil	1	Nil

A high proportion of the horticultural applications refused, lapsed or unresolved is due to existing Aboriginal land claims and final decisions can only be made as the land claims are determined.

Leanyer and Karama Subdivisions

262 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What was the median price of a single residential lot in (a) Leanyer, and (b) Karama in (i) June 1980, (ii) September 1980, (iii) December 1980, (iv) March 1981, and (v) May 1981.

ANSWER

This information is readily available from real estate agents in Darwin.

Department of Transport and Works - Use of Private Organisation for Staff Recruitment

265 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Why did his department recently use a private organisation, P.A. Australia, to advertise in the national press for various staff?
2. How much did this service cost?
3. Does the use of P.A. Australia to recruit staff indicate that advertisements inserted by the department are not attracting applicants of quality?
4. Will he recommend the services of P.A. Australia to his colleagues and other government departments and, if so, will this mean that departmental staff previously employed to write and place advertisements will be retrenched?

ANSWER

1. During the period March-June 1981, P.A. Australia was used on 2 occasions in Australia-wide searches for staff for the Department of Transport and Works.
   - Services Division: 7 positions, mainly professional/technical and P.A. used mainly because of earlier involvement in review of plant operations.
   - Administration Division: 4 senior positions in Manpower Branch. P.A. used to seek external applicants on an Australia-wide basis.
2. Approximately $23,000.
3. No. Firms such as P.A. are used when particular expertise or staff are not available within the department. Use of their Australia-wide interviewing facilities and ability to provide short lists of applicants leads to savings in both time and money for my department.
4. I will be providing no unsolicited advice to my colleagues or other government departments on their recruitment procedures. I endorse my department's use of all avenues of recruitment open to it to attract the desired calibre of applicants. No NTPS staff will be retrenched.

Yulara Tourist Village

266 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What guidelines have been laid down regarding the height of buildings at Yulara Tourist Village?

ANSWER

In the document 'Development Requirements and Information for Developers' prepared by Goodchild Research Studies, developers were informed that 80% of the buildings were to be single storey and that it was permissible for

20% to be 2 storeys. However, developers were informed that the conditions were in fact guidelines and not conditions strictly binding upon them.

It now appears that the majority of developers would like to be allowed to have a greater percentage of their development in 2 storey buildings. The actual percentage will depend on negotiations between the developers and the Northern Territory Development Corporation.

Chief Minister's Department - Renting of Office Space

268 Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Attorney-General's Department - Renting of Office Space

269 Mr LEO to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Treasury and Department of Industrial Development - Renting of Office Space

270 Mr LEO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 30 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Department of Community Development - Renting of Office Space

271 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277

Department of Mines and Energy - Renting of Office Space

272 Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long to the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Department of Health - Renting of Office Space

273 Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Department of Education - Renting of Office Space

274 Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long to the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Department of Transport and Works - Renting of Office Space

277 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER (Also covers questions Nos 268-278)

As my department is responsible for arranging most leases on behalf of the government I am replying to questions Nos. 268-278 on behalf of my colleagues.

(a) $108,860.67.

(b), (c) and (d) see Table A.

Leases for honourable members' electorate offices are arranged by the Department of the Chief Minister. Details of current leases are set out on Table B. Weekly cost of the electorate offices is $1,843.15.

TABLE A

LEASED ACCOMMODATION - 31 MAY 1981

PREMISES	TYPE	(c) LOCATION	(a) COST PER WEEK $	(d) TERMINATION OF LEASE	(b) ADDRESS OF DEVELOPER OR AGENT
DEPARTMENT OF CHIEF MINISTER					
NML Building	Office	Cavenagh St, Darwin	780.78	30. 4.84	T.C. Waters,Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin
MLC Building	Office	Smith St, Darwin	137.97	6. 9.81	MLC Assurance Company, P.O. Box 1554, Darwin
Centrepoint	Office	The Mall, Darwin	198.47	Lease not yet finalized	Chrissie Paspalis Invest., 30 Parap Road, Parap
DEPARTMENT OF CHIEF MINISTER - EMERGENCY SERVICES					
1625 Coonawarra Road	Office Warehouse	1625 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	424.83	30. 6.82	Panagiotas Bros, P.O. Box 39192, Winnellie
Part of 1624 Coonawarra Road	Warehouse	1624 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	461.54	Lease not yet finalized	Nellie Contractors P/L, P.O. Box 39158, Winnellie

DEPARTMENT OF CHIEF MINISTER - PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

Development House	Office	Lot 5188 Esplanade, Darwin	4,307.70	2.10.90	T.C. Waters,Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin
DKB Building	Office	Lot 93 Todd St, Alice Springs	290.39	14.12.85	L.J. Hooker Alice Springs, 71 Bath Street, Alice Springs

DEPARTMENT OF CHIEF MINISTER - POLICE

Mitchell Chambers	Office	Lot 4855 Mitchell St, Darwin	360.58	1. 1.83	Manolas & Son, P.O. Box 849, Darwin
Vogliotti Bulding	Office	Lot 2317 Mitchell St, Darwin	1,833.47	12.10.85	Rescesca Pty Ltd, P.O. Box 36, Botany, NSW
1624 Coonawarra Road	Office Ware-house	Lot 1624 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	3,269.24	31.12.88	Nellie Contractors P/L, P.O. Box 39159 Winnellie
1661 Coonawarra Road	Office Ware-house	Lot 1661 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	422.12	Monthly basis	John Roussos Nominees, P.O. Box 294, Darwin
Warrego Police Station	Office	Warrego	25.00	Monthly basis	Peko Mines, P.O. Box 156, Tennant Creek

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Shop 4 Katherine	Library	Lot 513, Katherine	191.93	7.11.81	Oskeardun Nominees P/L 13 Hakea St, Nightcliff
5133 Todd Street	Office	Lot 5133, Todd St, Alice Springs	366.47	1. 6.84	Corp. of the Municipality of Alice Springs, P.O. Box 1071, Alice Springs
Cavenagh Court	Office Library	Lot 2335, Cavenagh St, Darwin	4,126.93	31.11.84	E. Koch, Cenfurn Invest., P.O. Box 970, Darwin
2440 Smith Street	Office	Lot 2440, Smith St, Darwin	476.85	Monthly basis	Kiranou Bros, P.O. Box 2613, Darwin
Part of 1721 Albatross St	Ware-house	1721 Albatross St, Winnellie	395.68	Monthly basis	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
Centrepoint	Office Library	Lots 2356 & 2357, The Mall, Darwin	10,588.27	Lease not yet finalized	Chrissie Paspalis Invest., 30 Parap Road, Parap
1745 Catterthun Street	Library	1745 Catterthun St, Winnellie	602.08	1.12.90	T.&C. Investments P/L, P.O. Box 30351, Casuarina
1744 Catterthun Street	Office	1744 Catterthun St, Winnellie	316.31	8.12.81	ANZ Bank, P.O. Box 39819, Winnellie
515 Pavonia Place	Office Library	515 Pavonia Place, Nightcliff	288.77	30. 8.81	R.M. Biddlecomb, P.O. Box 38220, Winnellie

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

T & G Building	Office	Lot 2402, Smith St, Darwin	2,533.87	Monthly basis	K.G. Young & Associates, P.O. Box 5459, Darwin
Tamar House	Office	Lot 2187, Mitchell St, Darwin	4,767.39	31.12.89	Maddalozzo Securities, P.O. Box 514, Darwin
1827 Bishop Street	Office Ware-house	1827 Bishop St, Darwin	1,146.06	30. 6.82	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
45 McMinn Street	Ware-house	Lot 1640, McMinn St, Darwin	480.89	Monthly basis	A.&M. Mitaros, 5 Guy Street, Darwin
MMI House	Office	Lot 1467, Cavenagh St, Darwin	460.00	11. 8.85	K.G. Young & Associates, P.O. Box 5459, Darwin
Randazzo Arcade	Office	Lot 510-511, Main St, Katherine	249.24	31. 5.90	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
569 Pearce Street	Office Ware-house	569 Pearce St, Katherine	150.37	30. 6.82	Denniss Nominees, P.O. Box 1153, Katherine
Lot 4460 Elder Street	Office Ware-house	Lot 4460, Elder St, Alice Springs	300.00	31.12.81	Pedro Investments P/L, P.O. Box 1044, Alice Springs
1557 Elder Street	Office Ware-house	Lot 1557, Elder St, Alice Springs	154.52	Monthly basis	Howard & Reeves, P.O. Box 696, Alice Springs
431 Gap Road	Office	Lot 431, Gap Rd, Alice Springs	1,043.16	31.12.84	Parson Properties P/L, P.O. Box 1265, Alice Springs
1668 Coonawarra Road	Office Ware-house	Lot 1688, Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	425.24	Monthly basis	Mr Pastrikos, P.O. Box 2071, Darwin

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MLC Building	Office Ware-house	Smith St, Darwin	8,893.08	6. 9.81	MLC Assurance Corp., P.O. Box 1554, Darwin
3474 Parap Road	Office	3474 Parap Rd, Parap	367.54	Monthly basis	K.G. Young & Associates, P.O. Box 5459, Darwin
1575 Wilkinson Street	Office Ware-house	1575 Wilkinson St, Alice Springs	308.62	Monthly basis	Helm Construction, P.O. Box 322, Alice Springs
1550 Elder Street	Ware-house	1550 Elder St, Alice Springs	138.47	31.12.81	Asreal Pty Ltd, P.O. Box 404, Alice Springs

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY

Minerals House	Office	649 Espla-nade, Darwin	6,000.00	14. 2.90	T.C. Waters,Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin
Development House	Office	5188 Espla-nade, Darwin	861.54	2.10.90	T.C. Waters,Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin

Randazzo Arcade	Office	Part 511, 510 Main Terrace, Katherine	76.93	Monthly basis	Randazzo Holdings P/L, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
431 Gap Road	Office	431 Gap Rd, Alice Springs	617.06	1. 1.85	Schissel, Ryan Nominees & Parsons Properties, P.O. Box 1265, Alice Springs
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS					
Palmerston Building	Office	2365 Cavenagh St, Darwin	7,414.42	31.10.83	K.G. Young & Associates, P.O. Box 5459, Darwin
Moonta House	Office	2289 Mitchell	3,139.23	Monthly	Maddalozzo Investments P/L, P.O. Box 514, Darwin
1742 Albatross Street	Ware-house	1742 Albatross St, Winnellie	372.38	28. 2.82	Politis Nominees P/L, 15 Houston St, Darwin
DEPARTMENT OF LAW					
47 Knuckey Street	Office	47 Knuckey St, Darwin	429.23	31.10.83	T.C. Waters,Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin
Civic Centre	Office	3981 Harry Chan Drive, Darwin	1,848.00	30. 6.84	Corporation of City of Darwin, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Drive, Darwin
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION					
NTHC Building	Office	Harry Chan Drive, Darwin	1,039.61	31.10.83	NT Housing Commission, P.O. Box 884, Darwin
1654 Day & Harvey Streets	Office Ware-house	1654 Day & Harvey Sts, Darwin	875.00	30. 4.82	Liveris Nominees, P.O. Box 736, Darwin
Randazzo Building	Office	Main St, Katherine	1,190.76	31. 5.90	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Katherine
444 Stuart Highway	Office	444 Stuart H'way, Alice Springs	857.44	31. 8.84	Central Realty, P.O. Box 2455, Alice Springs
60 Patterson Street	Office	60 Patterson St, Tennant Creek	98.45	1.10.82	Tennant Creek Newsagency, P.O. Box 504, Tennant Creek
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY					
Royal Globe Building	Office	Cavenagh St, Darwin	328.84	18. 6.83	Redco Real Estate, P.O. Box 448, Darwin
Palmerston Building	Office	2365 Cavenagh St, Darwin	4,223.00	30.10.83	K.G. Young & Associates, P.O. Box 5459, Darwin
Custom Credit House	Office	2195 Smith St, Darwin	228.26	23. 9.84	Custom Credit Pty Ltd, 83 Smith Street, Darwin
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS					
National Mutual Life Building	Office	Cavenagh St, Darwin	815.00	30. 4.84	T.C. Waters,Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin
Royal Globe Arcade	Office	Cavenagh St, Darwin	2,712.00	18. 6.83	Redco Real Estate, P.O. Box 448, Darwin
Casuarina Bus Interchange	Office	Casuarina Shopping Square	67.50	30.10.87	Lend Lease Corporation, P.O. Box 40419, Casuarina

1722 Witte Street	Warehouse	1722 Witte St, Winnellie	356.00	Monthly basis	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
1629 Coonawarra Road	Office Warehouse	1629 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	1,154.00	7. 2.82	B.E. & F. Brent, P.O. P.O. Box 39251, Winnellie
1669 Coonawarra Road	Warehouse	1669 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	965.00	14. 5.83	Vrodos & Delis, P.O. Box 39469, Winnellie
1718/19 Albatross Street	Office Warehouse	1718/19 Albatross St, Winnellie	2,950.00	31. 8.82	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
1742 Albatross Street	Office Warehouse	1742 Albatross St, Winnellie	372.00	28. 2.82	Polites Nominees, P.O. Box 15 Houston Street, Darwin
Highway Arcade	Office	Lot 1727, Stuart Highway, Darwin	1,923.00	27. 5.83	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
515 Pavonia Place	Office	515 Pavonia Place, Nightcliff	268.00	30. 8.81	R.M. Biddlecombe, P.O. Box 38220, Winnellie
Sasco House	Office	Lot 2377, Cavenagh St, Darwin	8,709.00	30. 9.90	Sasco Holdings, P.O. Box 39379, Winnellie
Randazzo Arcade	Office	Main Terrace, Katherine	292.50	30. 5.90	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
444 Stuart Highway	Office	444 Stuart Highway, Alice Springs	857.00	31. 8.84	Central Realty, P.O. Box 2455, Alice Springs
1515 Kidman Street	Warehouse	1515 Kidman St, Alice Springs	248.55	26. 3.82	Asreal Pty Ltd, P.O. Box 404, Alice Springs
REL Building	Office	Parsons St, Alice Springs	409.61	30. 6.82	Ryan Nominees, P.O. Box 1265, Alice Springs
Hooker Building	Office	47 Mitchell St, Darwin	166.92	Monthly basis	T.C. Waters,Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin
NORTHERN TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION					
Development House	Office	Lot 5188, Esplanade, Darwin	2,369.24	2.10.90	T.C. Waters,Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin
INDUSTRIES TRAINING COMMISSION					
51 Todd Street	Office	51 Todd St, Alice Springs	155.90	23. 2.86	L.J. Hooker, 71 Bath Street, Alice Springs
Centrepoint	Office	The Mall, Darwin	1,179.34	Lease not finalized	Chrissie Paspalis Invest., 30 Parap Road, Parap
NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION					
Royal Globe Building	Office	Cavenagh St, Darwin	300.00	18. 6.83	Redco Real Estate, P.O. Box 448, Darwin
Lot 98, Todd Street	Office	Todd St, Alice Springs	75.38	12. 2.82	Alice Springs Timber & Joinery, P.O. Box 381, Alice Springs

RACING AND GAMING COMMISSION

1517 Searcy Street	Office	1517 Searcy St, Darwin	776.01	22. 9.84	K.G. Young & Associates, P.O. Box 5459, Darwin
TIO Building	Office	89 Todd St, Alice Springs	181.73	Lease not finalized	TIO, 89 Todd Street, Alice Springs

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1624 Coonawarra Road	Office Warehouse	1624 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	673.51	Lease not finalized	Nellie Contractors P/L, P.O. Box 39159, Winnellie

TABLE B

ELECTORATE OFFICES

LOCATION	DEVELOPER/AGENT	WEEKLY COST	PERIOD OF LEASE
FAI Building Alice Springs	Webco Pty Ltd Loy Nominees E.W. & L. Sitzler Nominees Lot 1318 Brown Street Alice Springs	$ 316.60	September 1981 with 2 year renewal
60 Cavenagh Street Darwin	McCartney (No. 43) P/L 3 Schultz Street Larrakeyah	$ 106.85	September 1981 with 2 year renewal
Shop 23 Rapid Creek Shopping Centre, Darwin	Lend Lease Agencies P.O. Box 40419 Casuarina	$ 140.95	12 monthly tenancy December 1982
Commonwealth Bank Building, Katherine	Katherine Enterprises P.O. Box 132, Katherine	$ 31.15	12 monthly tenancy October 1981
Shop 2 Parap Shopping Centre Darwin	G & M Investments c/- Wilson Bishop & Henderson Cavenagh Street, Darwin	$ 120.00	July 1982 with 2 year renewal
Gillen Shopping Centre, Alice Springs	Clough Nominees Park Nominees c/- Tomac Real Estate P.O. Box 820 Alice Springs	$ 151.55	June 1982 with 1 year renewal
12 Parsons Street Alice Springs	Asreal Pty Ltd P.O. Box 404 Alice Springs	$ 95.20	12 monthly tenancy October 1981
Shops 19 and 20 Rapid Creek Shopping Centre, Darwin	Lend Lease Agencies P.O. Box 40419 Casuarina	$ 281.35	12 monthly tenancy December 1981
Endeavour Square Nhulunbuy	Nabalco Pty Ltd Nhulunbuy	$ 36.70	12 monthly licence agreement November 1981
Shop 3, Nightcliff Shopping Centre Nightcliff	Mr J.C. Saltmarsh P.O. Box 1529 Darwin	$ 122.30	12 monthly tenancy March 1982

Suite 3, Star Village Darwin	Harris Holdings P/L P.O. Box 133 Darwin	$ 65.00	12 monthly tenancy September 1981
Wulagi Shopping Centre, Wulagi Sanderson	Dr S. Qureshi 25 Wulagi Crescent Wulagi, Sanderson	$ 150.00	12 monthly tenancy February 1982
King Street Stuart Park, Darwin	Ampol Petroleum P/L G.P.O. Box 2372 Adelaide	$ 80.00	March 1982, monthly renewal
Howard Springs Shopping Centre Howard Springs	A. Thiel Pty Ltd Whitewood Road Howard Springs	$ 93.00	12 monthly tenancy June 1981
Commonwealth Bank Building Arcade Katherine	Katherine Enterprises P.O. Box 132 Katherine	$ 52.50	12 monthly tenancy September 1981

Youth, Sport and Recreation Area - Renting of Office Space

278 Mr LEO to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

(a) what is the weekly cost;

(b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;

(c) where are the rented premises located; and

(d) how long to the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Public Housing in NT - Waiting Time

284 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What was the approximate waiting time, in months, for general public housing by centres in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81 in the dwelling categories of (i) 4-bedroom house, (ii) 3-bedroom house, (iii) 2-bedroom flat, and (iv) 1-bedroom flat?

2. What was the general public housing stock by centres at (a) 30 June 1980, and (b) 30 June 1981 for the dwelling categories of (i) 4-bedroom house, (ii) 3-bedroom house, (iii) 2-bedroom flat, and (iv) 1-bedroom flat?

ANSWER

The following tables, based on the records of the Northern Territory Housing Commission, provide the information requested:

1. Waiting Time for General Public Housing - By Centres - 1979-80 and 1980-81

	4-Bedroom House		3-Bedroom House		2-Bedroom Flat		1-Bedroom Flat	
	1979-80 months	1980-81 months	1979-80 months	1980-81 months	1979-80 months	1980-81 months	1979-80 months	1980-81 months
Darwin	13	20	15	18	9	10	6	12
Alice Springs	12	13	12	14	7	12	12	21
Tennant Creek	36	(a)	6	10	12	18	15	10

Katherine	-	-	9	15	11	13	11	8
Nhulunbuy	-	18	8	25	-	24	-	-
Other Centres	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Waiting list cancelled, owing to lack of stocks.
n.a. Not available.
\- Nil or negligible.

2. General Public Housing Stock - By Centres - 1979-80 and 1980-81

	4-Bedroom House		3-Bedroom House		2-Bedroom Flat		1-Bedroom Flat	
	1979-80	1980-81	1979-80	1980-81	1979-80	1980-81	1979-80	1980-81
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Darwin	178	177	1,788	1,957	270(b)	404(b)	247	240
Alice Springs	49	46	630(c)	648(c)	232(d)	256(d)	44	44
Tennant Creek	9	9	206	241	10	11(e)	11	15
Katherine	1	1	164	155	25	25	37	44
Nhulunbuy	-	-	30	30	-	-	-	-
Other Centres	4	4	40	33	-	5(f)	-	-
TOTAL	241	237	2,858	3,064	537	701	339	343

(b) Includes nine 2-bedroom houses.
(c) Includes ten 3-bedroom medium density units.
(d) Includes twenty-two 2-bedroom houses.
(e) Includes one 2-bedroom house
(f) Five 2-bedroom houses.
\- Nil or negligible.

Public Housing in NT - Statistics

288 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many families were accommodated in general public housing in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Katherine, (v) Nhulunbuy, and (vi) Pine Creek?

2. How many applications for housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

ANSWER

The following tables, based on the records of the Northern Territory Housing Commission, provide the information requested. The answer to part 1 of the question is provided in the form of 'applicants accommodated' rather than 'families accommodated' as the information provided includes some single persons (pensioners).

1. Applicants Accommodated in General Public Housing: By Specified Centres

	1979-80	1980-81
Darwin	515	729
Alice Springs	237	272
Tennant Creek	81	97
Katherine	72	66
Nhulunbuy	15	10
Pine Creek	4	4

2. Cancelled Applications for General Public Housing: By Specified Centres

	1979-80	1980-81
Darwin	358	467
Alice Springs	142	173
Tennant Creek	17	67
Katherine	42	53
Nhulunbuy	16	24
Pine Creek	2	1

Housing Commission - Cost of Organisation Review

293 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What was the cost of engaging management consultants, P.A. Consulting Services Pty Ltd, in February 1979 to review the organisation of the Housing Commission?

ANSWER

The cost of the consultancy, the purpose of which was to conduct a review of the NT Housing Commission's organisation, structure, staffing and systems, was $19,000.

Mines Services Branch - Expenditure on Roads 1979-80

294 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What amount was expended on road construction and maintenance by the Mines Services Branch of his department during 1979-80?
2. Where were the roads located and what length of road construction was involved?

ANSWER

The Dorisvale road was contributed to by the Department of Mines and Energy to the extent of $60,000 in 1978-79. This money is to be repaid by the company operating the Dorisvale Barites Mine, Barroid Australia Pty Ltd, in 10 annual instalments of $6,000.

Funding for further road maintenance and upgrading was to be provided by the Department of Transport and Works.

The question refers to actual expenditure on mines roads in 1979-80. The Department of Mines and Energy made its contribution to the Dorisvale road project in 1978-79 and has made no further payments. All 1979-80 expenditure was by the Department of Transport and Works. All accounting for the road project has also been done by that department.

Further questions on this subject should be referred to the Minister for Transport and Works.

Plenty River Mine

295 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Has the production of concentrates commenced at the Plenty River mine situated some 200 km north-east of Alice Springs?
2. If production has not commenced when is it likely to commence?

ANSWER

According to a 28 July 1981 telephone report from the department's Resid-

ent Inspector of Mines stationed in Alice Springs, concentrate production has not started at the Plenty River mine.

According to our Inspector of Mines, operating officials at the Plenty River mine anticipate concentrate production to commence about 2 to 3 months from now.

Harts Range Gem Survey

296 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What were the findings of the survey of gems and precious stones in the Harts Range area?

2. What other such surveys have been or are to be undertaken in the northern region of the Territory?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Geological Survey made a thorough investigation of reported occurrences of various semi-precious stones of interest to fossickers and lapidarists. Most significant occurrences in the Harts Range have become well known by word of mouth in various gem and lapidary clubs. No new discoveries were made but several little known occurrences were better documented and a much wider range of minerals detailed for some localities.

Northern Territory Geological Survey Report 80/3, 'A Fossicker's Guide to the Mines and Mineral Localities of the Harts Range, NT' by C. Horsfall, D. Moore and R. Thompson was completed in March 1980. This report has not been published, but has been on open-file reference lists in the departmental offices in Darwin and Alice Springs. Copies of sections of this report and the various locality plans have been provided to tourists, fossickers and other interested people.

A draft report 'Some Areas to Fossick in Northern and Central Northern Territory' by J.W. Shields was completed in July 1981 and is currently being checked and edited.

It is intended to consolidate information from both these reports into a concise pamphlet which will be published and made available at a reasonable cost to tourists and fossickers.

The Mining Act 1980 makes provision for the declaration of fossicking areas and the establishment of conditions for the management of these areas. The Northern Territory Geological Survey is actively investigating potential areas. Temporary reserves have been placed on 4 localities pending the commencement of the new Act.

McArthur River Mining Development Feasibility Study

297 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What firm of consultants was employed to review the feasibility study submitted by Mimets Development Pty Ltd on the McArthur River mining development?

2. What was the cost of employing those consultants?

ANSWER

In the interests of the Territory's development, the government has pursued the earliest possible development of the McArthur River project. To this end it was necessary to employ consultants to review the 30-volume detailed technical and economic feasibility study submitted by Mimets Development Pty Ltd. The employment of consultants was given careful

consideration in order to obtain the best possible independent advice available. Because of their repute and metallurgical expertise, Wright Engineers Pty Ltd, a Canadian-based company, was selected. Wright Engineers utilised the services of a second consultant, selected from a short list supplied by the Department of Mines and Energy, to evaluate metal price trends over the next decade.

The expenditure involved was $100,000. This allowed Wright Engineers to provide a comprehensive, independent assessment of the McArthur River project feasibility report - it has been money well spent. The consultants verified that the project, using conventional metallurgical processes, would not be viable within the foreseeable future. However, they were able, from a thorough evaluation of the 20 years of research work that has already gone into the McArthur River metallurgical problem, to suggest new lines of attack. This may be the breakthrough needed to bring the deposit into production.

I am pleased to say that the company has agreed to commence new programs of research to evaluate the Wright Engineers proposals thoroughly. This additional research, including the necessary pilot plant phases, is expected to last 5 years. The McArthur deposit might ultimately generate annual revenue of $500 million and annual royalty payments under the proposed royalty bill of $20-30 million.

Metallurgical Research Centre Equipment

298 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What was the value of equipment installed at the Metallurgical Research Centre in the financial year 1979-80?

2. What was the total cost of equipping the centre to fully operational stage?

ANSWER

1. In the 1979-80 budget, provision was made to purchase equipment for use in the Metallurgical Pilot Plant and the associated laboratory facility.

   Eighteen items of equipment were purchased for a total value of $50,640, the price of the costliest item, an Eritz magnetic separator, being $14,079.

2. The total cost of equipping the Metallurgical Pilot Plant and the associated laboratory facility was $78,181.

   The plant was intially established with rehabilitated and modified second-hand equipment. This was followed by designing and fabricating plant items, as required, in the department's workshop. Steel used for fabrication came from old stock from Mt Wells battery.

   Second-hand equipment was salvaged from mines that had abandoned operations, at negligible cost. The actual costs incurred for transport and rehabilitation were absorbed in the operational cost provision.

   The value of the upgraded second-hand equipment is inestimable, as replacement cost of this equipment with new would entail a very high capital expenditure.

   This year mining operators have been able to fabricate treatment plants for mine site operations as a result of tests carried out on their ores. It is estimated that they have expended over $500,000 to date in fabricating plants from flowsheets recommended by the Metallurgical Research Centre.

If the present trend continues, more prospectors and miners who have viable operations will be providing their own treatment plants instead of being dependent on departmental treatment facilities. This will more than compensate for the terminated departmental service at Mt Wells.

Eighteen projects are being handled by the plant at present, some of them for consultant mining engineers and consultant geologists whose services are being utilised by Territory miners.

Department of Mines and Energy Construction Safety Branch

299 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What action is in hand to ensure that the construction safety branch of his department can perform its functions effectively, given that in the financial year 1979-80 inspections were carried out on 1,831 of the 3,059 applicable sites?

ANSWER

Since 1979-80, 2 new positions have been created for Inspectors of Construction Safety.

Due to the lead time recruiting and training inspectors, their effect will not be appreciably noticed until 1981-82. It is estimated that the construction safety inspections carried out will be in excess of 3,800 for 1981-82.

Many of the work sites to be inspected are houses under construction. At the end of 1980-81 there were 4,400 applicable sites with approximately 1,900 of a domestic type. When compared with other large construction projects, housing work is considered of low priority.

The frequency of inspections is determined on the basis of type of work, hazards to the worker, protection required by the public and location of the site with respect to the location of the inspector.

Efforts have been made to increase inspector efficiency and this has resulted in the number of inspections per month per inspector increasing from 38 in 1979-80 to 56 by the end of 1980-81

Department of Mines and Energy - Inspection of Machinery

300 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What provision has been made to ensure that his department is able to meet the increasing demand for inspections of machinery, given that the number of inspections carried out by the department in the financial year 1979-80 represented only two-thirds of the total number of machines registered?

ANSWER

This increased work load is recognised and attempts to overcome it have been made by -

(a) recruiting a mechanical engineer as head of the Machinery Inspection Branch to give organisational and technical support;

(b) employing a technical officer for reviewing machinery designs;

(c) providing a mobile communication system for use by the inspectors; and

(d) placing inspection information on computer, thus decreasing the paperwork for inspectors.

For the future, the Industrial Safety Division is currently investigating what changes should be made to the Inspection of Machinery Act. It must

be borne in mind that the existing Act is 40 years old and the concept of inspecting all machinery on an annual basis is probably outdated, taking into account modern technology and inspection techniques.

Submissions have been made for additional inspector positions in the current budget.

Due to promotions, transfers and resignations, the department has only recently reached full inspector strength. The training of these new inspectors does take time, however, and their effect will not be immediately noticeable.

Inspections are carried out on a priority basis, taking into account the type of machinery and the hazard it presents to the worker and the public.

Noble's Nob Mine

301 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What were the findings of investigations into the stability of the slopes of the Noble's Nob open cut mine at Tennant Creek?

ANSWER

In May 1980 the department's Geological Survey Division investigated the stability of slopes at the Noble's Nob open pit mine. This investigation did not reveal any sign of overall slope failure but did conclude that possible hydrological change could reduce stability. Accordingly the department has informed the mine management of the potential hazards. The mine management and the department are jointly examining various options to ensure the continuing safety of the mine. Meanwhile the department's resident Inspector of Mines maintains a continuing surveillance of the condition of the pit.

Coal and Lignite Resources

302 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. At what stage are the detailed studies into lignite and coal resources being undertaken by his department?

2. Are any preliminary results available from the above investigations?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Geological Survey has completed a full review of all coal and lignite occurrences in the Northern Territory. This involved an investigation of all reported 'coal' occurrences by a detailed search of historical records, field inspection and, where necessary, diamond drilling.

Eleven diamond drill holes, varying in depth between 40 and 200 metres, totalling 1,321 metres, were drilled in the Alice Springs area during March and April this year.

Five areas were selected for drilling on the basis of information from water bores and previous investigations - Santa Teresa Mission, the Burt Plain, the Hale River near Ambalindum, Tea Tree and Mt Wedge.

Previous drilling by my department had tested the Hugh River, Tempe Downs, Paddys Plain and Finke areas.

Carbonaceous material was encountered in 9 of the holes with the best intersections being 30 metres of carbonaceous clay and lignite between 35 and 65 metres in 81 ST 1 at Santa Teresa, 50 metres of carbonaceous silt and clay between 125 and 175 metres in 81 BP 1 on the Burt Plain, 6 metres of carbonaceous clay and lignite between 28 and 34 metres in 81 HR 2 on

the Hale River and 20 metres of carbonaceous sandstone between 120 and 140 metres in 81 NB 1 at Mt Wedge.

Samples of carbonaceous material from 6 of the holes are currently being analysed by the Australian Coal Industry Research Laboratories at North Ryde.

Analyses from the previous drilling indicated that the carbonaceous material is of very poor quality and unlikely to provide an economic energy source.

The following table provides a comparison of these results with other Australian coals.

A comprehensive final report will be issued when all analyses are available.

Figures from Joint Coal Board - Review Australian Black Coal - 1981 Edition

	Ash %	Sulphur %	Specific Energy MJ/Kg
NEW SOUTH WALES COAL			
Singleton	6.3	1.43	33.84
Newcastle	16.3	0.51	33.59
South Coast	9.2	0.51	34.91
QUEENSLAND COAL			
Ipswich	16.5	0.50	32.31
Bowen Basin	11.8	0.49	31.00
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COAL			
Leigh Creek	23.6	0.61	30.00
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COAL			
Collie	2.6	0.32	33.98
VICTORIAN COAL			
Yallourn	1.7	0.30	26.0
Morwell	3.2	0.40	26.5
NORTHERN TERRITORY COAL			
Hale River 2	65.4	0.60	21.04
Hale River 5	77.6	4.39	15.81

Palm Leaf Beetle

307 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

(a) What progress has been made in the eradication of the coconut leaf beetle?

(b) What cost has been incurred to date in the eradication program?

(c) What is the expected level of success and what is the anticipated total cost of the eradication program?

ANSWER

(a) It should be noted that the name 'Palm Leaf Beetle' (PLB) has been officially adopted for this insect in the Territory because, although coconuts are its usual host, the pest infrequently attacks other palm species, such as Royals, Carpentarias and Alexandras.

Attempts to eradicate PLB in the central Darwin area were discontinued in February 1981, following the discovery of a well established infestation at Nakara, 9 kilometres outside the then existing quarantine area. The latter was therefore revoked by notice in the Government Gazette,

S1 of 20 February 1981, as was the notifiable status Brontispa longissima gestro (the palm leaf beetle).

Since that time there has been an on going drive by my department and the Darwin City Council to inform the public on how to recognise and control the beetle and to warn against its accidental spread to new areas.

(b) The total cost of the eradication program was $53,700, excluding the salary component of staff in my department who carried out survey and supervisory work in the course of their normal duties.

(c) The program is no longer aimed at eradication but at a high level of control.

A comparatively high level of success can be expected in Darwin using biological control but this will need to be adequately tested in the laboratory and approved by the Commonwealth government.

Ornamental Nursery Industry Consultants

309 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

(a) Who was the private consultant engaged by the government to report on the potential of the ornamental nursery industry in the Northern Territory?

(b) Will this report be made available to the public and, if so, when?

(c) What was the cost of commissioning the study?

ANSWER

(a) The consultant engaged to report on the potential of the ornamental nursery industry in the Northern Territory was Mr J.H. Colwell.

(b) The report was made available to the NT Nurserymen's Association.

(c) The cost of commissioning the study was $5,000.

Seed Production in NT

310 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What plans has the government implemented or does it intend to implement to assist Territory seed producers to overcome the financial, management and technical limitations they presently face?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government is assisting seed producers in the following ways:

1. Finance is being made available for seed producers through the Northern Territory Development Corporation to assist the producer in his costs of planting or for upgrading his farm structure, for purchase of machinery, and so on.

2. The Northern Territory government operates a fertiliser freight subsidy scheme on amounts of fertiliser in excess of 2 tonnes. Seed producers are eligible to apply for this concession.

3. The Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority has a full-time marketing officer and his services are available to seed producers to assist them in marketing their produce. ADMA is setting up a grain storage facility at Katherine which will include a cool store for seed which will assist in the maintenance of seed quality.

4. The Department of Primary Production assists seed growers through extension advice, quality control on seed production, the seed testing and research programs directed towards seed production, seed quality and the storage of seeds. The Department of Primary Production is also able to give advice on the economics of seed production. Seeds legislation has been prepared to protect seed producers by ensuring the maintenance of high seed quality.

Australian Fishing Zone Observer Program

313 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many people have been trained under the Australian Fishing Zone Observer program?

2. How many vessels were chartered under the Australian Fishing Zone program in 1979-80 and in 1980-81?

3. What contribution to the Australian Fishing Zone Observer program is made by the NT government?

ANSWER

1. Ten persons have been employed on a limited tenure basis as observers and one further person is employed at this time as a Senior Technical Office Grade I in charge. Personnel employed under the observer program have been selected on their research or fishing industry background as well as their indicated ability to work under limited supervision.

2. Three vessels in 1979-80 and 2 in 1980-81 were chartered under the observer program as seagoing platforms.

3. The Northern Territory government employs a Senior Technical Officer Grade I and up to 4 observers on a limited tenure basis on behalf of the Commonwealth and all costs are reimbursed. The team works in close conjunction with other existing fisheries research, management and extension staff and is administered through the normal departmental administration.

Management Services Division - Staff Establishment

314 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

(a) What was the staff establishment in the Management Services Division of the Department of Primary Production as at 1 July 1981?

(b) What was the staff establishment as at 1 July 1981 in the (i) Finance Branch, (ii) Personnel Branch, (iii) outposted liaison units, (iv) Registry, and (v) Library?

ANSWER

MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION

	Total establishment at 1 July 1981	Staff as at 1 July 1981
	52	51
Finance Branch	21	20
Personnel	10	9
Library	2	2
Registry	6	6
Other Areas	13	14

With regard to question (b) (iii), the department no longer has outposted liaison units.

There are, however, 22 staff including keyboard operators performing administrative functions situated as follows:

Fisheries	8
Berrimah Research Farm	3
Alice Springs	7
Katherine	2
Agriculture and Stock North Directorate	2

These 22 positions are not included in the establishment of the Management Services Division but are included in the establishment of the above branches.

Prawn Fishery

316 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has the government investigated the state of the Territory prawn fishing industry in respect of -

(a) the impact on the local industry of foreign fishing vessels operating in Territory waters;

(b) the returns to the Territory from licences purchased by foreign operators relative to returns to those operators; and

(c) the production costs of the local operators compared with the production costs of foreign vessels?

ANSWER

(a) All foreign vessels operating in waters adjacent to the Northern Territory under bilateral licensing agreements with the Commonwealth are excluded from prawn trawl grounds fished by Australian vessels.

(b) (i) All foreign vessels approved to operate in waters adjacent to the Northern Territory are doing so in waters under Commonwealth jurisdiction.

(ii) Under Commonwealth legislation such vessels are required to have crew licences and vessel licences.

(iii) Dependent upon the nature of the fishing agreement negotiated, foreign vessels may be required to pay an access fee on the anticipated catch quota allocation.

(iv) Under existing negotiated foreign fishing agreements the Northern Territory receives no direct revenue from foreign vessel licensing or negotiated access fees.

(v) The Northern Territory does, however, receive an undetermined indirect benefit from the operation of foreign vessels in adjacent waters: by gaining access to previously unavailable information on the fish resources; through use of Northern Territory port facilities (i.e. inspections, victualling, crew shore leave, pilotage and mooring, &c.); and employment of staff on a reimbursement basis, including equipment costs.

(iv) Recognising that licences under Northern Territory legislation are not required under the foreign fishing agreements negotiated and operating to date, no comparison can be made with the benefits that are derived from Australian vessels holding Northern Territory fishing licences.

(c) No comparison can be made between the presently negotiated foreign fishing vessel operation as it relates to production costs as such

vessels are:

- foreign built, owned and operated;
- in some instances, are subsidised by the respective government;
- not required to land all catch;
- harvesting resources not currently exploited by Australians and in many cases would not be exploited by Australians for domestic consumption; and
- the product prepared aboard the foreign vessels is in accordance with foreign requirements and not in accordance with Australian export standards.

Funding of Roadworks Tennant Creek Area

318 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much money was provided by the NT government for roadworks in the Tennant Creek area during 1980-81?

ANSWER

Approximately $12.563m. This figure includes expenditure on capital works, repairs and maintenance, and Aboriginal community internal roads.

Funding of Roadworks Katherine Area

319 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much money was provided for roadworks in the Katherine area during 1980-81?

ANSWER

Approximately $8.283m. This figure includes expenditures on capital works, repairs and maintenance, and Aboriginal community internal roads.

Funding of Roadworks Alice Springs Area

320 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much money was provided by the NT government for roadworks in the Alice Springs area during 1980-81?

ANSWER

Approximately $10,652m. This figure includes expenditure on capital works, repairs and maintenance, and Aboriginal community internal roads.

Funding of Roadworks Darwin Area

321 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much money was provided by the NT government for roadworks in the Darwin area during 1980-81?

ANSWER

Approximately $14,440m. This figure includes expenditure on capital works, repairs and maintenance, and Aboriginal community internal roads.

Beef Prices - Discrepancy between Top End and Central Australia

326 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Can he explain why fat steers and breeders bring up to $60 per head more in Central Australia than they do in the Top End despite the fact that the United States is the target destination of all Territory beef?

ANSWER

The prices paid for cattle traded with Northern Territory abattoirs are determined by private negotiations between buyers and sellers. Therefore, price differentials between regions are due to either differences in the traded cattle that justify the price differentials or differences in the relative bargaining power of the buyers and sellers in the regions.

Differences exist between the carcass weights of cattle, especially steers, traded in Central Australia and those traded in the Top End. The average dressed carcass weights of steers and cows slaughtered at Alice Springs in 1980 were 14 and 16 kg heavier respectively than steers and cows slaughtered at Katherine. These differences in carcass weights, and the associated differences in bone-out yields, are not sufficiently large to account for the total price differential.

The condition of the hides is a further quality factor influencing the difference in cattle prices in the 2 regions. Hides from the northern, tick-affected area, are not as valuable as sound hides from the tick-free areas.

The relative competitive position of Centralian cattle producers is enhanced by their access to alternative markets via low-cost rail transport. To compete, Central Australian abattoirs must offer prices that are at least equal to Adelaide prices less the transportation costs. In comparison, the bargaining position of Top End beef producers is reduced due to the fact that road transport to alternative markets is comparatively costly. Furthermore, the condition of many Top End slaughter cattle increases the possibility of significant losses in long-transit hauls unless the cattle are adequately spelled en-route. This further increases the cost of transportation to alternative markets.

Finally, the Alice Springs abattoir throughput is less markedly seasonal than the throughput at Katherine. This reduces operating costs and provides scope for a competitive price edge.

Beef Sales - Woolworths and Coles

327 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will he bring to the attention of Woolworths and Coles managements in Darwin the fact that beef of comparable quality to that imported by their organisations is available in the Territory?

ANSWER

Yes.

Workmen's Compensation Case - Mr F. Fenson

328 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to the case of Mr F. Fenson, stores supervisor in the Katherine Regional Office of his department, who injured his knee while travelling on duty on 24 March 1981, and ask: was his department responsible for the delay in dealing with Mr Fenson's application for compensation, or does the fault lie with the Commissioner for Employees Compensation in Canberra?

ANSWER

There does not appear to be any undue delay either in my department or the Commissioner's office in Canberra. Now that Mr Fenson has completed the consent forms, medical reports and x-rays necessary to pursue the claim further have been sought from his doctors. However, it would appear that Mr Fenson's claim is not a simple one and may take some time to resolve.

Katherine Terrace - Maintenance of Pavements

329 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the government responsible for maintenance of pavements in Katherine Terrace and, if so, when will they be upgraded?

ANSWER

The footpaths in Katherine Terrace are the responsibility of my department. Funds are allocated this year for extensions on the southern side of the town centre.

There has been considerable damage to footpaths within the business area caused by private developers using heavy equipment. These sections will be reinstated and action will be taken to have the companies involved cover the remedial costs.

Government Accounts - One-stop Payment Office

331 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will the government establish a one-stop shop for payment of government accounts for water, sewerage and motor vehicle registration, electricity accounts and Housing Commission rents in a ground floor, central position in Katherine, bearing in mind that the town is 8 km long and has no public transport?

ANSWER

Accounts for water and sewerage rates and motor vehicle registration fees are payable annually to the Department of Transport and Works, Giles Street Depot, situated approximately 1 km from the Katherine post office.

The Housing Commission office is situated on the first floor of the Commonwealth Trading Bank building next to the post office. Although the Electricity Commission has re-located its office to the power station site on the Victoria Highway, arrangements have been made for payment of electricity accounts at the ANZ Bank near the post office.

While the one-stop shop concept has a lot to commend it from the point of view of the public, it also gives rise to some inconvenience when members of the public wish to query accounts. It is not always possible for a cashier who is accepting payments on behalf of a number of departments and authorities to answer such queries satisfactorily.

Northmeat Farm Sorghum Production Figures

332 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has his attention been drawn to an advertisement in the Katherine Informer of 22 December 1980 for the sale of Katherine Downs station which stated that the "Adjoining 'Northmeat Farm' produced 7 consecutive crops of sorghum averaging over 1 tonne/acre and carried 2,000 cattle on 2,800 ha"?

If so, is he able to confirm the production figures and carrying capacity of the 'Northmeat Farm' and, if not, will he institute proceedings against the advertiser for misleading prospective buyers?

ANSWER

I have seen the advertisement referred to by the honourable member and feel that the correctness or otherwise of this advertisement is not for me to confirm.

Production statistics on individual farms are confidential. For this reason, there are no published figures on individual property yields.

If the honourable member believes the advertisement to be false or misleading, he should refer it to the Commonwealth Trade Practices Commission, Brisbane office (for investigation under the Trade Practices Act) or the Northern Territory Commissioner of Consumer Affairs (for investigation under the False Advertising Act).

Government-funded Workshop in Katherine

333 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has his attention been drawn to an advertisement in the Katherine Advertiser of 6 August 1981 calling tenders for the right to operate a government-funded mechanical repair workshop in Katherine and, if so, will he ensure that similar private enterprise facilities in the town are not unfairly affected by such a workshop?

ANSWER

No, my attention has not been drawn to the advertisement.

Bushfires Regulations

334 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Is he aware that bushfires damage native pastures in the Darwin and Gulf district every year?
2. If so, and on the assumption that some grass of whatever quality is better than no grass at all, will he ensure that Bushfires Regulations are strictly policed in the district to prevent stock and feed losses?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. I support this and will refer the matter to the appropriate minister.

Cattle and Buffalo Nutrition Research

335 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What research is being undertaken into nutrition for cattle and buffaloes in the higher rainfall areas of the Territory?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Production is engaged in a number of joint projects on Mt Bundey Station, some of which relate specifically to the nutrition of the cattle in the region.

In addition, the results of several years of research into cattle and buffalo nutrition on the Coastal Plains Research Station are being prepared for publication.

Furthermore there is close liaison between the department and CSIRO Division of Tropical Pastures with a view to developing optimum strategies for pasture utilization and improvement in higher rainfall areas carrying cattle or buffaloes.

Beef Industry Consultative Committee

336 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Does he intend to seek advice from the Beef Industry Consultative Committee on tuberculosis eradication and meat processing?

ANSWER

The Beef Industry Consultative Committee consists of persons drawn from

all sectors of the Northern Territory beef industry - pastoralists, meat processors (from both the domestic and export trade), livestock carriers, live animal exporters, the Department of Primary Production and the trade unions. The secretary to the committee is an agricultural economist.

When the BICC was established a year ago, I emphasized that mutual access between myself and the industry would remain unrestricted.

The consultative committee does provide a useful means of communication between the various sectors of the industry and with the government.

The BICC provides information and advice relating to tuberculosis eradication and meat processing.

Beef Prices - Effect of Contract Shed

337 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will Norwest Beef Industries' change to a 'contract shed' at Katherine result in producers receiving higher prices for their cattle?

ANSWER

Higher prices for cattle are not automatically guaranteed by the change to a contract shed. Norwest Beef Industries apparently anticipate that changing to a contract shed will reduce their labour operating costs. However, prices received will continue to be the result of private negotiations between buyers and sellers and will, in part, reflect the strength of their respective bargaining positions. Prices will also depend on the strength of the market at the time.

Land Auctions in Katherine

338 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will auction sales be held in Katherine for industrial and residential land?

ANSWER

The next land sales for Katherine have been programmed for 10 November 1981.

It is proposed to offer 14 residential allotments for sale by application over the counter, and 9 industrial allotments for sale by auction on that date.

Racecourse Reserve Katherine

339 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that the Katherine Municipality requires the Racecourse Reserve to be re-dedicated?
2. If so, will he instruct his officers to act immediately to meet the municipality's requirements?

ANSWER

The application to re-dedicate the Katherine Racecourse Reserve is being considered by my department.

To date a satisfactory explanation of why the existing pound reserve over lot 622 Katherine cannot be used has not been offered. In fact the corporation has recently indicated that it wishes to improve access to the site.

The revocation and re-dedication of reserves is a lengthy administrative

procedure and I am reluctant to instruct my department to commence revocation actions where a need has not been demonstrated. If a need is demonstrated, the implications of having 2 pound reserves and no racecourse in Katherine will need to be considered.

My department will again approach the Town Clerk in Katherine to clarify the position and if necessary immediate action will be taken to re-dedicate the Katherine Racecourse Reserve.

Agricultural Lease Valuations Katherine

340 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that agricultural leases in the Katherine municipality have been revalued to what lessees consider exorbitant values?

2. As zoning and other regulations prevent subdivision of these leases, will differential rating be introduced for agricultural leases?

ANSWER

All land within municipal boundaries is valued by the Valuer-General for rating purposes. The values determined are based on actual sales of comparable properties and the values determined for rating, I understand, are on the conservative side. Owners have the opportunity to object to the valuation notices sent out by the Valuer-General.

The question of differential ratings is a local government matter and should be referred to the Minister for Community Development who, together with his colleagues of the Local Government Ministers' Conference, have been actively pursuing this matter.

Failures of NT Stations

341 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that productive stations such as Cresswell Downs, Walhallow, Eva Downs, Anthony Lagoon and Beetaloo are practically deserted?

2. If so, (a) is he alarmed at this fact, and (b) can he say whether it is caused by CSR's and other owners' inability to cope with local conditions or by other reasons?

ANSWER

1. The compliance situation of the pastoral leases mentioned at last inspection were:

   Cresswell Downs - passing visit in June 1981 showed serious lack of maintenance, management is from Walhallow, full inspection due September 1981.

   Walhallow - last inspection September 1978 showed lease in compliance.

   Eva Downs - last inspection July 1979 showed lease in compliance but managed from Walhallow.

   Anthony Lagoon - at last inspection, September 1979, showed serious lack of maintenance, referred to Land Board which recommended compliance by 1 July 1982. A destocking (disease control) program resulted in turnoff of 20,334 in 1980.

   Beetaloo - there is a long standing development and maintenance situation resulting in forfeiture action and proposed mortgagee sale culminating in an Aboriginal land claim.

2. (a) The situation in all cases is of some concern and is not helped by the current downturn in the beef economy.

(b) Apart from the depression in the beef economy, reasons are not known.

Legislation on the Rights of the Disabled

342 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What action, if any, has been taken during the International Year of the Disabled Person regarding rights for the disabled in government legislation?

ANSWER

This matter has been reviewed by the Regional Committees on the Handicapped which advise the minister. This review has included examining legislation initiatives undertaken by New South Wales and South Australia.

The committees, which include disabled members, have recommended against legislating in the Northern Territory. Rather, the committees have suggested that the government promote programs such as improved access, employment, and rehabilitation which assist disabled people to participate more fully in community and work activities.

This strategy is supported by the government as best achieving the aims of IYDP and resources have been allocated towards this end.

The Northern Territory Building Regulations are in process of amendment to enable better facilities as a matter of course for disabled people.

Grants to Ethnic Schools

343 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Which part-time ethnic schools providing instruction on a part-time basis in community language and related cultural material in the Northern Territory are in receipt of the newly available grants from the Schools Commission of up to $30 per student per annum?

ANSWER

There has been no announcement to date by the Commonwealth that any of the part-time ethnic schools in the Northern Territory have been approved to receive the $30 special grant. However, the Commonwealth Schools Commission has written to the ethnic groups outlining conditions for funding and enclosing application forms.

As it is anticipated that a large number of applications will be submitted following the advisory letter, there may be initial delay in approvals.

You will be aware that part-time schools operate in the Territory for Chinese, Greek, Italian and Arabic languages.

Aborigines - Imprisonment Rates

344 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the Aboriginal male and female rate of imprisonment in the Northern Territory for the last 3 years?

2. How many of the offences were alcohol related?

ANSWER

1. It has not been the practice to identify the racial origins of prisoners in Northern Territory institutions for many years and thus I am unable to provide the Leader of the Opposition with the figures he requires.

   However, the National Aboriginal Council has recently approached correctional administrators throughout Australia stating they believed

Aboriginal to be over-represented in prison populations and failure to identify the Aboriginal component made it difficult to assess the size of the problem. The National Aboriginal Council therefore requested such statistics to be kept.

As a result of these representation, Correctional Services in the Northern Territory have commenced keeping these statistics and I am able to say that as at 31 July 1981, 146 Aboriginal males and 3 Aboriginal females were held of a total prison population of 263 inmates. That is, little over 55% of all prisoners were Aboriginals.

2. Because it is not possible to identify who were Aboriginal prisoners and who were not before July of this year, it is not possible to identify the offences for which they were imprisoned. The problem is compounded by the fact that the description of the offence for which a person is imprisoned does not indicate whether the person had been consuming alcohol at the time at which it was committed.

Rehabilitation of Rum Jungle

348 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will he advise the present status of the program to carry out further rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine area?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth has accepted in principle that the Territory would take the responsibility for conducting the work required to rehabilitate Rum Jungle using Commonwealth funds.

Discussions have been held between Territory and Commonwealth officials for exchange of engineering information and documentation as a basis for the design of the rehabilitation works to be undertaken. These revealed a need for further site investigations before a detailed operational program can be finalised.

A program of site investigations was submitted to the Commonwealth and $200,000 will be made available in the first instance. On site work has been initiated and consultation with the Commonwealth is in progress to finalise the investigations necessary, leading to an engineering report in early 1982 which will form the basis of the detailed operational plan for rehabilitation called for by the Commonwealth.

Nabarlek - Spillage of Contaminated Material

349 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Will he provide a detailed report of the release into the environment of contaminated material from the uranium mine at Nabarlek?

2. What action will be taken against the company for failing to report this incident and denying that it had occurred?

ANSWER

1. A detailed report, compiled as a result of allegations that contaminated material had been released from the uranium mine at Nabarlek, has been submitted to the Legislative Assembly Sessional Committee on the Environment.

2. Queensland Mines failed to report that stormwater had run off a restricted area. The company has been reprimanded.

Jabiru By-laws

350 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the status of the proposed by-laws for Jabiru?

ANSWER

The Jabiru Town Development Authority has had legal advice on the full range of by-laws required to enable it to effectively manage and control the town. Many of these by-laws have now been drafted and considered in draft form by the authority. It is hoped to have the authority make a series of by-laws at its September meeting, following which action will be taken to have the by-laws notified in the Gazette.

The by-laws included in the first stage will be -

- Refuse (Jabiru) By-laws
  - Garbage collection services
  - Removal of refuse
  - Storage of disused motor vehicles and machinery
  - Management of rubbish dump
- Plant By-laws
  - Approved plants
  - Noxious plants
  - Application for approval of unlisted plants
  - Notice requiring removal of grass, weeds, etc.
- Roads and Public Places (Jabiru) By-laws
  - Encroachment on roads
  - Road laws and gardens
  - Opening up public streets, planting trees, etc.
  - Prevention of damage to footpaths
  - Public works affecting public streets
  - Numbering of houses and buildings
  - Impounding of vehicles
  - General provisions regarding use of public streets
  - Management of footpaths and pedestrian malls
  - Public reserves
  - Lake Jabiru
  - Traffic control and car parks
- Private Swimming (Jabiru) Pool By-laws
  - Registration
  - Fencing
- Jabiru Swimming Pool Complex By-laws
  - Admission, season tickets, hours, etc.
  - Control of premises
  - Offences
  - Carnivals and hire
  - Coaching

In conjunction with the Department of Law, the authority is now working on the following additional by-laws -

- Rating
- The sewerage undertaking
- The power undertaking
- Sale of foodstuffs
- Control and impounding of animals
- Jabiru Town Hall
- Hawkers and stall-holders
- Signs, hoardings and bill posting

- Pounds
- The water undertaking
- Fencing
- Advertising
- Petrol pumps
- Liquor
- Toxic chemical disposal
- Firearms and traps
- Lighting of fires
- Environmental protection
- Litter
- Archaeological sites
- Camping
- Verandahs and awnings

The full list of required town by-laws has not yet been finally established.

It should be noted that the Director of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service has made a series of regulations under the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act. Many of these apply in the town, including -

- Offences relating to wildlife
- Landing of aircraft
- Use and possession of firearms, traps, nets, spear guns, etc.
- Taking of animals or plants into the park
- Transportation and supply of liquor
- Use of chemicals
- Scientific research
- Archaeological sites
- Entry permits in certain cases
- Control of animals and plants that are not wildlife
- Impounding of animals
- Approval of town plan by director

It is hoped to have the full list of town by-laws in operation within 3 months.

Feral Animals Report

351 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What plans has the Conservation Commission to implement the recommendations of the Feral Animals Report in respect of the control of feral buffalo?

ANSWER

The government has established a Feral Animals Committee, as recommended in the inquiry. The committee has been active during the past year, and in relation to buffalo has:

1. Held a public symposium to discuss buffalo management issues with the interested parties.
2. Undertaken an extensive aerial survey of buffalo numbers and distribution. This 6 month field exercise has been completed but the written report has yet to be finalised and published.
3. Established a technical working group with extensive terms of reference to produce recommendations on policies and programs to foster economically viable and environmentally sound buffalo management. The working party is expected to produce its report by February 1982.

1978.821—25

Donkey Camp Project in Katherine

352 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Why has no environmental impact study been undertaken in regard to the proposal to pump water from the Katherine River in the Donkey Camp area?
2. At what level will pumping from the Katherine River cease so that the farmers' water supply for irrigation purposes is protected?

ANSWER

1. The need for an environmental impact study was considered in the early stages of this project and a notice of intent was referred to the Commonwealth Department of Science and Environment in accordance with the Commonwealth Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act. After examining the proposal that department did not consider an environment impact study to be necessary.
2. At the last meeting of the Katherine River Advisory Committee it was agreed that the drawdown limit at Donkey Camp will be initially set at 0.5 metres, and the position reviewed at that stage. Once pumping ceases from the Donkey Camp source then bore water will form the basis of the town water supply.

Staffing Levels in NT Schools

354 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What is the staff-student ratio for (a) town primary schools, (b) high schools, and (c) bush schools in the Northern Territory?
2. What is the current staff-student ratio at (a) Yuendumu, (b) Papunya, and (c) Warrabri schools, and (d) is the ratio based on (i) enrolments or (ii) attendance?
3. Has he and or his department been approached by parents of students at Yuendumu school over staffing levels at the school and, if so, what action has been taken?
4. Will he give an assurance that staffing of schools will at all times meet the real needs of the schools as perceived by the principals and school councils?

ANSWER

1. (a) Town primary schools -
   pre-school 35:1 based on ½ day programs for each child;
   primary 30:1.

   (b) Junior secondary 16:1; senior secondary 13:1.

   (c) Schools in predominantly Aboriginal communities -
   pre-schools 20:1 based on full-day programs for each child;
   primary 25:1; post-primary 16:1.

2. (a)

	Adjusted Attendance	Teachers Deployed	Current Staff-Student Ratio
YUENDUMU -	July		
Pre-school	19	1	19:1
Primary	143	8	16:1
Post-primary	45	3	15:1
(b) PAPUNYA -	August		
Pre-school	31	1.5	20:1
Primary	56	3.5	16:1

Post-primary	12	1	12:1
Outstations	38	4	9:1

(c) WARRABRI

Pre-school	30	1.5	20:1
Primary	130	6.5	20:1
Post-primary	57	4	14:1

(d) Staff-student ratio (formula entitlement) is based upon an adjusted attendance.

The following acceptable percentage attendances have been set to distinguish between types of schools in the Northern Territory.

Urban schools - 90%.
Schools in predominantly Aboriginal communities - 85%.

(i) Where the attendance is greater than the acceptable percentage the formula entitlement is based on enrolments.

(ii) Where the attendance is less than 90% in urban schools a 10% loading is added to the attendance figure to give the student numbers for determining formula entitlement.

(iii) When the attendance is less than 85% in predominantly Aboriginal communities a 15% loading is added to the attendance figure to give the student numbers for determining formula entitlement.

3. The manual arts teacher at Yuendumu resigned on 22 May 1981 and the principal/staff agreed not to seek a replacement due to a low attendance in the post-primary section.

When another resignation was tendered on 3 July 1981 the Regional Superintendent was not prepared to approve a replacement again due to an over-entitlement situation at the school.

The Yuendumu Council contacted the Regional Superintendent regarding staffing at the school and referred to efforts encouraging attendance with emphasis on post-primary aged children.

The department responded within the week and agreed to the replacement of both teachers considering special circumstances pertaining to the school. A manual arts teacher was recruited from interstate and commenced on 13 August 1981. An emergency relief teacher was employed to cover the second resignation and commenced during the week of 20 July 1981. Every effort has been made to identify a replacement. The department has made 5 offers of employment and the latest was expected to commence on 7 September 1981, unfortunately all have rejected employment. The Alice Springs Regional Office and Staffing Unit are continuing efforts to employ a suitable replacement.

The Yuendumu pre-school parent group wrote to the Regional Superintendent on Monday 7 September 1981, requesting an additional teacher for the pre-school. A visit will be made to the school on 14-15 September 1981 by the Regional Superintendent and Early Childhood Adviser to meet with the parent group.

4. Schools in the Northern Territory are staffed according to approved formulae based upon pupil/teacher ratios unless particular circumstances in individual schools require special consideration and justify additional teacher resources.

Each case is examined on its merits and dependent upon the availability of both establishment cover and funds, every effort is made to respond to needs.

Bores on Outstations

355 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) How many bores will be drilled on outstations in the electorates of Stuart and Barkly, (b) where will the bores be drilled, and (c) which bores on the outstations are to be equipped?

ANSWER

(a) It is proposed to drill 15 outstation bores in the electorates of Stuart and Barkly.

(b) The bores will be drilled at:

Stuart Electorate: Top Rockhole, Kunitjari, Petermann Range, Willowra, Harts Range, Woodgreen, Derry Downs, Anningie, Coniston, Putari, Muntawarra, Todd River Downs.

Barkly Electorate: Rockhampton Downs, Brunette Downs, Alexandria Downs.

(c) Outstation bores programmed to be equipped are:

Stuart Electorate: Ti-Tree (Nturiya), Utopia Outstations, Tarra Warra, Top Rockhole.

Barkly Electorate: Epenarra (2 bores).

Stoning of Vehicles in Alice Springs

356 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

(a) What are the results, if any, of police investigations into a stone-throwing incident during which cars were stoned while passing through the Gap, Alice Springs, on the night of 24 July 1981?

(b) Have police connected this incident with a previous incident during which rally cars were stoned while passing the MacDonnell Trucking Yards Aboriginal camp the previous weekend?

ANSWER

(a) Extensive inquiries into the incident have failed to locate or ascertain the identity of the offenders. A subsequent incident where one vehicle was stoned resulted in a number of part-Aboriginal youths, aged from 12-16 years, being prosecuted. They have denied involvement in the stone throwing incident on 24 July 1981. Inquiries are continuing and persons thought to be able to assist witn the investigation are still being sought. They are currently absent from Alice Springs on business. (Aboriginal).

(b) Police have not been able to make any connection between this incident and a previous incident during which rally cars were stoned while passing the MacDonnell Trucking Yards. In fact there would appear to be no connection whatsoever.

NTDC Assistance to Aboriginal Organisations

358 Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

How many Aboriginal organisations (i) have applied to the Northern Territory Development Corporation for assistance, (ii) have been given assistance, and (iii) in what form and amount?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Development Corporation does not distinguish between races when processing loan applications. However at least 2 applications have been received from Aboriginal organisations.

Neither organisation received assistance, as both were referred to the Aboriginal Development Commission, which is able to offer loan conditions which cannot be matched by the NT Development Corporation.

There have been a number of discussions held with representatives from Aboriginal organisations regarding financial assistance available from the Development Corporation, but no applications have resulted.

Pre-apprenticeship Courses for Young Aborigines

359 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

(a) Have pre-apprenticeship courses for young Aborigines, as announced by him in March this year, commenced and, if not, why not?

(b) If not, when are courses at the Priest Street complex expected to commence?

(c) What is (i) the current or expected enrolment in the automotive courses planned to commence in July, and (ii) what forms of recruitment to this course has the department undertaken, especially in rural communities?

(d) When will courses in retail store training, carpentry, joinery and other courses be offered at the Priest Street Vocational Training Centre?

ANSWER

(a) The pre-apprenticeship courses for young Aborigines at Priest Street annexe of the Community College of Central Australia have not yet commenced. The reason for the delay has been lengthy negotiations with the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs for funding for equipment and staffing.

(b) The automotive course is now expected to commence in February 1982.

(c) (i) The Community College of Central Australia has been advised by the Senior Vocational Officer, Aboriginal Training from the Commonwealth Employment Service office in Alice Springs that there will be up to 20 students for the automotive course.

(ii) The recruitment of students for the course is carried out by the Senior Vocational Officer, Aboriginal Training from the Commonwealth Employment Service office in Alice Springs. The Community College of Central Australia is the agency responsible for conducting the course, not for the recruitment of the students. It is anticipated that the Senior Vocational Officer will consult with adult educators and principals in rural communities for recruitment of students in those communities.

(d) At this stage it is anticipated that a carpentry and joinery course will start in July 1982 but this will depend on funding being available and on the identification of students by the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs through its Commonwealth Employment Service office in Alice Springs.

Bores at Beetaloo Station

360 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What plans, if any, does the government have to equip bores at Beetaloo Station to supply water in quantity to the school and community?

ANSWER

The equipping of a bore at Beetaloo Station to provide a water supply to

the school and community is currently being funded by the Department of Community Development and the Department of Education against the 1981-82 capital works program. The work involves the equipping of a new bore, provision of water reticulation to the school and community and the provision of elevated and ground level tanks.

The equipment has been ordered and is expected on site mid-October. The anticipated completion date for the whole of the works is the end of November 1981.

Public Service Aboriginal Interpreter Service

361 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) What response was obtained from a request published in the February 1981 edition of the Public Service newsletter 'Keeping in Touch' for information regarding Aboriginal languages spoken by public servants?

(b) When will an interpreter service be established to provide assistance to Aboriginal people using public services?

(c) In what centres will these services be provided?

ANSWER

(a) There were notices placed in 'Keeping in Touch' asking that public servants with bilingual skills in Aboriginal languages indicate their interest in using these skills to interpret. This notice first appeared in the January issue and again in May 1981. There were 8 respondents to this notice.

(b) The government has already established an interpreting service which uses bilingual NTPS employees who have volunteered to interpret. These people can be released from their normal work duties to provide interpreting assistance. An officer within the Department of Community Development receives requests for interpreting assistance and arranges for an interpreter to be available. There are over 100 volunteer interpreters within the NTPS covering most ethnic languages, but only a few Aboriginal languages. The government is presently considering in what ways language assistance can be extended to include more Aboriginal languages.

A NT government working party has provided a report on this matter, and a submission has been received from the Institute for Aboriginal Development in Alice Springs. These are now being considered.

(c) It is intended that all centres in the Territory have access to language assistance either through on-call interpreters or, if not available, by a 3 way telephone link-up to other centres.

Mt Gillen Child Health Unit

362 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

(a) When will renovations and remodelling work on the Mt Gillen Child Health Unit in Alice Springs be completed?

(b) When did work commence?

(c) Did the original contractor fail to satisfactorily fulfil the terms of the tender to the point where he abandoned work and, if so, what safeguards exist in the NT government tendering policy to preclude similar contract breakdowns on other jobs?

(d) How will the unit's treatment and residential services - including accommodation for attendant mothers and family - be upgraded and ex-

panded as a result of the renovations?

(e) Do children with severe brain damage currently live and receive care at the unit and, if so, (i) how many, and (ii) what treatment and care does each child require?

(f) Is there an alternative residential facility for brain-damaged children in the Northern Territory and, if no, does his department plan to provide such a facility?

(g) Is bed space at the unit intended for the use of sick and malnourished children and babies and, if so, why are beds currently being occupied by brain-damaged children?

ANSWER

(a) The handover date was 20 November 1981.

(b) Work commenced in July 1980.

(c) No, the Department of Transport and Works cancelled the contract due to the poor performance by the contractor. As the Northern Territory government tendering policy on capital works is not within my portfolio, may I suggest to the honourable member he approach my colleague the Minister for Transport and Works for more information.

(d) The unit in its original condition was run down, the plumbing and electrical services unreliable and many of the buildings difficult to keep clean. The upgrading program is intended to rectify all of these matters and make accommodation for both families and patients more tenable.

(e) Yes, the number varies from 2 to 6. The treatment and care of each child varies depending on the extent of the handicap. In general these children require 24 hours a day nursing, most of them require spoon feeding, and many require frequent physiotherapy. They all need occupational therapy.

(f) The only alternative residential facility in Alice Springs at present is the Alice Springs Hospital. The Department of Health does not intend to provide an alternative facility but is actively involved in the provision of suitable community based facilities by such people as the Spastic Council and the Anglican Church at its St Mary's Village.

(g) The bed space at the Child Health Unit is intended for the rehabilitation of children and as such some brain-damaged children fulfil appropriate criteria. It is the severely handicapped children who are inappropriately placed at the Child Health Unit since neither the staff nor the physical facilities were intended to care for such patients.

Supply of Power by NTEC to Pastoral Properties

363 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

(a) What is the policy regarding the supply of power by NTEC to pastoral properties?

(b) What arrangements have been made between the lessees of Newcastle Waters Station and NTEC for the establishment and supply of power to that lease?

(c) What was the cost of installing the power generation sets and the power reticulation?

(d) How much did the station lessees contribute to the cost?

(e) How many power consumers not directly concerned with the station's operations will use the NTEC power?

(f) What arrangements for power generation existed at Newcastle Waters before NTEC power was supplied?

(g) Can other pastoral lessees now assume that NTEC power will be supplied on request and to replace their own power supplies?

(h) What are the names of other pastoral leases where NTEC power is supplied primarily or exclusively to the lessee?

(i) How much will it cost to maintain the NTEC service at Newcastle Waters?

(j) How much income will be generated from the service?

ANSWER

(a) Pastoral properties may apply for connection to electricity supplies operated by the commission. Applications will be considered on their own merit in terms of the capital and operating costs of providing supply.

(b) Newcastle Waters Station made application for connection to the supply at Newcastle Waters and power is sold to the station at commercial rates.

(c) The capital cost of generating plant and the distribution system at Newcastle Waters was $100,000.

(d) Newcastle Waters Station paid $9,000 to cover the cost of line construction from the boundary of the station to the point of supply.

(e) There are 7 consumers at Newcastle Waters, including the school and the town water supply.

(f) Prior to the installation of reticulated power by NTEC, consumers generated their own power. Separate generating plants were operated by the school, Telecom and Newcastle Waters Station. The town water supply was powered by a diesel pump.

(g) There is no assumption that NTEC power will be supplied on request to pastoral lessees.

(h) No other pastoral leases are supplied by NTEC.

(i) Budget allocation for operating the Newcastle Waters Power Station and distribution system for 1981-82 is $48,400; this includes $24,800 for fuel.

(j) The estimate of revenue for 1981-82 is $9,000.

Principal and Deputy Principal Positions at Community College of Central Australia

365 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

(a) Will he table copies of the advertisements published for the positions of Principal and Deputy Principal at the Community College of Central Australia?

(b) When were the advertisements published and how many applications were received?

(c) Have any changes been made in the establishment of the college which will have the effect of eliminating or altering either or both of the above positions?

(d) If so, when were the changes made and why?

(e) What are the names of the persons presently holding the positions of Principal and Deputy Principal?

ANSWER

(a) The position of Principal of the Community College of Central Australia has been advertised twice this year. Both were national advertisements and copies are freely available from the Department of Education. The position of Deputy Principal was advertised once internally by the Commonwealth Teaching Service. A copy of this advertisement is similarly available.

(b) The first advertisement for the position of Principal appeared in the national press on 4 July and 8 applications were received. As there were not sufficient applicants with the necessary qualifications the position was re-advertised on 5 September with a closing date of 30 September. The advertisement for the position of Deputy Principal appeared in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. G9 of 3 March 1981. Three applications were received.

(c) & (d) A report on the staffing needs of the Community College of Central Australia is currently being considered jointly by the Department of Education and the Public Service Commissioner. A submission seeking the re-classification of the Principal's position to bring it into line with Technical and Further Education institutions elsewhere instead of its present classification which is related to a College of Advanced Education structure is currently being considered. No other changes affecting these 2 positions have been finalised.

(e) The substantive Principal is Mr E.J. Pearse who is currently on secondment to special duties within the Department of Education. The acting Principal is Mr H. Tinsley. The Deputy Principal position is not filled substantively. Ms M. Crawford is currently acting in the position.

Roadside Verges on Carpentaria Highway

366 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

(a) How frequently are the roadside verges on the Carpentaria Highway mown and or graded?

(b) Is he aware that in July 1981 the roadside verges were so overgrown that they gave excellent cover to cattle, thus creating a serious hazard to motorists?

(c) Will he ensure that this highway and all other major roads in the Territory are regularly maintained to ensure conditions are safe for all travellers?

ANSWER

(a) The verges of the Carpentaria Highway are slashed on a yearly basis, usually just after the wet season when it is most required. This year it was slashed in April to a width of approximately 3 metres from each side of the seal. Maintenance grading is undertaken when it is required, usually once a year.

(b) Some regrowth is expected during the dry season but it is usually insufficient to warrant a further mowing patrol.

(c) I will ask my maintenance section to keep an eye on the regrowth and to provide additional mowing if required.

Submissions on Australian Schools Commission-funded Programs

367 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

(a) How many submissions on Australian Schools Commission-funded programs for severely handicapped children, as advertised in the Centralian Advocate of 15 July 1981, has his department received?

(b) What are the details of the submissions which will receive funding under the scheme?

ANSWER

(a) Five submissions were received.

(b) To date, no approvals from the federal minister have been received, although 3 projects have been recommended for funding.

Magistrates in Alice Springs

368 Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is it intended to have 2 magistrates in Alice Springs in the new year?

ANSWER

The question of allocation of duties of magistrates is one for the Chief Magistrate.

The Chief Magistrate advises that he intends to base 2 magistrates in Alice Springs as from the new year.

Non-Australians in NT Teaching Service

369 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Are any members of the Northern Territory Teaching Service not Australian citizens?

2. If the answer is yes, how many aliens are employed and to which nations do they owe allegiance?

3. What is the Northern Territory government's policy regarding the employment of non-Australians in the teaching service and the public service?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. No aliens have been employed by the NTTS since its inception. The Commonwealth Teaching Service employed aliens, with ministerial approval. The schedule below details the number of aliens employed by the CTS who were compulsorily transferred to the NTTS, and the nations to which they owe allegiance.

Number	Country
23	USA
2	Philippines
2	Netherlands
2	France
2	Germany
1	Belgium
1	Canada
1	Pakistan
34	TOTAL

It should be noted that records have not been kept of the number of citizens of the UK or New Zealand employed by the service.

3. Section 14(3) of the Public Service Act states that the Public Service Commissioner shall take steps to ensure that there is no discrimination in the employment of any person on the grounds of, inter alia, that person's national or ethnic origin.

It is the policy of the NT government that the public service, and the teaching service, should be as efficient and effective as possible. Accordingly, if an alien with residency status is the most efficient applicant for a vacancy, employment will be offered to that alien.

Annual Report on the Operations of the Mental Health Act

370 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Section 31 of the Mental Health Act requires that an annual report on the operations of the Act be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Is it intended to provide a separate report, or is the section on the Act included in the Annual Report of the Department of Health, 1980-81 (pp 70-71) intended to be the only report tabled?

ANSWER

It is not intended to provide a separate report covering the operation of the Mental Health Act. A section dealing with this subject is included in the Annual Report of the Northern Territory Department of Health for 1980-81 and will be the only report tabled.

This complies with the requirements of section 41 of the Mental Health Act, which provides:

'41. ANNUAL REPORT

(1) The Minister shall table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the operation of this Act.'.

Staff Reductions at Casuarina Hospital

371 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In his statement to the Assembly on 18 August 1981, he announced that staff numbers at Casuarina Hospital would be reduced by 70. In what categories of employees will these reductions take place?

ANSWER

The reduction of staff at Casuarina Hospital will affect 13 of the 15 staff categories at the hospital. There will be no retrenchment of present staff as the reduction can be achieved through natural wastage. Recruitment of staff for 1982 is still being carried out.

Industrial Relations Unit in Alice Springs

372 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Does he intend to establish an office of the Industrial Relations Unit in Alice Springs now or in the future and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

It must be noted that the Northern Territory government has no constitutional authority in respect of industrial relations. The main functions the government can perform in relation to industrial relations are simply to monitor and to advise.

As regards the specific question asked, the decision whether or not to open an office of the Industrial Relations Unit in Alice Springs must rely on the number of queries and complaints received from that centre and surrounding regions.

In the 9 months to September 1981, only 6 complaints were received from Alice Springs and 1 from Tennant Creek. A number of general queries were received, all of which were answered satisfactorily by telephone or by correspondence.

The Industrial Relations Unit conducts inspectorial visits to all Territory regional centres approximately 4 times per year and the latest visit to Alice Springs occurred in July of this year. A number of general queries were received but only 1 actionable complaint, this caseload from visiting a total of 439 business premises.

There does not seem to be a case therefore for establishing an office of the unit in Alice Springs at this time. Frequent contact is maintained with trade union and employer representatives and, in addition, an information meeting was held with the member for MacDonnell at his request on 21 July during which the functions and responsibilities of the unit were explained.

The position will of course be kept under review.

Treatment of Burns Cases at Casuarina Hospital

373 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it a fact that special facilities for the treatment of burns cases at the Casuarina Hospital have never been used and that burns cases are treated in ordinary wards where the risk of infection is very high?

ANSWER

There are no special facilities for the treatment of burns cases at the Casuarina Hospital.

On the 1981-82 Minor New Works Program a special 'Burns Bath' will be installed in Casuarina Hospital Ward 2B. Burns patients are nursed in protective isolation in single rooms in this surgical ward. They are currently bathed in bed or using a bath kept solely for burns patients.

With the installation of the special bath, bathing will be improved for burns patients.

Debtors in NT Gaols

374 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many debtors are currently imprisoned in NT gaols?
2. Is it expected that gaol accommodation in the Territory will be sufficient to cater for those people who are unable to pay their medical bills?

ANSWER

1. There are no debtors currently imprisoned in NT gaols.
2. An 1889 South Australian Act to abolish imprisonment for debt, except in certain circumstances, still applies in the Northern Territory.

Department of Health Staff Training

375 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Which categories of staff of the Department of Health will receive training in the 'new procedures to be adopted' as a consequence of the new health funding arrangements, and in which such procedures will department staff receive training?

ANSWER

Each region has conducted training session for medical, nursing and administrative staff with all cashiers/interviewing officers receiving additional finance training. A series of circulars was produced and sent to all staff members who are expected to make themselves familiar with the new charging procedures. The department has also produced and distributed a new charging manual to all hospitals and urban community health centres.

Road Accidents and Random Breath-Testing

378 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

1. For each of the months of (a) July 1980, (b) August 1980, (c) September 1980, (d) October 1980, (e) November 1980, (f) December 1980, (g) January 1981, (h) February 1981, (j) March 1981, (k) April 1981, (m) May 1981, and (n) June 1981, (i) how many road accidents occurred in the Northern Territory, (ii) how many road accidents were alcohol-related, and (iii) what was the incidence of death or injury sustained in alcohol-related road accidents?

2. For the period July 1980 to June 1981, what were the classifications of road accidents according to (a) location, and (b) time of occurrence?

3. For each of the months of (a) July 1980, (b) August 1980, (c) September 1980, (d) October 1980, (e) November 1980, (f) December 1980, (g) January 1981, (h) February 1981, (j) March 1981, (k) April 1981, (m) May 1981, and (n) June 1981, (i) how many drivers were tested at random breath testing stations in the Northern Territory, (ii) how many drivers tested at random breath testing stations registered alcohol levels above the prescribed limit, (iii) how many prosecutions were initiated as a consequence of drivers tested at random breath testing stations registering alcohol levels above the prescribed limit, (iv) how many drivers were tested for blood alcohol content other than at random breath testing stations, (v) how many drivers tested under (iv) above registered alcohol levels above the prescribed limit, and (vi) how many prosecutions were initiated as a result of drivers registering alcohol levels above the prescribed limit, but not tested at random breath testing stations?

4. How many police officers currently serving in the force have undergone specific training to operate random breath testing stations and other breath testing apparatus?

5. With respect to the operation of random breath testing stations (a) have key times of day and key locations been identified, (b) what is the frequency of surveillance in key locations at key times of day, and (c) are random breath testing stations always manned at full strength at key times of day in key locations?

ANSWER

1.

MONTH	TOTAL ACCIDENTS	ALCOHOL RELATED	FATAL ACCIDENT ALCOHOL	INJURY ACCIDENT ALCOHOL
1980				
July	146	39	7	18
August	147	47	3	22
September	129	42	3	15
October	163	48	1	19
November	191	46	5	21
December	153	54	6	28
1981				
January	130	24	0	11
February	125	24	1	15
March	156	31	5	12
April	162	36	6	21
May	193	40	4	17
June	152	29	2	18
TOTAL	1,847	460	43	217

2.

LOCATION	0001 - 0200	0201 - 0400	0401 - 0600	0601 - 0800	0801 - 1000	1001 - 1200	1201 - 1400	1401 - 1600	1601 - 1800	1801 - 2000	2001 - 2200	2201 - 2400	UN-KNOWN TIME	TOTAL
X Intersection	5	2	1	13	19	22	32	21	51	21	9	9	1	206
T Intersection	18	3	3	35	34	27	39	51	89	64	36	22	2	423
Y Intersection	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	0	13
Multiple Intersection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Straight road	50	33	10	41	58	66	67	103	106	75	88	55	15	767
Curve	17	7	3	9	13	12	26	24	42	27	23	27	7	237
Bridge or culvert	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	11
Divided carriageway	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	2	2	3	0	2	1	16
Undivided carriageway	1	0	1	0	1	0	4	2	1	4	4	2	1	21
Median Opening	2	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	12
Level road	1	3	2	2	4	3	3	7	10	5	4	2	2	48

Hills	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
View open	0	1	0	1	4	3	2	1	3	3	2	2	1	23
View obscured	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	8
Other locations	0	0	1	2	4	10	9	9	9	1	5	4	3	57
TOTAL	97	52	22	106	140	152	190	224	317	211	174	128	34	1,847

3.

MONTH	AT RANDOM BREATH TESTING STATIONS			OTHER THAN RANDOM BREATH TESTING STATIONS		
	3(i) DRIVERS TESTED	3(ii) ABOVE LIMIT	3(iii) PROSECUTIONS	3(iv) DRIVERS TESTED	3(v) ABOVE LIMIT	3(vi) PROSECUTIONS
1980						
July	1,036	13	12	109	88	87
August	871	19	19	136	118	111
September	465	4	4	117	101	101
October	1,200	13	13	133	108	99
November	1,321	27	24	136	116	113
December	1,238	23	20	183	150	150
1981						
January	1,378	23	20	135	109	106
February	1,074	27	21	129	100	98
March	173	1	1	116	100	100
April	4,332	45	39	134	90	81
May	921	27	24	140	111	110
June	783	16	14	162	130	128
TOTAL	14,792	238	211	1,630	1,321	1,284

4. All police officers who are required to operate random breath testing stations receive 'on the job' training; since the commencement of breathalyzer legislation in 1974 all recruits have been trained in the use of Alcotest preliminary breath test devices as have most members who were serving prior to that legislation's commencement; 75 police officers currently serving in the force have been specifically trained as breathalyzer operators; and 6 police officers currently serving in the force have been specifically trained as breathalyzer maintenance personnel.

5. (a) Yes.

(b) Normal maximum random breath testing frequency is -

Darwin	8 urban, 2 rural per fortnight;
Alice Springs	2 urban, 2 rural per fortnight;
Tennant Creek	1 urban, 1 rural per fortnight;
Katherine	1 urban, 1 rural per fortnight;
Nhulunbuy	1 urban, 1 rural per fortnight;
Jabiru	1 operation per month; and
Warrabri	1 operation per month.

(c) Yes.

Staff Levels at Alice Springs Psychiatric Unit

380 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the present staffing of Alice Springs psychiatric unit?

ANSWER

Staffing of the Alice Springs Psychiatric Unit is 1 specialist psychiatrist, 1 psychologist, 1 resident medical officer (shared with medical ward), 6 registered nurses, 1 nursing aide per 24 hour shift, 1 cleaner, 1 orderly - 8.00 am to 4 pm 7 days, 1 orderly - 4 pm to midnight, 7 days per week.

Care for Chronic Psychiatric Patients

381 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When does the agreement between South Australia and the Northern Territory to look after chronic psychiatric patients cease?
2. How many patients are expected to return and where will they go?

ANSWER

1. There is no time limit on the understanding between South Australia and the Northern Territory for the care of long term psychiatric patients.
2. Patients still requiring institutional care will not be returned to the Northern Territory until an appropriate institution is established. This is not likely to be a viable proposition in the near future.

Government Advertising for Health Fund Membership

382 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How much has been spent by the government on TV and press advertising to promote membership of a health fund?

ANSWER

The advertising campaign to promote membership of a health fund has cost approximately $16,200. Final cost will not be known until all invoices have been received. Advertisements were run in all newspapers and on radio and television.

Eligibility for Disadvantaged Card

383 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many migrants are eligible for the disadvantaged card in the Northern Territory?
2. How many people in receipt of unemployment benefit and special benefit are eligible for the disadvantaged card in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The issue of disadvantaged cards is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Department of Social Security.

The Department of Health has no information on the matter.

NT Patients Funded through Commonwealth Schemes

384 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many patients in the Northern Territory are funded through both the Commonwealth's Nursing Home and Domiciliary Care Services and

Benefits?

2. How many are extensive care patients?

ANSWER

Ninety patients in the Northern Territory are currently funded through the Commonwealth Nursing Home Act.

A total of 47 are extensive care patients.

Domiciliary Care Benefits are paid through the Commonwealth Department of Health, and not the Northern Territory government.

Sealing of Roper Road

386 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the sealing of the Roper Road be completed to the 4-mile landing?

ANSWER

The road from the Stuart Highway to the crossing at Roper Bar is approximately 175 km long, of which 95 km have previously been sealed.

Upgrading of the remaining 81 km is to be undertaken in stages.

The next stage is presently programmed for commencement in the 1984-85 financial year.

Other stages will follow as finance and other priorities allow.

The access to the 4 Mile Landing from the Roper Highway was upgraded this year to a formed and gravelled standard at a cost of $30,000.

This section can now be economically maintained along with the gravelled sections of the highway.

Accidents on Dick Ward Drive

387 Mrs O'NEIL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Since the opening of Dick Ward Drive on 22 July 1980, how many accidents have been reported to the police (a) at the intersection of Dick Ward Drive and Ross Smith Avenue, (b) at the intersection of Ross Smith Avenue and Phillip Street, (c) at the intersection of Ross Smith Avenue and Fannie Bay Place, (d) at the intersection of Ross Smith Avenue and East Point Road?

ANSWER

During the period 22 July 1980 to 15 September 1981 -

(a) 5 accidents reported to the police;

(b) 2 accidents reported to the police;

(c) 4 accidents reported to the police; and

(d) 7 accidents reported to the police.

Katherine Dam Site

388 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Will he please detail the nature and number of consultations undertaken with the Djauan people and the NT government concerning the proposed site of the Katherine Dam?

2. How many sacred sites are located in the proposed Katherine Dam site?

3. What action does he intend taking regarding the proposed dam site,

given the opposition of the Djauan people?

ANSWER

1. None to date.

2. As yet unknown.

3. The matters raised will all be addressed in the full feasibility study and subsequent environmental impact study, if the project investigation continues beyond the current strategy studies.

Emergency Assistance Allocation

389 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In 1980-81 how much was spent out of the emergency assistance allocation on accommodation in terms of (a) financial assistance for purchase of tents, (b) bond money, and (c) general rental assistance?

ANSWER

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of emergency assistance expenditure into the 3 categories mentioned, but an amount of $58,871.82 was spent in 1980-81 on financial assistance for accommodation.

Department of Correctional Services Grants-in-Aid

390 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Which organisations are receiving grants-in-aid from the Department of Correctional Services in 1981-82 and how much is being allocated? How many unsuccessful applications were there and what were these organisations?

ANSWER

There are 2 organisations receiving grants-in-aid from the Correctional Services Division.

- Rehabilitation Association of the Northern Territory.

- Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Association of Alice Springs Inc.

The Rehabilitation Association of the Northern Territory has been granted $5,000 for 1981-82.

A grant for the Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Association of Alice Springs Inc. for 1981-72 is currently being assessed.

There were no other applications for grants-in-aid for 1981-82.

Commonwealth Special Assistance for Aboriginal Health

395 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

The Commonwealth provides special assistance for Aboriginal health through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. The Commonwealth states, under these programs, funds are provided for (a) prevention and control of alcohol abuse, (b) development of Aboriginals' responsibility in the improvement of their own health, and (c) development through training of Aboriginals to become expert in all aspects of health care administration. Will he ascertain how much is being provided for these purposes in the Northern Territory and to whom?

ANSWER

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs was unable to provide details of funding under the headings as provided. The following amounts have been programmed for the 1981-82 financial year.

(a) Prevention and control of alcohol abuse (including rehabilitation):

	Recurrent	Capital	Total
Kalano Association, Katherine	$ 109,000	--	$ 109,000
F.O.R.W.A.A.R.D., Darwin	$ 103,000	--	$ 103,000
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Medical & Health Services	$ 114,000	$ 5,000	$ 119,000

(b) Aboriginal health services including training of Aboriginals in health care administration:

	Recurrent	Capital	Total
Kalano Association, Katherine	$ 68,000	$ 200,000	$ 268,000
Aboriginal & Islander Medical Service, Darwin	$ 50,000	--	$ 50,000
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress & Health Service, Alice Springs	$ 559,000	$ 53,500	$ 612,500
Lyappa Congress Medical Service, Papunya	$ 367,000	--	$ 367,000
Urapuntja Health Service, Utopia	$ 250,000	$ 35,000	$ 285,000

Bilingual Programs in NT

399 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How much is being allocated in 1981-82 for bilingual programs? What was expended in 1980-81?
2. How many schools now have operational bilingual programs?
3. How many schools have been accredited as working successfully by the department?
4. At what stage is the evaluation of bilingual programs by the Department of Education? What are the recommendations, if any, to date?

ANSWER

1. Allocation for 1981-82 (excluding salaries): $ 122,000.
   Expenditure for 1980-81 (excluding salaries): $ 95,936.

   Allocation and expenditure relates to the curriculum, literacy workers and production programs.
2. Fifteen schools have operational bilingual programs but 3 of those programs are experiencing problems associated with developing an orthography, low attendance and unavailability of suitable staff.
3. One school has been recommended for 2 years provisional accreditation.
4. The bilingual program in 4 schools is currently under evaluation, with reports expected to be ready for presentation to the accreditation panel in early 1982. The program in 5 other schools will be evaluated during 1982, aiming at accreditation procedures in early 1983. The remaining schools are at varying stages of implementation of a bilingual program and will not be ready for evaluation until 1983-87, as the effectiveness of the program can only realistically be evaluated at the end of the primary education process.

University Planning Authority Expenditure

400 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What was expended in 1980-81 on travel and other expenditure related to

advisory meetings of the University Planning Authority? What is the anticipated expenditure in 1981-82?

ANSWER

	1980-81 Expenditure	1981-82 Estimated Expenditure
Official travel	$ 11,478	$ 20,000
Advisory meetings	$ 35,962	$ 74,000
	$ 47,440	$ 94,000

The increase in 1981-82 expenditure over 1980-81 expenditures represents a full year's expenditure on programs which commenced during 1980-81 and does not result from expansion of existing programs and or the introduction of new programs.

Core Curriculum and NT Certification Committees

401 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the estimated cost of implementing core curriculum and NT certification and associated curriculum committees for 1981-82?

ANSWER

The cost of implementing core curriculum in 1981-82 is estimated to be $ 449,000.

A sizeable proportion of this amount is for short-term developmental costs and this amount should not be viewed simply as the annual cost of implementing core curriculum.

Since teaching and learning in the classroom is the main purpose of schooling and core and recommended curriculum accounts for approximately 80% of classroom time then the cost of implementing core curriculum should, after the initial development work is finalised, be no more that the cost of delivering any other comparable educational program. Therefore, the developmental costs are expected to progressively reduce to an ongoing maintenance level within 3 years.

Child Migrant Program

402 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What expansion of the existing child migrant program is expected in 1981-82?

ANSWER

Adequate financial provision has been made in the budget to provide teachers at a ratio of 10:1 in the intensive program and 30:1 in the on-going program. Expansion will depend on the numbers of new arrivals which is impossible to predict. Provision has been made on the basis of upper limits according to all available information.

Four additional positions have been made available for the on-going program and 4 for the intensive program initially.

Airfares for Isolated Children

403 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many families received airfares for isolated children in 1980-81? How many are expected to be covered in 1981-82?

ANSWER

Two hundred and nineteen families received airfares for isolated children in 1980-81. The number of families receiving assistance is expected to increase to 230 in 1982.

NT School Enrolments

405 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What has been the growth of student enrolments over 1980-81? At which schools? What is the projected student enrolment for 1981-82 and where?

ANSWER

There has been a 3.45% overall increase in student enrolments in the Northern Territory between July 1980 and July 1981, viz:

3.72% increase (940 students) in government schools;
1.86% increase (79 students) in non-government schools;
5.06% increase (977 students) in urban government schools; and
0.62% decrease (37 students) in Aboriginal government schools.

The projected student enrolments for July 1982 are:

26,590 (2% increase) in government schools;
4,460 (3% increase) in non-government schools;
20,580 (2% increase) in urban government schools; and
6,010 (1% increase) in Aboriginal government schools.

It is predicted that there will be an overall 1.6% increase (500 students) in student enrolments between July 1981 and July 1982.

Specific Purpose Payments under TAFE

406 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Which institutions are to receive specific purpose payments of grants under TAFE in 1981-82? How much are the specific purpose payments to be and for what purpose?

ANSWER

The institutions involved, and the amounts, are as follows:

	1981 September-December quarters	1982 March-June quarters	Total
Darwin Community College	$33,500	$121,050	$154,550
Community College of Central Australia	$13,600	$ 10,920	$ 24,520
Katherine Rural Education Centre	---	$ 38,400	$ 38,400
Batchelor College	---	$ 24,760	$ 24,760
Department of Education Programs	$19,950	$ 45,500	$ 65,450
	$67,050	$240,630	$307,680

The purposes for which the grants are, or are likely to be, approved are:

	1981 September-December quarters	1982 March-June quarters	Total
Staff development	$16,800	$ 28,250	$ 45,050
Data collection and processing	$ 8,000	$ 15,000	$ 23,000

Particular purposes	$42,250	$97,380	$139,630
Equipment (new grant in 1982)	---	$100,000	$100,000
	$67,050	$240,630	$307,680

Specific Purpose Payments to Schools

407 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Which schools received specific purpose payments in 1980-81 under disadvantaged country areas? How much was allocated? In 1981-82 what is the anticipated expenditure per school?

ANSWER

In 1980-81 grants of a total amount of $151,648 were approved under the Disadvantaged Country Areas Program as follows:

The Araluen Arts and Cultural Trust 'Arts in Isolated Schools and Communities' program	$ 32,000
Kargaru Primary School	$ 7,000
Bush Schools in the Disadvantaged Country Areas - colour video cassette recorder/playback systems	$ 58,778
Tennant Creek Area School	$ 6,000
Alice Springs School of the Air	$ 43,870
Katherine School of the Air	$ 4,000

The 1981-82 Commonwealth budget provides $181,000 for the program in the Northern Territory. Legislation concerning the 1982 grants is currently before the Federal Parliament awaiting approval. Grants are normally provided on a calendar year basis and at this particular time further grants have been approved for the remainder of 1981 as follows:

Alice Springs School of the Air	$ 12,750
Katherine School of the Air	$ 16,500
	$ 29,250

Specific Purpose Payments to School

408 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In 1980-81 which schools received specific purpose payments of grants under the Disadvantaged Government Schools program and how much was each allocated? In 1981-82 what is the anticipated expenditure per school?

ANSWER

In 1980-81 grants of a total amount of $235,116 were approved under the Disadvantaged Government Schools program as follows:

(a) Alice Springs High School	$ 75,753
(b) Millner Primary School	$ 81,154*
(c) Nightcliff High School	$ 25,119*
(d) Rapid Creek Primary School	$ 53,090*

* Includes salary component extending over the whole of 1981 calendar year.

The 1981-82 Commonwealth budget provides $296,935 for the program in the Northern Territory. Legislation concerning the 1982 grants is currently before the Federal Parliament awaiting approval. Grants are normally provided for a calendar year and at this particular time further grants have been approved for the remainder of 1981 as follows:

(a) Batchelor Education Village	$ 9,500
(b) Berrimah Primary School	$ 10,000

(c) Rapid Creek Primary School	$ 27,500
(d) Tennant Creek Area School	$ 2,460
(e) Traeger Park Primary School	$ 15,273
(f) Warrego Primary School	$ 11,720
Total	$ 76,453

Secondary Student Assistance Scheme

409 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students in years 8 to 10 are receiving assistance from the Secondary Student Assistance Scheme? How many are in receipt of the maximum rate?

ANSWER

Seventy students are currently receiving assistance from the Secondary Assistance Scheme. Twenty-nine are in receipt of the maximum allowance.

Dollar-for-dollar Subsidies

410 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Which schools received funding from the dollar-for-dollar subsidies in 1980-81 and how much was allocated per school?

ANSWER

The following are the schools which received 'dollar-for-dollar' subsidies in 1980-81 and the amounts allocated. The 'dollar-for-dollar' scheme operates on the basis that any school which raises funds for a specifically stated purpose will receive a grant equal to the amount raised but not exceeding $5,000. Any amount to be granted in excess of $5,000 will require justification by the school concerned and will depend upon availability of funds and approval of the secretary of the department.

NORTHERN REGION

Adelaide River	$ 2,000.00	Jabiru Primary	$ 6,749.00
Alawa Primary	1,000.00	Jabiru Pre School	2,000.00
Amanbidgi	489.00	Jingili Primary	10,421.59
Anugurugu	3,274.00	Jingili Pre School	300.00
Anula Primary	14,377.00	Kalkaringi	1,300.00
Anula Pre School	1,798.00	Katherine High	12,955.00
Batchelor Primary	5,000.00	Katherine School of Air	800.00
Batchelor Pre School	5,000.00	Katherine South	6,500.00
Bamyili	5,000.00	Katherine South Pre	400.00
Belyuen	1,612.50	Katherine Transitional Pre School	200.00
Berrimah Primary	4,320.00		
Berrimah Pre School	704.00	Killarney	520.00
Berry Springs	5,000.00	Lajamanu	5,000.00
Borroloola	5,000.00	Larrakeyah Primary	3,321.00
Beswick	800.00	Ludmilla Developmental	476.00
Bulman	100.00	Ludmilla Primary	14,466.00
Casuarina High	6,571.00	Malak Primary	9,150.00
Clyde Fenton Primary	2,027.00	Malak Pre School	3,450.00
Coconut Grove	5,000.00	Marrara Christian	5,261.00
Clyde Fenton Pre	427.00	Mamaruni	250.00
Darwin High	7,250.00	Mataranka	335.00
Darwin Primary	5,000.00	Middle Point School	2,500.00
Darwin Pre School	598.50	Maningrida	4,712.00
Dripstone High	7,750.00	Milingimbi	1,696.00
Djimbra	3,054.00	Milikapati	4,000.00

Ganjarani	550.00	Milikapati Pre	500.00
Goulburn Island	3,060.00	Millner Primary	1,455.00
Hodgson Downs	1,000.00	Millner Pre	929.00
Howard Springs Primary	4,231.00	Moil	10,085.00
Howard Springs Pre	772.29	Mudginberri	2,320.00
Holy Spirit	10,988.00	Moil Pre	500.00
Humpty Doo Primary	5,000.00	Mountain Valley	100.00
Humpty Doo Pre School	1,500.00	Nakara Primary	9,681.00
Ngukurr	$ 1,057.00	St John's College	$10,000.00
Nightcliff Primary	4,043.88	St Mary's	9,954.00
Nightcliff Pre	350.00	St Paul's	7,845.00
Nightcliff High	3,554,00	St Therese's	5,650.00
Nhulunbuy High	5,000.00	Shepherdson College	1,730.00
Nhulunbuy Primary	7,460.00	Stuart Park Primary	5,000.00
Nhulunbuy Pre	2,801.73	Tiwi Primary	10,500.00
Numbulwar	4,787.00	Victoria River Downs	1,547.84
Parap Pre	2,170.00	Tiwi Pre School	400.00
Parap Primary	5,726.54	Wagaman Primary	3,797.00
Peppimenarti	500.00	Wagaman Pre School	837.00
Point Stuart	1,000.00	Wanguri Primary	11,300.00
Pigeon Hole	1,100.00	Wanguri Pre School	1,342.00
Pine Creek	4,900.00	Wulagi Primary	5,000.00
Pularumpi	2,500.00	Wulagi Pre School	500.00
Ramingining	3,929.97	Wooliana	1,500.00
Rapid Creek Primary	5,556.00	Xavier Boys	4,955.30
Rapid Creek Pre	943.00	Yarralin School	1,350.00
Seventh Day Adventist	5,000.00		

SOUTHERN REGION

Alice Springs High	$ 140.00	Rona Glynn	$ 510.00
Amoonguna	225.00	Ross Park	3,051.50
Braitling	4,017.99	Sadadeen	7,285.00
Charles Creek Pre	40.00	Santa Teresa	1,938.00
Bradshaw	19,219.00	School of the Air	6,803.65
Gillen Primary	7,000.00	Special School	2,127.00
Gillen Pre	500.00	Tennant Creek Area	6,720.00
Ida Stanley	1,174.00	Tennant Creek Pre School	1,828.00
Karguru	5,000.00	Traeger Park School	900.00
Karguru Pre	900.00	Utopia	1,105.00
Natalie Gorey	360.00	Warrabri	6,728.50
OLSH	4,712.90	Yuendumu	1,406.69
Papunya	1,000.00	Yirara	5,217.11
Rockhampton Downs	1,400.00		

Scholarships and Reimbursements to Students

411 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students received scholarships and reimbursements under approved Student Assistance Schemes in 1980-81? What are the estimated additional claims for 1981-82?

ANSWER

Scheme	No. of Claimants 1980-81	Estimated Additional Claims 1981-82
NT scholarships	8	10
NT tertiary grants	224	160
NT tertiary fares	194	210

Operational Expenses for Education Programs

412 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What are the operational expenses for the following programs in 1981-82: (a) Aboriginal teacher education, (b) adult education, (c) student driver education, (d) Katherine Rural Education Centre, (e) technical and vocational education, (f) Community Services and Correctional Welfare? What was expended in these areas in 1980-81?

ANSWER

The following amounts represent operational expenditure in relation to the listed function 1980-81 and 1981-82:

	Expenditure 1980-81	Estimate 1981-82
Aboriginal teacher education	$ 150,963	$ 237,000
Adult education	83,256	102,000
Student driver education	7,999	18,000
Katherine Rural Education Centre	29,178	121,000
Technical and vocational education	17,476	22,000
Community Services and Correctional Welfare	7,995	15,000
	$ 296,867	$ 515,000

NB: Figures do not include salaries.

Child Migrant Education

413 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he provide details on the new 'initiative' announced in the Budget that the government has undertaken in the area of child migrant education? How many children are to be involved? What is the ratio of students per teacher?

ANSWER

The government has accepted responsibility for the funding of the program.

Allocations from the Commonwealth under the Child Migrant Education Program, now called English as a Second Language Program and the Refugee Contingency Program now called New Arrivals Program, are regarded as subsidies of NT government expenditure.

Up to 300 non-English speaking children are expected to arrive in this financial year. In addition approximately 600 children currently in the program will continue to be catered for.

Pupil teacher ratios approved by Cabinet are:

10:1 in the intensive component; and
30:1 in the on-going component.

i.e.: The aim is to supply 1 teacher over establishment for each 30 children identified in schools as in need of specialised assistance.

Pre-apprenticeship Training Programs for Aboriginals

416 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

On what aspects of the establishment of pre-apprenticeship training programs for Aboriginals at the Community College of Central Australia will the $10,000 allocated be spent in 1981-82?

ANSWER

The $10,000 was included in the budget of the Community College of Central Australia to supplement funding provided by the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs to run the pre-employment course in automotive engineering for Aboriginal students. It will be used to purchase equipment supplementary to that provided through this Commonwealth funding.

Specific Purpose Payments for Multi-cultural Education Programs

417 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In 1980-81 which schools received specific purpose payments for multi-cultural education programs? How much was allocated for each particular program and what was the nature of each program? What is the anticipated expenditure per school in 1981-82?

ANSWER

Allocation of moneys is administered by the Multicultural Education Co-ordinating Committee. Individual schools make applications for grants - therefore there is no expenditure per school as such.

$43,000 is available for distribution in the 1982 school year.

The following grants have been made to date:

NTMECC

GRANTS APPROVED

Date	Applications for Grant	Amount
17. 7.81	Darwin Primary School - Language materials	$ 2,000.00
	Moil Primary School - Language materials	$ 1,500.00
	Alawa Primary School - Language materials	$ 1,750.00
	Dripstone High School - Library materials	$ 2,000.00
	Holy Spirit School - Resource materials	$ 1,400.00
	Jingili Primary School - Language materials	$ 901.00
	St Mary's School - Resource materials	$ 1,000.00
	Oenpelli Literature Production Centre - Oral history recording	$ 1,500.00
	Casuarina High School - Library Materials	$ 800.00
	Secondary Intensive English Unit - History of ethnic groups	$ 1,000.00
	Nightcliff Primary School - Photographic prints	$ 200.00
	Bradshaw Primary School - Payment for film	$ 60.00
	Sub-Total (1)	$14,111.60
10. 2.81	Darwin High School - Language materials	$ 1,650.00
	St John's School - Language materials	$ 1,600.00
	Casuarina High School - Social and cultural resources	$ 1,270.00
	Nightcliff Primary School - Resource materials	$ 1,450.00
	Berry Springs Primary School - Language teaching and resource materials	$ 2,000.00
	Willowra School - Oral history and literature - Resource development	$ 2,000.00
	Papunya School - Oral history and literature - Resource development	$ 2,000.00
	Casuarina High School - Language materials	$ 1,430.00
	Sub-Total (2)	$13,400.00

16.10.80	St Therese's School - Natural science research	$ 850.00
17.10.80	St John's College - Language materials	$ 600.48
	Dripstone High School - Library grant	$ 1,000.00
	Casuarina High School - Resources to support interpreter/translator course	$ 5,008.00
	Yuendumu - Development of resource materials	$ 850.00
	Hodgson Downs - Resource materials	$ 600.00
	Katherine High School - Camping project re Aboriginal culture	$ 1,350.00
	Bradshaw Primary School - Language materials	$ 1,400.00
	Sub-Total (3)	$16,658.48

Sub-Total (1)	$ 14,111.00
Sub-Total (2)	$ 13,400.00
Sub-Total (3)	$ 16,658.48
	$ 44,169.48

Government Printing Office Apprenticeship Scheme

419 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How many of the apprentices in the Government Printing Office apprenticeship scheme are female?

ANSWER

There are 9 apprentices currently employed at the Government Printing Office, all of which are male. However, during the recent Careers Week promotion, several female students expressed keen interest in possible job opportunities within the printing trade, in particular, the area of computerised typesetting.

Concessions to Pensioners

420 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of his statement that only just over one-fifth of those pensioners eligible for concessions have used these, what action has he taken to justify the estimate that 3,000 pensioners will use those concessions in 1981-82?

ANSWER

The figure quoted in my Community Development budget papers was prepared some time ago and needs updating. As at 30 September 1981 approximately 3,300 people have utilised the concessions this year alone, and this number is gradually increasing.

No action was therefore required by me to justify the estimate that 3,000 pensioners would use the concessions in 1981-82.

Commonwealth Curriculum Centre

422 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What provision is he making to ensure that the functions of the Commonwealth Curriculum Centre will be continued by the NT government in terms of curriculum development and teaching materials?

ANSWER

It is neither possible nor reasonable to expect the NT government to cover

adequately all the curriculum development and materials projects that were previously funded by the Curriculum Development Centre (CDC).

Projects which are continuing are:

1. Mathematics in Aboriginal Schools - the booklets in this series will now be produced in the NT and will be available for reproduction by state departments. Books 1 and 2 should be printed by January 1982.
2. Language Development Project - materials developed in this project will be printed by the NT Department of Education towards the end of 1982.
3. Learning Through the Historical Environment - this is funded by CDC until the end of 1982.
4. Oral English Tapes for Aboriginal Schools - this is funded by CDC until early 1982 and the NT Department of Education will produce and distribute those tapes developed by then.

Projects which cannot be continued because of cost are:

1. New Zealand Science Units - CDC was reprinting these in an adapted form for all Australian primary schools.
2. Leaps and Bounds - a project to assist the teaching of English in Aboriginal schools.
3. AMEP - the Australian Mathematics Education Project - a project aimed at improving mathematics education throughout Australia (still some possibility of continued CDC funding).

Commonwealth Schools Commission

423 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How will the Northern Territory be affected by the reduction of the Commonwealth Schools Commission's direct involvement in program administration and information collection?

ANSWER

As the Schools Commission has not as yet made a clear statement of its policies in this regard, government is at present uncertain about the precise ramifications for the NT.

Aboriginal Camping Areas within Municipal Boundaries

424 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it the intention of the government to make the regulation of camping areas within municipal boundaries the responsibility of the relevant municipal authority?
2. If so, will the government retain power to take positive action to better the conditions of Aborigines in those circumstances where an impasse is reached between the municipal authority and organisations representing Aboriginal interests?

ANSWER

I suggest this question be referred to the Minister for Community Development.

Collection of Data on Domestic Violence

425 Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Has the government established any adequate system of data collection on domestic violence through the hospital, courts or police? If not, when does the government intend to do so? If so, could he provide details?

ANSWER

Statistics kept by police relate to offences known to have been committed, but do not record the background circumstances.

Any statistics gathered would be unlikely to reflect the true incidence of domestic violence due to the reluctance of some medical personnel and victims to identify and report such violence in a domestic environment.

A Child Protection Consultative Committee comprising the Departments of Health, Community Development, Education, Law and Police is being set up in an effort to achieve greater effectiveness in this area.

Public Service Interpreters

426 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many requests for interpreters are there per week?
2. Could he provide details of the number of requests each government department has made in the last 6 months? How do these figures compare with the previous 6 months period?
3. What has been the cost of contract interpreters, if any, for each department?
4. How often has each NTPS voluntary interpreter been used on average in the last 6 months?
5. Which are the language groups most in demand?
6. How often in the last 6 months have there been requests from the hospitals for interpreters?
7. How does the use of interpreters in Alice Springs compare with Darwin?

ANSWER

1. From 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1981 there were 122 interpreter requests and 124 translations, or almost 5 requests per week.
2. Almost all government departments and authorities have used the interpreter service. The main users during 1980-81 include:

Department/Authority	1.7.80 to 31.12.80	1.1.81 to 30.6.81
Law/Courts	9	6
Health	21	8
Education	-	16
Emergency Services	54	17
Police/Gaol	5	9
Information	1	5
Customs	3	6
Community Development	13	19
Tourist Bureau	1	4
Consumer Affairs	7	3
Ombudsman	8	7

   For the time period 1 July 1980 to 31 December 1980 there were 127 interpreter/translator requests and for 1 January 1981 to 30 June 1981 there were 119 users.
3. There is no cost for NTPS interpreters, however the user pays principle applies if an interpreter/translator is required from outside the public service.
4. On average each interpreter has been used 2-4 times during a 6 month period.

5. The language groups most frequently in demand are Greek, Chinese (Mandarin, Hakka, Hokkien, Cantonese), Yugoslav, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and German.

6. The hospitals have requested interpreting assistance on 5 occasions during the past 6 months.

7. Requests for interpreters in other centres including Alice Springs are handled on a telephone link-up or referred to the Resource and Settlement Centres located in each of the population centres in the Territory. The requests for interpreting/translating in Alice Springs are about 1/10th those of Darwin.

Pensioner Concessions to Interstate Pensioners

427 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the government raised the matter of extending pensioner concessions to interstate pensioners visiting the Northern Territory? If so, what was the outcome?

ANSWER

Because of the short length of time most interstate pensioners would spend in the Northern Territory and the fact that the majority of concessions are of domestic type, the only concession that would apply would be bus travel.

The introduction of the Northern Territory Pension Concession Card was for the purpose of accurate identification of eligible persons and ease of entry for such persons to the full range of concessions available.

The administrative efficiency of this scheme would be prejudiced if other forms of identification are to be used for one of these benefits, namely the bus travel concession.

Ways of alleviating this problem are being considered. Implementation of the extension of the bus travel concession to interstate pensioners cannot take place until the problem of effective identification of eligible interstate pensioners has been overcome.

Department of Education Administrative Expenses

455 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How was the allocation of $6,950,869 in administrative expenses of General Expenses in the Education Department expended in 1980-81?

ANSWER

Advertising	$	40,258
Communications	$	478,084
Consultants	$	34,489
General Services	$	61,001
General Equipment/Machines	$	129,790
Stores Stock	$	207,434
Legal Expenses		---
Library Services	$	185
Office Requisitions and Stationery	$	115,018
Printing and Publications	$	87,634
Regulatory and Advisory Services	$	47,930
Recruitment Costs	$	432,725
Relocation Expenses	$	196,200
Study	$	68,176
Freight	$	345,467
Transport	$	423,157

Travel and Subsistence	$	9,651
Workers Compensation	$	54,716
Payroll Tax	$	2,388,579
Incidentals and Other	$	90,609
Recreation Leave Fares	$	872,329
Furniture	$	620,650
National and International	$	6,708
Remote Local. Fares	$	32,713
Inservice	$	181,493
Medical Fares	$	3,850
Assess Fares	$	10,512
ACER Survey	$	4,506
RTM Emergency Advances	$	7,000
TOTAL	$	6,950,864

The difference of $5 is caused by rounding of figures.

Department of Education Administrative Expenses

456 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How is the extra $290,216 for administrative expenses in Management Services of the Education Department to be spent in 1981-82?

2. How is the additional $367,150 for administrative expenses in educational facilities to be spent in 1981-82?

ANSWER

The information pertaining to both questions is a matter of public record associated with budget paper No. 4 1981-82. Please refer to pages 8 and 9 of the Department of Education Explanatory Notes.

Housing Commission Rental Rebates

460 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the general formula used for deciding eligibility for a rental rebate?

ANSWER

To be eligible for rental rebate you must be the legal tenant, personally occupy the dwelling, be paying rent, and satisfy a means test.

This means test is calculated on gross family income which includes the tenant, the tenant's spouse, and any other person over 16 years of age who resides with the applicant.

Gross income does not include educational allowances paid in respect of school studies, family allowances, maternity allowances, domiciliary nursing care benefits or allowances from Legacy.

Public Trustee Functions

461 Mr MacFARLANE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

In what way is the public being informed about facilities established for community benefit under (a) Public Trustee functions, and (b) standard will forms?

ANSWER

Copies of the pamphlet outlining the function of the Public Trustee are available at all Court offices within the Northern Territory. There is

to date no direct active advertising by means of newspapers, television or radio. However the Attorney-General has recently, at the request of the Public Trustee, indicated that modest advertising of the will-making service may be undertaken.

I am told by the Public Trustee that such advertising will consist of occasional advertisements in local press.

Generally people are aware of the service provided by the Public Trustee by word of mouth.

Tracker Dogs

462 Mr MacFARLANE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Would tracker dogs have been of assistance in the search for Warun on Howard Island?

ANSWER

In some circumstances tracker dogs can offer valuable assistance to searches for missing persons in bush areas. Ideally, the dogs should be at the scene within 2 hours to give them a chance to pick up a scent. In the Howard Island search the police were not able to arrive at the scene until 24 hours after Warrun was found to be missing. A number of Aboriginals in this period had been looking for the child in the search area and it was no longer sterile. Due to these circumstances the use of tracker dogs would have had limited value.

Grants for Handicapped Children

465 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

$44,000 is to be allocated as a specific purpose grant to integrate handicapped children into regular schools and to provide educational opportunities and support for severely handicapped children living at home or in institutions -

(a) to whom are the specific purpose grants to be allocated; and

(b) how many handicapped children in each of the categories mentioned will receive assistance and in what way is the support to be provided?

ANSWER

All Schools Commissions moneys including specific purpose grants are allocated on a calendar year basis which means that such moneys cut across 2 departmental budget periods which are based on a financial year.

The $44,000 quoted includes a known factor of $31,500 for 1981 while the balance represents a guestimate of expected expenditure on both programs for the first half of 1982. (Amounts for 1981 are subject to quarterly indexation, and the figures quoted are the last known allocations).

Programs for 1982 cannot be approved until such time as the Federal Parliament passes the Appropriation Bills.

Moneys allocated to date are:

(i) Integration of Handicapped Children Program

$10,500 - Construction of and equipment for a Visually Impaired Unit at Tiwi Primary School. (Catering for 6 children).

(ii) Severely Handicapped Program

$ 4,000 - Playground equipment for NT Spastic Centre. (Catering for 20 children).

$17,000 - Employment of 1 therapist and 2 aides on a part-time basis to assist run an educational program in hospital wards in Darwin for children living there on a long-term basis.

Camping Areas within Municipalities

467 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is it the intention of the government to make the regulation of camping areas within municipal boundaries the responsibility of the relevant municipal authority?

2. If so, will the government retain power to take positive action to better the conditions of Aborigines in those circumstances where an impasse is reached between the municipal authority and organisations representing Aboriginal interests?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory government has already decided that the responsibility for the regulation of camping areas within municipal boundaries rests with the relevant municipal authority.

2. The question asked is vague, the government as well as organisations like the Aboriginal Development Commission have the power to fund improvements on leases granted to Aboriginal organisations for camping purposes.

1978.821—27

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service *523
Aboriginal camps in municipal areas 606, 611
Aboriginal Development Commission, headquarters 510
Aboriginal employment, strategies *527
Aboriginal health, special Commonwealth assistance 596
Aboriginal Liaison Unit, travel expenditure 1980-81 527
Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority, female anthropologist 542
Aboriginal Teacher Training Centre -
  enrolments 512
  program 516
Aboriginal teaching assistants *540
Aborigines -
  imprisonment rates 576
  mining royalties 542
Accommodation, emergency finanical assistance expenditure 1980-81 596
ADMA land acquisitions 506
Aids to disabled people, expenditure *535
Air fares isolated children 598
Alice Springs -
  funding of roadworks 1980-81 570
  magistrates 588
  psychiatric unit staffing 594
  rifle range 507
  stoning of cars 582
  Women's Centre *524
Anti-depressant medication *532
Attorney-General's Department, renting office space 551
Australian Fishing Zone Observer, program 568
Australian School's Commission, submissions 588
Australian United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association *529
Bagot Park Speedway, future use 497, 508
Bed costs, variations in NT hospitals *535
Beef exports to South-east Asia *524
Beef Industry Consultative Committee 573
Beef prices 570, 574
Beef sales, Woolworths and Coles 571
Beetaloo Station, bores 583
Berrimah Prison, new cell blocks 498
Bilingual programs in NT 597
Billing outpatients in remote areas 509
Board controlling satellite communication 512
Boozers are Losers -
  advertising campaign *531
  T-shirts 518
Bores on outstations 582
Brinkin subdivision 485
Brinkin subdivision, draft planning instrument 504
Bushfires regulations 573
Carpentaria College site 494
Carpentaria Highway, verges 587
Casuarina Hospital -
  burns cases treatment 492, 511, 590
  facilities for handicapped patients etc *536
  staff reductions *536, 589
  staff review 503
  waiting time, casualty department *528
Cattle mustering on national parks and reserves 543

Channel Island power-station 498, 510
Chest X-ray - National Tuberculosis Act 1948 *532
Chief Minister's Department, renting office space 551
Child migrant -
  education 603
  program 598
Child welfare legislation 471
Coal and lignite resources 565
Coastal surveillance flights 487
Collia tin mine *533
Commonwealth Curriculum Centre 605
Commonwealth health grants *533
Commonwealth Schools Commission, NT policies 606
Commonwealth's Nursing Home and Domiciliary Services, funding for NT patients 594
Community College of Central Australia, advertising for Principal and Deputy Principal 586
Community health centres 469
Community health centres -
  funding *532
  medical practitioners *523
Community welfare expenditure *538
Conservation Commission, Gunn Point management plan 475
Consultant fees for hospital services *536
Consumer Affairs Council 495
Consumer credit legislation 487
Contract beef production *530
Control of fisheries 513
Core curriculum and NT certification committees 598
Darwin Central Community Health Centre *532
Darwin Hospital, pathology laboratory *524
Darwin roadworks funding 1980-81 570
Debtors in NT goals 590
Department of Community Development -
  counselling *527
  renting office space 552
Department of Education -
  administrative expenses 1980-81 608, 609
  renting office space 552
Department of Mines and Energy -
  construction safety branch 564
  inspection of machinery 564
  renting office space 552
Department of Transport and Works -
  Auditor-General's Report 546
  renting office space 553-558
  use of private recruitment companies 550
Detached dwellings, Palmerston 475
Detoxification centres *531
Dick Ward Drive, accident statistics 595
Disabled persons legislation 576
Disadvantaged cards *537
Disadvantaged cards, eligibility 594
Disadvantaged country areas program, specific payments to schools 600
Disadvantaged government schools, program grants 1980-81 600
Doctor-patient ratios in NT *538
Dollar-for-dollar subsidies 601
Domestic violence 479, *527, 606
Driving licences for 16-year-olds 504
Drug education programs in NT *533

East Point Reserve 508, 509
East West Airlines *522
Educational programs, operating expenses 603
Emergency accommodation for females *528
Ethnic schools grants 576
Eva Valley and St Vidgeon *525
Export of horticultural crops 511
Fenson, Mr F. 571
Feral Animals Report 579
Feral buffalo and cattle in Kakadu 501
Financial assistance to Barramundi fishermen 505
Fire control 490
Fish and Fisheries Act, complaints under *531
Fisheries Division program, mackerel etc *529
Fishing industry potential, public awareness 520
Flooding at railway dam 494
Freight run to Maningrida 517
Fresh water prawn farming 517
Fruit entering Alice Springs, checks 479
Georgina River, bridge 548
Geothermal energy in the Northern Territory 475
Gove District Hospital, transfer of services from health clinic 519
Government advertising, health fund promotions 594
Government cattle at Elizabeth River dairy *529
Government expenditure on agriculture *529
Government Housing Loans Scheme 485
Government Printing Office, female apprentices 605
Grants-in-aid -
  applications to Department of Health *535
  guidelines *533
  sporting bodies 1980-81 *524, *525
Gunn Point -
  forestry area administration 488
  public access 490, 498
  public access, management 519
Handicapped children, specific purpose grants for educational integration 610
Harts Range, gem survey 562
Health care program for Aboriginals 512
Health charges, debtors *536
Health Department -
  central office, function devolution *535
  debt collectors *536
  internal reviews *535
  patients transferred interstate *536
  staff training 501
  staff workloads 490
Health insurance claims *528
Health, ministerial statement *526
Health, NT revenue raising *537
Health services rationalisation *535
Henbury Avenue Special School 496
Horticulture in Alice Springs 489
Hospital for Jabiru 498
Hospital patients, security of belongings *524
Hospitals staffing levels *538
Housing Commission -
  cost of organisation review 561
  houses in Nhulunbuy 473

out-of-turn housing allocations *529
pensioner rent assistance *531
rent rebate *534
rent rebate eligibility 609
rent review formula 483
Housing loans interest rate 489
Howard Springs Primary School 508
Humpty Doo High School 481, 496, 517
Industrial crop research *531
Industrial Relations Unit, Alice Springs 589
Industries Training Commission *522
Inland fishing industry 478
Interpreter service for Aborigines *527
IYDP 505
IYT 506, 507 (International Year of the Tree)
Jabiru -
by-laws 578
police station 515
Jervois and Mollie Hill, medical facilities 499
Juvenile crime 511
Kailis fishing company, truck route *526
Katherine -
Aboriginal camping area *528
agricultural lease valuations 575
Community Welfare Office 541
Dam, site investigations 595
Donkey Camp water project 580
funding of roadworks 1980-81 570
government funded workshop 573
health care *525
land auctions 574
pavement maintenance 572
payment of government accounts 572
Racecourse Reserve 574
water supply *522
Kern company, complaints 472
Kookaburra aircraft memorial 494
Lake Nash, health clinic *526, 547
Lapsed questions, Mr Isaacs 540
Leanyer and Karama subdivisions 550
Lease applications 549
Legislative Assembly sittings 1982 504
Leucaena trials at Mataranka *531
Licensing of insurance and mortgage brokers 501
Liquor advertising 502
Litter campaign *540
McArthur River mining development feasibility study 562
Magistrates, Alice Springs 588
Management Services Division, staff establishment 568
Mental Health Act, annual report 589
Mentally retarded children attending primary school *529
Metallurgical Research Centre 563
Mines Services Branch, expenditure on roads 1979-80 561
Motel for Tennant Creek 471
Motel near Alice Springs 476
Mt Gillen Child Health Unit, remodelling 584
Multi-cultural education, specific purpose payments 604
Nabarlek Mine, spillage 577

Napperby Station, sublease 545
National and International airlines, NT services 516
National Estate, grant for bark painting 500
National Park on Tempe Downs 504, 510
Nhulunbuy -
  community library 500
  health clinic 495
Noble's Nob mine, slope stability 565
Nomad aircraft 505
Norforce 478
Northern Meat Exporters, interest rate on loan *523
Northern Territory Development Corporation 489 -
  assistance to Aboriginal organisations 582
  loans *530
  loans recovery 515
Northern Territory hostels, future management 497
Northern Territory Portion 1097 480
Northern Territory Public Service -
  female earnings *532
  interpreters 584, 607
  superannuation fund 493
Northern Territory road maps 521
Northern Territory stations, failures 575
Northern Territory Teaching Service, members without citizenship 588
Northmeat Farm, sorghum production 572
Northumberland Insurance Company 482
NTEC, power supply to pastoral properties 585
Nuclear - safeguards agreement, Japan-Australia 520
Nurses resignations, Alice Springs 470
Nursing and administration of medicine report *536
Nursing home at Palmerston 472
Nursing home care 537
Nursing sister at Garden Point 480
Nutrition research for cattle and buffalo 573
Occupational health hazards *528
Occupational health service *538
Occupational licence on Undoolya Road 520
Ornamental nursery industry consultants 567
Outpatients attendance figures in NT hospitals *532
Outpatients services *537
Outpatients treatment, non-urgent cases *532
Palm leaf beetle, control of 481, 566
Passengers in utility trays 488
Pastoral leases -
  Elsey and Hodgson Downs *522
  non-compliance with lease conditions 575
  ownership details *525
Pensioner Air Fare Scheme 481
Pensioner concessions 605
Pensioner concessions for interstate pensioners 608
Pensioner free health care *528
Petrol sniffing -
  in Aboriginal communities 518
  Papunya 493
  prevalence in NT *535
Phosphate deposits at Batchelor 499
Plenty Highway, signposts 474
Plenty River mine 561

Police cadets 482
Police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit, inquiry 471, 521
Powell Creek telegraph station *530
Prawn trawling in Fog Bay 470
Prawning industry -
  foreign vessel numbers 569
  licences *530, 569
Pre-apprenticeship courses for Aborigines 583, 603
Private hospital for Darwin 474, *537
Psychiatric -
  care for chronic patients 594
  patients transferred to S.A. *538
  services *537
  treatment of juveniles in southern centres 506
  unit staffing, Alice Springs 594
Public housing -
  allocations *534
  applications *534
  statistics 560
  waiting time 559
Public Trustee, functions 609
Random breath-testing statistics 591
Ranger mine -
  breaches of regulations 483
  closure 474
  environmental standards compliance 495, 507
Rape in southern region of NT *523
Rapid Creek Water Gardens 518
Reassignment rumours for departmental heads 490
Red milfoil in Alice Springs 508
Reef fish and mackerel fishing 502
Regulatory and Advisory Council meetings for schools *539
Road accidents, alcohol related 591
Roper road, sealing 595
Rum Jungle, rehabilitation 577
Rural area, proposed for private school 476
Sadadeen Primary School 495, 497
Salaries of Northern Territory Public Service 477
Sales tax rebate scheme 548
Sanderson health clinic 492
School buses, tenders 541
School dental therapists *538
Schooling for Pintupi 473
School-to-work transition program *539
Secondary student assistance scheme 601
Section 21 of Education Act 513
Seed production in the NT 567
Sexual assault cases 1979-80, 1980-81 *526
Sexual harassment *527
Shell Island powerhouse site *530
Shopping complex proposal on council car park 500, 502
Small Business Advisory Service 518
Smith Street reconstruction, Alice Springs 478
Special purposes lease application for 15 mile camp *525
Specific purpose payments to schools 600, 604
Staffing levels for NT schools 580
Stamp duty exemptions 478
Stott Terrace connector road 500, 502

Stuart Highway reconstruction in Alice Springs 486
Student assistance in NT *523
Student assistance schemes, scholarships and reimbursements 1980-81 602
Student enrolments 1980-81, 1981-82 599
Tanami Desert Road 548
TB, infected feral animals 506
Technical and Further Education, specific purposes payments 1981-82 599
Telephone line from Katherine Hospital to police station *529
Tempe Downs, letter PL 629(3) GL 2072 486, 515
Tenancy Act, amendments 487
Tennant Creek, funding of roadworks 1980-81 570
Todd River crossing 547
Todd River, responsibility of Alice Springs municipality 484
Trachoma treatment in Aboriginal communities *528
Tracker dogs 610
Tradesmen for remote areas *522
Traffic lights at McMillans Road-Stuart Highway intersection 503
Tuberculosis, incidence in 1979-80 *524
United Nations Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women *527
University Planning Authority, travel expenditure 1980-81 597
Urban Lands Unit 521
Ward system for Alice Spring Town Council 492
Water reticulation in rural area 492
Water storage tank, east of Sadadeen 476
Water supply at Yarralin 516
Weeds in inland waters 495
Winton to Boulia road 496
Yipirinya School *539
Youth Sport and Recreation Branch, renting of office space 559
Yulara Tourist Village 544, 550
Zone allowance negotiations 470
Zone taxation rebates 469

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.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 18 November 1980

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?

From 24 February 1981

Katherine Electricity 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?

From 2 June 1981

Interest Rate on Loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

195 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What rate of interest is being charged on the $1.4m special assistance loan granted to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd?

From 9 June 1981

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service

198 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the present staffing of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Centre? Are there plans to increase the staffing levels and, if so, what positions?
2. What are the functions and duties of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service?
3. During the 6 months to 31 May 1981, (a) how many Aboriginals have been treated per week by AIMS, (b) what are the major categories of illness, and (c) where do the Aboriginals, in the main, come from?
4. How many Aboriginal liaison officers are attached to Casuarina Hospital; what hours do they work; and are there plans to increase the numbers?
5. Are any Aboriginal liaison officers to be employed at Darwin Hospital?

Students Assistance

201 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students in the Northern Territory are, (a) receiving assistance under the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme, and (b) how many are in receipt of the full allowance?

From 18 August 1981

Rape in Southern Region

210 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. (a) How many rapes have been reported in the Southern Command region since 1 July 1980 to 10 June 1981, (b) how many have resulted in

charges being laid, (c) what is the state of these charges, and (d) have any reports of rape been false?

2. What facilities and resources are available for the psychological counselling of women raped in (a) the Alice Springs region, and (b) the Tennant Creek region?

3. Has he received any representations from women's organisations regarding the level of rape counselling services in the Territory?

4. If so, (a) what organisations have made representations, (b) what has been the basis of these representations, and (c) what has been his response?

Darwin Hospital Pathology Laboratory

224 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can he inform me as to the fate of the pathology laboratory at the Darwin Hospital?

2. Has he considered the future of the laboratory in the light of a lack of such scientific facilities in the Department of Primary Production?

Security for Belongings of Hospital Patients

225 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are made to ensure the security of the belongings of hospital patients, for example psychiatric and geriatric patients, who are unable to care for themselves?

Incidence of Tuberculosis in 1979-80

241 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What was the incidence of tuberculosis in 1979-80 in (a) Australia, and (b) the Northern Territory?

2. Is his department undertaking any program to eradicate tuberculosis in humans similar to the program being undertaken to eradicate tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle?

From 19 August 1981

St Vidgeon Station and Eva Valley Station

346 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What is the future of St Vidgeon Station where Aboriginals are building stock yards, etc.?

2. What is the future of Eva Valley Station?

From 24 November 1981

Sexual Assault Cases

379 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many sexual assault cases have been seen at the major Territory hospitals in (a) 1980-81, and (b) 1979-80?

Interpreter Service for Aborigines

469 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What action does the government intend taking in response to the working party's report on the need for Aboriginal interpreter services in the NT?

2. If such services are to be established, what will be (a) their nature, (b) their funding, and (c) anticipated commencement date?

Department of Community Development - Counselling

475 Mr B. COLLINS for MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many officers are involved in counselling in the Department of Community Development?
2. What are the qualifications of the officers?
3. What is (a) the average baseload, and (b) the average number of clients seen per week by each counsellor?
4. What percentage of the clients are Aboriginal?

Emergency Overnight Accommodation for Females

476 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the government aware of the need for emergency overnight accommodation for females in the NT?
2. Does the government intend to provide subsidies to willing organisations such as the Salvation Army and the St Vincent de Paul Society who have corresponded with the government on such a service and, if so, when?

Aboriginal Camping Area in Katherine

477 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the government aware of and does it agree with the decision of the Katherine Corporation to allow Aborigines to set up a camping area in Katherine, despite the existence of Kalano Farm and the Corroboree Motel?

Prawning Licences

493 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many prawning licences were granted by the Department of Primary Production in 1979-80 and 1980-81?
2. How many prawning licences were in existence as at 30 June (a) 1978, (b) 1979, (c) 1980, and (d) 1981?

NTDC Loans

494 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many applications for Northern Territory Development Corporation loans were received from the agricultural and horticultural industries in (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
2. How many applications were successful and for what activities were loans granted?
3. What was the average repayment period associated with loans granted?
4. Were any interest or repayment holidays granted on any loans to the rural sector?

From 1 December 1981

Detoxification Centres

499 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Does the government support the establishment of detoxification centres, pick-up services and halfway houses for the Northern Territory?

2. What is the government's attitude to the introduction of a concessional differential on low alcohol beer?

Liquor Campaign

500 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is being spent on the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign?
2. For what reason was the contract awarded to a southern firm?
3. Has any contact been made with the liquor industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

Darwin Central Community Health Centre

503 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the government considering relocating the Darwin Central Community Health Centre and, if so, where is it to be located and for what reasons?

Chest X-rays - National Tuberculosis Act 1948

504 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Since the introduction of the 'user pays' medical and health charges on 1 September 1981, (a) what arrangements have been made by his department under the National Tuberculosis Act 1948 for the general public to have chest x-rays at no charge at general hospitals throughout the NT, and (b) if arrangements have been made will they be advertised in the media throughout the Northern Territory?

Attendance Figures at Oupatients

505 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. From 1 September to 31 October 1981, how many people (a) who attended outpatients departments in NT hospitals, and (b) who were hospitalised, were (i) insured, (ii) uninsured, or (iii) held disadvantaged and PHB cards?
2. How do those figures compare with those for the same period during 1980?
3. What was the percentage of Aboriginals in each of those categories?

Non-urgent Outpatients Treatment

506 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people wanting non-urgent treatment at outpatients departments in NT hospitals have not been seen because they have not had the necessary fee since 1 September 1981?

Anti-depressant Medication

507 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Are patients in NT hospitals who are not suffering from a psychosis prescribed anti-depressant medication without their knowledge and consent? If so, under what conditions?
2. How many (a) inpatients, and (b) outpatients were prescribed anti-depressant medication during 1980-81?

Allocations to Community Health Centres

508 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is he allocating from the Commonwealth's general revenue fund of $20.6 million to community health centres, hospitals and school dental services for each hospital and community health centre?
2. How much is the NT government allocating to these areas in 1981-82, for each community health centre, hospital and school dental service?
3. What was expended under these headings in 1980-81?

Drug Education Programs in NT

509 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What are the drug education programs to be conducted in the Northern Territory during 1981-82?

Commonwealth Health Grants

510 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has the Commonwealth provided $9 million for health planning and research in the form of grants to the states and the Northern Territory (on a $1 for $1 basis) and to institutions and persons?
2. If so, (a) how much has been allocated to the Northern Territory, and (b) for what purposes?

Guidelines for Grants-in-Aid

511 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What action has been taken to correct the following unsatisfactory controls relating to grants-in-aid commented upon by the Auditor-General in 1978-79 and found to be still unsatisfactory in 1980:

(a) inadequacies in the promulgated conditions for grants;

(b) the absence of reference to formal acceptance of the conditions and purpose of grants;

(c) the legal entity of grantees;

(d) the withholding of moneys for non-compliance with grant conditions;

(e) the lack of current formalized departmental procedures and guidelines covering functional responsibilities and criteria for the evaluation of grant applications and the monitoring of performance of grantees; and

(f) the apparent absence of follow-up action by his department in certain instances where it is not evident that grantees had complied with the conditions of grants?

Collia Tin Mine

512 Mr B. COLLINS 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 in NT - Applications

513 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for general public housing were received during (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81; and how many applications were outstanding at (c) 1 July 1980, and (d) 1 July 1981 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Katherine, (v) Nhulunbuy, and (vi) Pine Creek?

2. How many outstanding applications were there for general public housing (a) at 1 July 1980, and (b) at 25 June 1981?

3. How many applications for general public housing were received in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

4. How many applications for general public housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

5. How many tenants were accommodated in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

Expenditure on Aids to Disabled People

516 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he ascertain and advise how the funds were spent in 1980-81 which the Commonwealth provided for aids to disabled people who were not eligible under Commonwealth-state programs?

Internal Reviews of Health Department

517 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. He stated during the June 1981 sittings that his department had reviews taking place on all aspects of medical services offered to the public, and referred to an internal review of community health services. What were the details and outcome of this review?

2. In regard to other internal reviews conducted during the past year, (a) in which areas were they conducted, (b) who have the committees comprised of, (c) how many times have they met, and (d) what has been the outcome of these reviews?

3. How many internal reviews are being conducted at the moment?

Applications to Health Department for Grants-in-Aid

519 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many (a) applications for grants-in-aid were lodged for 1981-82, and (b) which organisations were unsuccessful?

Variations Between Bed Costs in NT Hospitals

520 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why do the bed costs in NT hospitals vary between $78 and $254, and where does this variation occur?

Staff Reductions at Casuarina Hospital

523 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Which staff organisations at the Casuarina Hospital have agreed to staff reductions affecting their memberships?
2. In which areas have staff reduction already been effected?
3. How many people have been affected to date?

Report on Nursing and Administration of Medicine

527 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When does he expect the report on manpower requirements for nursing and the administration of medicine to be completed?

Separate Facilities at Casuarina Hospital

529 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has he rejected his working party recommendations to erect separate facilities at Casuarina Hospital for psychiatric, handicapped and geriatric patients?
2. If so, why?
3. If not, has any money been allocated for their establishment in 1981-82, and when does he expect such facilities to be operational?

Nursing Home Care

530 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many elderly patients does he anticipate are in need of nursing home care?
2. How many are Aborigines?
3. Are there any plans to establish separate facilities for the elderly Aborigines?

Disadvantaged Cards

532 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people does he estimate could be classified as disadvantaged who have not yet received a disadvantaged card and what percentage of these are Aborigines?

Psychiatric Services

533 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the overall strategy of the government to improve psychiatric services?
2. What are seen as the main priorities?

Psychiatric Services

534 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what reason is psychiatric services included in the general administrative expenditure for health services?

2. For what reason has the level of funding for psychiatric services been reduced from $510,000 to $475,000? Where will this cut be felt?

Health Funding

535 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When does he expect to re-examine the Territory revenue raising capacity with the Commonwealth Minister for Health?

2. Is he compiling the necessary statistics, previously not available, to strengthen our case for additional Commonwealth funding? If so, what do these statistics comprise?

Transfer of Psychiatric Patients to South Australia

537 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much was spent in 1980-81 on the transfer of psychiatric patients to South Australia?

2. How many were transferred?

3. What was the average length of stay per patient?

4. When does the NT government expect to provide suitable secure premises for chronic patients in the Northern Territory?

Doctor-Patient Ratios in NT

538 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the current ratio of doctors per patient at each hospital in the NT?

2. What are the duty rosters of doctors and nurses? How does this compare with last year?

3. Is the percentage that salaried doctors can earn on top of their income to be increased from 25%? If so, to what level?

Staffing Levels in NT Hospitals

541 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Where does he expect staffing levels in Territory hospitals to be reduced and by how many and when?

Yipirinya School in Alice Springs

545 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action, if any, has been taken by the Department of Education on the application for registration of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs?

Aboriginal Teaching Assistants

546 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many Aboriginal teaching assistants are expected to be employed in 1981-82 and at which homeland centres?

Litter Campaign

547 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How much was spent on the anti-litter campaign?
2. Why was the contract for the campaign awarded to a southern firm?

From 9 March 1982

Hospital Treatment of Cases of Domestic Violence

549 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When a woman presents to a NT hospital with injuries or illness which she identifies as being caused by domestic violence, what procedures does the hospital follow?
2. What mechanism does the hospital have to ensure the victim is referred to other assistance she may require?
3. In the past 12 months, what number and percentage of (a) outpatients attendances, and (b) inpatient stays were related to domestic violence?

Child Protection Consultative Committee

550 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. Has the Child Protection Consultative Committee yet been established?
2. If so, has it begun collecting statistics on the incidence of domestic violence?
3. Is any other agency collecting similar data relating to domestic violence affecting adults?

Douglas-Daly and Upper Adelaide River Experimental Stations

553 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What hectarage of Douglas-Daly Experimental Station and Upper Adelaide River Experimental Station have been transferred from the Department of Primary Production to the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority?

'Fellow Territorians' Circular

564 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the cost of a circular letter dated October 1981, addressed to 'Fellow Territorians' and signed by the Chief Minister?

Bilingual Education Programs

576 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will staff numbers in bilingual education programs in schools in the southern directorate be maintained next year?

Molyhill Mine in Central Australia

592 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Have officers from the inspection and safety section visited the Molyhill mine in central Australia recently?
2. If so, what were their comments and recommendations regarding dust suppression and the use of cyanide?
3. Were copies of the officers' report made available to Molyhill employees and, if not, why not?

Aboriginal Health Workers

593 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does his department have a policy of employing Aboriginal health workers on mobile rural health teams and, if not, why not?

Rapid Creek Water Gardens Project

596 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Given that the Rapid Creek water gardens project already has 2 signs, 1 being a conventional Transport and Works sign and the other a pictorial representation of what the gardens will look like, what was (a) the purpose of erecting a third much larger sign identifying the project, and (b) what was the cost of the third sign?

Superannuation Salary Deductions for NT Public Servants

601 Mr SMITH to TREASURER

1. What amount has been deducted from the salaries of NT government employees for superannuation purposes since 1 July 1978?
2. What amount has been forwarded by the NT government to the Commonwealth Superannuation Fund Investment Trust Account since 1 July 1978?
3. How much of the total amount deducted from employees' salaries for superannuation in the NT since 1 July 1978, has (a) been kept in the NT, (b) to what purpose has it been put, and (c) what rates of interest have been earned on this money?

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign

607 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What action will his department take to provide grids on public roads to assist control of cattle during the TB and brucellosis eradication campaign?

Electricity Supply Around Katherine

609 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What progress is being made towards providing electricity to (a) Katherine Gorge, (b) the 15-mile Farm (KREC), and (c) the low-level area and rural development?

Geoffrey Peter Bellenger

611 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the hardship suffered by Geoffrey Peter Bellenger, who was injured by a truck on a pedestrian crossing in Alice Springs on 23 May 1975 and who has not yet received any compensation for his injuries or costs?
2. Was the driver of the truck involved in the incident charged with any offence?
3. Is any of the almost 7 years delay between the injury and compensation attributable to any shortcoming or congestion in Northern Territory courts?

Liaison between Government Departments

618 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is there liaison between the Department of Lands, other departments and statutory bodies such as Telecom on the provision of services such as electricity, water, sewerage and telephones for new private or government subdivisions?

Katherine Town Boundaries

619 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Katherine Municipal Council applied to have the town boundaries extended?
2. If so, (a) has the application been made as a result of any government action, and (b) what benefits would be expected to flow from an extension of the town boundaries?

Fire Fighting Equipment in Elsey Electorate

621 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What fire fighting equipment is available at (a) Mataranka, (b) Beswick, (c) Bamyili, (d) Numbulwar, and (e) Ngukurr?
2. Are residents in these centres recruited to form volunteer fire brigades?

ILO Conventions

622 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware that the Minister for Industrial Relations informed the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives on 18 November 1981 (H. of R. Hansard, p.3098) that on 26 May and 3 June 1977 the Northern Territory indicated by letter that in its view the Aboriginal population of the Territory does not constitute a dependent, indigenous population for the purposes of International Labour Organisation Convention No. 65, Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) 1939?
2. Who wrote the letter and on what date and by what means did the Northern Territory government authorise it?
3. Is he aware that a former Commonwealth Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations informed the former Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives on 4 October 1977 (H. of R. Hansard, p.1607) that a review instituted by his department in April 1977 had revealed inconsistencies between provisions in the Northern Territory Apprentices Ordinance and the ILO convention?

Standards Set by ILO Conventions

623 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by those International Labour Organisation conventions which the ILO lists as basic human rights conventions but which Australia has not yet ratified, viz:
   (a) No. 135 - Workers' Representatives, 1971;
   (b) No. 141 - Rural Workers' Organisations, 1976;
   (c) No. 151 - Labour Relations (Public Service), 1978; and
   (d) No. 156 - Workers with Family Responsibilities, 1981?
2. What views has the NT government expressed to the Commonwealth government

on the provisions of each of these conventions?

3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have consultations taken place between the NT and Commonwealth governments concerning each of these conventions?

ILO Convention on Civil and Political Rights

624 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by the 1966 ILO Convention on Civil and Political Rights which Australia signed in December 1972 and ratified in August 1980?

2. What views has the Territory government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of this convention since it entered into force in March 1976?

3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have discussions or consultations taken place between the Territory and Commonwealth governments concerning this convention?

Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

625 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by the 1980 Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women?

2. What views has the Northern Territory government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of the convention?

3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have consultations taken place between the NT and Commonwealth governments concerning the ratification of the convention?

Juvenile Crime in NT

626 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has there been an increase in the incidence of juvenile crime in the Northern Territory?

2. If so, (a) can he provide figures to demonstrate this increase, (b) what are the causes of this increase, (c) what action is to be taken to rectify the situation, and (d) what are the main offences being committed?

3. What is the average age of juvenile offenders?

4. (a) How many juvenile inmates are in NT institutions and how does this figure compare with that for the same period last year? (b) What is the average length of stay for a juvenile inmate?

Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust Account

627 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that Aborigines on Groote Eylandt have a trust account of $4m yielding more than $400,000 per annum interest?

2. Are these Territorians subject to a means test for social service benefits?

Payments under the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Act

629 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

In 1981, (a) how many payments, and (b) in what amounts, were made under the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Act?

Department of Health Debt Collectors

630 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has the Department of Health arranged contracts with debt collectors?
2. If so, which debt collecting firms have been contracted to serve each hospital or departmental administrative area?
3. In the case of each of the Territory's 5 hospitals, (a) what is the designation of the officer who makes the decision to use the debt collecting service to obtain payment of outstanding accounts, (b) in how many cases of failure to pay has the debt collection service been used to recover funds, and (c) how much money has been so recovered?

Hospital Payments by Instalments Scheme

631 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many patients who have received treatment at a Territory hospital or community health centre have elected to pay through an instalments scheme?
2. Are departmental staff instructed to offer a payment by instalments scheme to patients who cannot settle their accounts in a lump sum?

Staffing in Territory Hospitals

632 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many extra staff have been employed at (i) Darwin Hospital, (ii) Alice Springs Hospital, (iii) Katherine Hospital, (iv) Tennant Creek Hospital, and (v) Gove District Hospital to perform extra clerical and cashier duties associated with the new funding arrangements?

Psychiatric Inpatients

633 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the rate of readmission of psychiatric inpatients (a) voluntarily, and (b) involuntarily under the Mental Health Act?
2. What is the average length of stay in hospital for (a) voluntary, and (b) involuntary patients?
3. Are persons who are involuntarily detained required to pay hospital fees?
4. How many patients are currently involuntarily detained?

Public Servants

635 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

How many (a) Commonwealth, and (b) NT public servants were employed in the NT on 31 January 1982?

School Leavers Entering Apprenticeships

636 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware of the problems that school leavers, particularly those

not living with their parents, face when entering apprenticeships?

2. If so, what does the NT government do or intend doing to enable such disadvantaged youths to enjoy equality with their peers?

Beef Tenderising Techniques

637 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is he or his department promoting tenderising techniques such as tender stretch and electrical rectal stimulation to make Territory beef acceptable to Darwin housewives?

From 16 March 1982

Hospital Costs, Katherine

638 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. During (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81, (i) what did it cost to operate Katherine Hospital, and (ii) what was the bed occupancy rate?

2. What is the estimated cost of operating Katherine Hospital for 12 months with a bed occupancy rate of 85%?

Motor Vehicle Accidents

639 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the NT Police Force keep separate figures on motor vehicle accidents involving (a) Territory residents, (b) tourists, (c) Aboriginal Territory residents, and (d) non-Aboriginal Territory residents?

Male Public Servants

640 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

As at 30 April 1981, what was (a) the average male earnings in the Northern Territory Public Service, and (b) what were the numbers and levels of the males?

Aboriginal Community Work Program

641 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. The Northern Territory government initiated the Aboriginal Community Work Program for a pilot period of 3 years, which was to conclude in January 1982. Has this occurred?

2. Has a report been compiled for consideration by the government agency reviewing the program?

3. If so, when is it anticipated that the government will table this report?

Pine Creek Hall

642 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How much money (a) has been allocated for the Pine Creek Hall, (b) how much was actually spent, and (c) what happened to any moneys left over during the financial years (i) 1974-75, (ii) 1975-76, (iii) 1976-77, (iv) 1977-78, (v) 1978-79, (vi) 1979-80, and (vii) 1980-81?

2. Has there ever been an audit of the Pine Creek Hall trust account? If so, where can a copy be procured?

3. If the answer to 2. is no, why has not there been an audit?

4. Who were the trustees of the hall as at 16 December 1981?

NTEC Employees - Remuneration and Benefits

643 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Which NTEC employees are (a) paid remuneration and or salaries other than at NTEC award rate, (b) what are the salaries paid in these cases, and (c) what other benefits do these people receive by way of, (i) exclusive use of high standard motor vehicles, (ii) credit cards, and (iii) expense accounts?

NTEC Employees - Award Negotiations

644 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. Were negotiations for a new NTEC employees award conducted on 30 November 1981, 1 December 1981 and 2 December 1981 at the Travelodge and other places?
2. If so, (a) during the course of these negotiations was a food and drink bill for entertainment on the evening of 30 November 1981 signed in the name of an Assistant General Manager, who was not present, by another person, and (b) what was the amount of the bill?
3. What are (a) the details of all interstate trips made by the Assistant General Manager (Industrial) of NTEC during 1981, (b) the reasons that made each trip necessary, and (c) were any of the trips made for the purpose only of picking up consent judgments of an industrial tribunal?

Motor Vehicles - NTEC

645 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. How many motor vehicles are (a) owned by NTEC, (b) what classes of vehicles are they, and (c) in what numbers?
2. To which designations of NTEC employees are these vehicles allocated and allowed to be driven to and from work?
3. Is it a fact that a lawyer retained by NTEC has an NTEC vehicle assigned to him for his personal use?

Grants-in-Aid, 1980-81

646 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

1. In 1980-81, under the Grants-in-Aid scheme to voluntary community organisations working in the youth, sport and recreation field, how much money was given to these organisations for (a) administration, (b) equipment, (c) facilities, (d) salary subsidies, (e) special projects, (f) training-coaching, and (g) travel subsidies?
2. How much money under the Grants-in-Aid scheme was given to community service organisations in 1980-81?

Mung Beans, ADMA Markets

647 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Has ADMA yet established firm export markets for mung beans to be purchased by the authority this season?
2. If so, where are these markets?
3. What progress is being made with the ADMA market strategy generally?

Computers, Department of Education

648 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Did the Department of Education hire Price Waterhouse to draw up a report on its use of computers at all levels?

2. If so, (a) when was the report given to the department, (b) is it available for scrutiny, and (c) is it true that the department has 14 different types of word processors?

Houses, Darwin City Council

649 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of (a) the number of houses owned by the Corporation of the City of Darwin, and (b) to what use these houses are put?

Koolpinyah Pastoral Lease

650 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does the government intend to accept part of Koolpinyah lease in exchange for granting Koolpinyah management an additional lease?

2. If so, what is (a) the location and area of land Koolpinyah is to relinquish to the government and, (b) the location and area of the new land to be released to Koolpinyah?

Koolpinyah Boundaries

651 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

I refer to the proposed 'Rationalisation of boundaries for Koolpinyah' and ask: Is it a fact that both the Department of Primary Production and the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority recommended against the proposed re-drawing of the boundaries and, if so, on what information did Cabinet agree on 22 December 1981 to accept in principle the proposed re-drawing of the boundaries?

Elsey and Hodgson Downs Pastoral Leases

126 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What efforts are being made to have land excised from Elsey 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?

ANSWER

1. The area sought by the Aboriginals of Elsey Station has been surveyed and negotiations for a surrender by the lessees are currently proceeding. Reactions by the lessees in respect of contentious issues have been such as to give optimism that a satisfactory resolution is possible in the foreseeable future.

   In respect of Hodgson Downs, negotiations for an excision have been underway since 1974. However, the lessees are understood to be no longer in favour of an excision but would be more inclined to consider a sub-leasing arrangement. There is also a problem in respect of locating a suitable water supply and the community may need to consider an alternative site. Negotiations are to be pursued.

2. In that the granting of excisions is at the option of the lessee it can hardly be regarded as a failure on the part of government that such excisions have not yet been achieved. Both the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, which continues to carry the primary responsibility for the development of Aboriginal communities on pastoral leases, and the NT government, which is responsible for providing essential services, are reluctant to provide capital improvements short of a firm excision or sub-leasing arrangement being achieved. However, in respect of both leases in question governments have anticipated resolution and have provided amenities by way of accommodation, schooling, shower, toilet and laundry facilities, and power generation.

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?

ANSWER

East West submitted their first formal request for guarantees in May 1980. It did purport to detail the items in the question.

This information was made available to 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?

ANSWER

The working party recommended that the NT government accept the offer of East West Airlines to operate the new regional airline, subject to East West's acceptance of the specific requirements set down by the government on the operation of the airline.

The working party made no deviation from that recommendation.

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?

ANSWER

1. The Industries Training Commission is responsible for the registration of the Northern Territory apprentices, it does not directly employ apprentices itself.

   At the end of the 1980-81 financial year, the first full year of operation of the commission, a record 1,007 apprentices were in training. This was a 13% increase over the same period in the previous year.

   As at 30 September 1981, this number had risen to 1,033 and it appears as though a further significant increase will occur during the 1981-82 financial year.

2. Total Apprentices in Training - at 30 September 1981:

Trade	Male	Female	Total
Metal trades	468	7	475
Electrical trades	202	1	203
Building trades	156	Nil	156
Printing trades	19	4	23
Vehicle trades	27	Nil	27
Food trades	51	8	59
Other trades	37	53	90
TOTAL	960	73	1,033

Medical Practitioners Servicing Community Health Centres

205 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many doctors have been servicing community health centres, and how many of these are private practitioners?

ANSWER

Eleven doctors are servicing community health centres at present. Only one of these doctors is a private practitioner.

Alice Springs Women's Community Centre

223 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When will the Women's Community Centre in Alice Springs commence operations?
2. If the centre has not been opened by the end of June 1981 will the Department of Health continue to fund St Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army to enable these agencies to provide services to destitute

and homeless people until the new centre is open?

3. If not, why not?

4. If so, have these agencies been informed that their funding will be maintained until the new centre commences operations?

ANSWER

1. The commencement date is uncertain at this time; however, a paper prepared by the Department of Lands should be placed before the Executive Council in the near future.

2. Yes.

3. Not applicable.

4. Yes.

Beef Exports to South-east Asia

239 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will the government commission a survey of markets for beef in South-east Asia and other areas?

ANSWER

The NT government has, through ministerial and government-supported trade missions, made a concerted effort over the past few years to promote the sale of livestock and meat to the Asian market.

Results have been:

1. Investment in cattle stations by South-east Asian interests to ensure for themselves a regular supply of livestock and meat, e.g. Sabah government's purchase of Camfield and Legune stations.

2. An overall increased demand in the Asian region for bovine animals, meat and offals from the Northern Territory. Bureau of Statistics figures compiled by the Commonwealth Department of Trade show an approx. 33% increase in sales in 1980-81 over 1979-80 from $6.6 million to $8.9 million.

3. A new outlet established for NT buffaloes is Indonesia and indications of interest from East and West Malaysia.

4. A strong interest in Indonesia for Territory-bred cattle for breeding purposes.

Grants-in-Aid - Darwin Sporting Bodies

322 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Darwin sporting bodies during 1980-81?

ANSWER

A total of $742,305 was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Darwin sporting bodies during 1980 and 1981.

Grants-in-Aid - Alice Springs Sporting Bodies

323 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided by the NT government through Grants-inAid to Alice Springs sporting bodies during 1980-81?

ANSWER

A total of $113,520 was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Alice Springs sporting bodies during 1980 and 1981.

Grants-in-Aid - Tennant Creek Sporting Bodies

324 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Tennant Creek sporting bodies during 1980-81?

ANSWER

A total of $10,434 was given to Tennant Creek sporting bodies during 1980 and 1981.

Grants-in-Aid - Katherine Sporting Bodies

325 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Katherine Sporting bodies during 1980-81?

ANSWER

A total of $17,229 was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Katherine sporting bodies during 1980 and 1981.

Health Centre at Katherine

353 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why is a health centre to be built at Katherine within 1 mile of the existing community health centre?

ANSWER

The honourable member is referred to my letter of 15 October 1981, in which I advised that a service is to be provided by the Kalano Association (Katherine) Aboriginal Medical Services and will be funded by the Commonwealth.

Special Purposes Lease Application for 15-mile Camp

357 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

(a) Is he aware that a group of Aboriginal people at the 15-mile camp in rural Darwin (Electorate of Tiwi) is seeking a Special Purposes Lease to this camping site?

(b) What discussions within his department and negotiations with the Aboriginal group have been held on the granting of such lease?

(c) Does he intend to grant a lease to the 15-mile camp or any alternative site known to be suitable to the group?

ANSWER

(a) Yes.

(b) Officers of both the Department of Lands and the Department of Community Development have inspected the present camp and discussed site requirements with the Aboriginal Development Foundation and the Aboriginal group.

(c) Subject to normal site selection, rezoning, subdivision and survey processes, a lease in the Darwin rural area, or in Palmerston, will

be offered to the Aboriginal Development Foundation, the responsible umbrella organisation capable of holding title.

NT Pastoral Leases

364 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he please table the following information:

(a) The names and sizes of pastoral leases in the Northern Territory (i) where the lease is held by Australian citizens as lessee-occupiers, and (ii) where the lease is held by companies registered in the Northern Territory, (iii) where the majority of directors and shareholders live in the Northern Territory, (iv) where the lease is held by companies registered in the Northern Territory but where the majority of directors and shareholders live outside the Northern Territory, and (v) where the lease is held by companies registered outside the Northern Territory?

(b) The names of the companies registered in the Northern Territory and which hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?

(c) The names of the companies registered outside the Northern Territory and which hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?

(d) The location of registration of the interstate companies which hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?

(e) The names and addresses of individuals who live outside the Northern Territory and who hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The information is available to the questioner and to members of the public for that matter by search at the Registrar-General's office and the Registrar of Companies' office.

Ministerial Statement on Health

376 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. In a ministerial statement he stated that officers have visited Aboriginal communities. How many communities have been visited and by whom?

2. He stated that the number of authorized beds is to be reduced from 312 to 292. As this number includes a 12-bed surgical day ward, what else does it include?

3. He also stated that staff is to be reduced by 70. When does he intend that this reduction take place, what staff will be affected, and where?

ANSWER

1. In the East Arnhem region, 8 settlements and several outstations were visited. District medical officers briefed all councils with a follow up program conducted by the regional health educator at all rural communities.

   In the Alice Springs and Barkly regions, all major settlements and most minor communities were visited by various district medical officers. Smaller isolated communities were visited by rural health sisters. Lengthy discussions were held with organisations such as CAAC Medical Service and Urapunga Health Service.

   In the Darwin and Katherine regions, district medical officers discussed the new health charging system with councils during routine visits to rural communities. Nursing staff at major settlements were briefed

on the new system and will provide assistance to the community.

2. Ward 2A was closed resulting in a reduction of 32 beds. Twelve beds were transferred to other wards leaving a net reduction of 20 beds.

3. The reduction of staff at Casuarina Hospital will affect 13 of the 15 staff categories at the hospital. The reduction will be achieved through natural wastage.

Health Clinic at Lake Nash

377 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Is it true that his department sought the use of the former police station at Lake Nash as a health clinic, but that the former Director of Health decided that the station would be better used as a home and office for a stock inspector?

2. If so, what arrangements are being made to establish and staff a health clinic at Lake Nash?

ANSWER

1. The Department of Health requested the use of the former police station at Lake Nash for use as a clinic and staff residence. Other interested departments also applied for the use of the building. After evaluating all requests the building was finally allocated as being most suitable for the purposes of the Department of Primary Production.

2. A demountable clinic is available for transport to Lake Nash. Its installation has been delayed pending a decision by the community whether to remain or to move to a new location.

Kailis Fishing Company - Trucking Route

468 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Is it accurate to describe the proposed trucking route to be used by the Kailis fishing company between Roper River and Darwin as an 'all weather' route?

2. How much of the route is unsealed?

ANSWER

This question should have been directed to the Minister for Transport and Works.

1. Yes.

2. 86 kilometres.

Sexual Harassment

470 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What action has been taken by departments and authorities to develop policies and procedures for resolving cases of sexual harassment at the workplace since the circulation of the Guidelines on Sexual Harassment to departmental heads and prescribed authorities by the Public Service Commissioner on 29 June 1981?

2. Have any complaints of sexual harassment been made and, if so, how many and what action followed?

ANSWER

1. Fourteen departments and prescribed authorities have been surveyed to determine the action taken since the Guidelines on Sexual Harass-

ment were issued by the Public Service Commissioner on 29 June 1981.

Seven departments and prescribed authorities have issued policy statements signed by the Chief Executive Officer expressing management's concern that the workplace should be free of sexual harassment. Internal procedures for dealing with complaints of sexual harassment have been circulated to all employees of these departments.

Six departments and prescribed authorities have publicised the Public Service Commissioner's memorandum and will shortly be issuing internal procedures for resolving complaints of sexual harassment.

One department has not taken any action to date, but will now prepare internal guidelines to be released.

2. This office has been advised of 3 cases of sexual harassment in the last year. In all cases offending employees were strongly reprimanded by senior departmental management and advised that any recurrence of the misconduct would not be tolerated. To this end closer supervision in the work areas has also been exercised.

Aboriginal Liaison Unit

471 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the allocation for travel for the officers of the Aboriginal Liaison Unit for 1981-82?

2. How much was expended in 1980-81?

ANSWER

1. Allocation for travel for the officers of the Aboriginal Liaison Unit for 1981-82 is $87,000.

2. Expenditure for 1980-81 was $56,754.

United Nations Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women

472 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has the NT agreed to accept the United Nations Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its present form?

2. If not, what section of the convention does the NT wish to be changed?

ANSWER

1. It is not for the Northern Territory to accept or reject the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. The ratification or otherwise of the convention is a matter for the Commonwealth government to decide. It is the policy of that government to consult the states and the Northern Territory with respect to conventions dealing with 'state' matters.

   The Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights, of which Hon. P.A.E. Everingham is a member in his capacity as Attorney-General, is currently examining the requirements of the convention with a view to determining the basis of the Commonwealth's ratification on behalf of Australia. The convention will be further considered at the next ministerial meeting scheduled for February 1982.

2. The terms of the convention have been agreed by the General Assembly of the UN and are not open to amendment. At this stage, the convention is still under detailed consideration and it is too early to specify whether the Territory will be seeking any reservations in relation to to specific articles of the convention in Australia's instrument of ratification.

Domestic Violence in NT

473 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the government consider there is a need to take action on the problem of domestic violence in the NT community and, if so, what action does it consider is necessary?

ANSWER

I answered this question without notice in the Legislative Assembly.

Strategies for Employment of Aborigines

474 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the strategies being undertaken for increasing employment of Aboriginals by the NT government?

ANSWER

The NTPS is making use of the Australian government's national employment strategy for Aboriginals and giving on the job training for young Aboriginals. The task of coordinating these trainees and assisting them into permanent employment has recently been handed over to the Equal Employment Opportunity Unit of the Public Service Commissioner's Office by the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs. It is intended to extend the NESA scheme within the NTPS to apply to vacancies above base grade levels.

A residential pre-entry training program has been drafted by the Public Service Commissioner's office in conjunction with the principals of Kormilda and Yirara. It is proposed that the course involve trainees for a period of 8 weeks and is aimed at equipping them with the necessary academic and social skills for entry into the NTPS and into the urban working and social environment.

Free Health Care for Pensioners

478 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has he considered extending free health care to all pensioners regardless of whether they qualify for a disadvantaged or PHB card, as occurs in New South Wales?

2. If not, why not?

ANSWER

1. This has been considered.

2. It is not intended to extend free health care to all pensioners regardless of whether they qualify for a disadvantaged or PHB card. Those who do not qualify for a disadvantaged or PHB card fall into the category of the user pays principle of the Commonwealth government. An investigation conducted in NSW showed that the vast majority of such pensioners have private health insurance.

Treatment of Trachoma in Aboriginal Communities

479 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he provide details of the evidence available on the effectiveness of tetracycline eyedrops in the treatment of trachoma in Aboriginal communities?

ANSWER

The effectiveness of tetracycline eyedrops in Aboriginal communities in the NT has been studied by Dr M.I. Mahmood of the NT Department of Health and by Dr D. Graham of the Department of Microbiology, University of Melbourne. Dr Graham's study has been completed and the other study is still in progress. Although the 2 studies differ in detail both tend to show that tetracycline eyedrops have no effect in reducing the numbers affected by trachoma but have a definite effect on reducing the severity. Since the rate of blindness from trachoma is related to the severity of the disease, tetracycline eyedrop treatment is felt to be a valuable mass treatment method. Other methods for reducing the overall prevalence of trachoma have been worked out and will require some preliminary research to implement. It is hoped to start this next year when consultations with Professor Barrie Jones of London University (the world's leading trachoma expert) are complete.

Occupational Health Hazards

480 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

During 1980-81, (a) what occupational health hazards have been reported, (b) what areas have been identified as 'at risk', and (c) what expansion has there been in the occupational health capacity?

ANSWER

(a) Following the appointment of a qualified staff member early in 1981, 6 suspected health hazards were reported and investigated. There was 1 complaint of suspected air contamination, the remainder relating to occupational noise levels.

(b) Two occupational areas were identified as 'at risk' because of noise levels.

(c) The department's long standing role in the silicosis and dust diseases area and in radiation health was expanded early in 1981 by the appointment of a health surveyor specially qualified in noise matters and with a general background in industrial health problems.

Health Insurance Claims

481 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What action has been taken to ensure that health insurance claims will be processed more quickly?

2. Are claims still taking up to 8 weeks to be processed?

ANSWER

1. Health insurance funds have been visited, written to and senior personnel contacted on a number of occasions with the request that they process their claims more quickly.

2. Some claims are still taking up to 8 weeks to be processed.

Waiting Time at Casuarina Hospital

482 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Is action to be taken to reduce the average waiting time of 70 minutes for non-urgent cases and 30 minutes for urgent cases at the Casuarina Hospital casualty department?

2. If so, what action?

ANSWER

I am advised that these times compare very favourably indeed with the average waiting times in all other large Australian hospitals.

Direct Telephone Line from Katherine Hospital to Police Station

483 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is there a direct telephone line from the Katherine Hospital to the police station for emergency use?

ANSWER

No.

Out-of-turn Allocations by Housing Commission

484 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the government establish an appeals system for those applicants who have been refused out-of-turn allocation by the Housing Commission and who still consider their situation warrants further consideration?

ANSWER

On 8 January 1981 the NT Housing Commission introduced an appeal system for applicants who had been rejected for an out-of-turn allocation.

Mentally-Retarded Children in NT Primary Schools

485 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many mentally-retarded children are attending primary schools in the NT?

2. What specialist staff is provided for such children?

ANSWER

1. 251 children have been identified as 'mentally-retarded' in NT primary schools.

Note:

(i) 'mental-retardation' as a term has been applied only to those children who have achieved less than 70 points of IQ on an individual test of intelligence appropriate to the ethnic origin of the child;

(ii) 38 children have been regarded as moderately/severely mentally-retarded (i.e., IQ less than 55 points); and

213 children have been regarded as mildly mentally-retarded (i.e., IQ 55-70 points);

(iii) assuming a primary school population of 20,344, the expected* and actual incidence figures are as follows:

		Expected	Actually identified
Mod/Sev (below 55 IQ)	(.135%)	27	38
Mild (55-70 IQ)	(2.14%)	435	213

(iv) identification of mentally-retarded children in the NT is on a referral basis. Referral is made by either a principal or by a parent. The difference between the actual and expected incidence is explained partly by non-referral and partly by inappropriateness of testing instruments; and

(v) mental retardation is, of itself, not the sole criterion for special

placement in a special school or special class.

(*S.A. KIRK: Educating Exceptional Children - Houghton Mifflin 2nd Edition 1972, page 24).

2. There are 23 special teachers and 16.5 special aides actually teaching 207 mentally-retarded children in either a special school or special class setting. The remaining 44 identified mentally-retarded children are either in an isolated setting where it is not practical to supply a special teacher or are in a regular class setting at the request of the parent.

   The educational services delivered to these 44 children are met by:

   (i) the regular classroom teacher;

   (ii) the services of a resource teacher (where available); and

   (iii) the assistance of special education advisers and or guidance officers.

Australian United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association Convention

486 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Following the government's public announcement of its encouragement for a Territory horticultural industry, were any Department of Primary Production officers present at the third national convention organised by the Australian United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, understanding that the 4-day discussions involved growers, wholesalers, retailers, transporters and those working in packaging?

ANSWER

No. The department has previously supported the attendance of Territory growers. Representation from the Department of Primary Production will be considered for the fourth national convention in Sydney this year.

Fisheries Division Program

487 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What results are forthcoming from the new Fisheries Division program aimed at boosting the total Top End catch; that is, the program looking at Spanish mackerel, shark and demersal fish?

ANSWER

The results of the Fisheries Division programs aimed at boosting the total Top End catch are as follows:

(a) SPANISH MACKEREL - The Fisheries Division conducted a training program for potential mackerel fishermen to learn trolling methods from September to December 1980.

   A full report on the program has been published as Fisheries Report No. 4. This is available from the Department of Primary Production.

(b) SHARK - A shark fishing and mercury sampling program was conducted from September to December 1980, using a locally chartered fishing vessel.

   The results indicated that the resource of shark of the NT is substantial, and this result is borne out by catches taken by Taiwanese fishing vessels.

   Overall, the results indicate that a substantial potential shark fishery exists off the NT.

(c) DEMERSAL FISH - A consultant demersal fishery scientist has commenced duties and is currently undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of results obtained from Taiwanese fishing operations, the CSIRO research cruises and other information within the Fisheries Division.

Government Cattle at Elizabeth River Dairy

488 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will he advise details of the records and milk samples of the dairy cattle belonging to the Department of Primary Production at Fitzgerald's Elizabeth River dairy?

ANSWER

There are 14 Australian Friesian Sahiwal (AFS) cattle belonging to the Department of Primary Production at Fitzgerald's Elizabeth River dairy.

Recording

The milk production of all the department-owned cows, together with all other lactating cows at the dairy, is recorded. Breeding records are also kept.

Each month, the Fitzgeralds complete a standard form and forward it together with milk samples for each lactating cow to the Herd Improvement Laboratory at Wacol, Queensland.

Information provided on each cow on the form includes, (i) milk yield on the day of recording; (ii) date individual cows 'dried off'; (iii) date individual cows calved; (i) details of calves born during the month; and (v) date individual cows mated.

A computer generated table summarizing herd production is returned to the Fitzgeralds within 3 weeks. The Department of Primary Production and CSIRO Division of Animal Production, Wollongbar, obtain photocopies of the herd production sheet.

Information on each cow detailed on the herd production sheet includes (i) cow number, (ii) cow name, (iii) age of cow, (iv) date calved, (v) milk yield on day of recording (daily yield), (vi) percentage butterfat of each sample forwarded, (vii) progressive total of milk in litres, (viii) progressive average of percentage butterfat, (ix) progressive total of butterfat in kilograms, (x) number of days in milk, (xi) number of times tested, and (xii) breed.

In addition, the following is also provided on the herd production sheet -

(i) summary of production of 2 year old heifers as a group;
(ii) summary of production of remaining lactating cows as a group;
(iii) summary of production of total lactating herd; and
(iv) remarks such as mating details, pregnancy status and conception difficulties for each cow.

The sex, birth weight and mortality of all calves are also recorded.

Results

Five AFS cows have completed their first lactation. Their average milk production was 8.6 litres/day and average butterfat 4.6%. This compares favourably with the herd average in 1981 of 6.8 litres/day and 4.1% butterfat.

Only one cow (702) had a lactation length that is considered unacceptably short.

The following table details major production parameters of the AFS cattle on Fitzgerald's dairy:

Herd Recording Results for AFS (Australian Friesian Sahiwal) Dairy Cows

Cow No.	Date Calved	Calf Details	No. of Days Lactation	Total Milk	Butter Fat %
First Calf					
702	19.10.80	♀ 33 kg	E 164	1,088	4.9
707	18.10.80	♂	E 275	1,813	4.0
710	28.08.80	♀ (died)	E 381	3,422	4.9
716	3.10.80	♀ 25 kg	E 281	2,596	4.7
717	14.09.80	♀ 33 kg	E 341	3,277	4.9
817	13.10.81	♀ 31 kg	5	62	3.0
831	2.09.81	♀ 35 kg	46	517	4.3
839	27.07.81	aborted	83	813	3.9
846	5.08.81	♀ 28 kg	74	1,175	3.1
907	27.07.81	aborted	83	252	4.0
908	8.09.81	♀ 30 kg	40	555	4.1
950	13.10.81	♂	1	65	4.2
820	Just recently calved - no data as yet.				
830	Just recently calved - no data as yet.				
Second Calf					
330	27.08.81	♀ 30 kg	52	684	4.4
351	31.08.81	♂	48	703	4.8

E = Exit cow lactation complete
Birth weights only available for heifers

Government Expenditure on Agriculture

489 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Will he provide a breakdown of government expenditure into seasonal requirements and agricultural development initiatives for the 1974-75 season up to the projected figures for 1981-82?

ANSWER

No, the figures are too expansive to provide.

Point Stuart Abattoir - Payment for Cattle

490 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is he aware that the Cattlemens Union passed a resolution expressing concern at the slowness of payment by Point Stuart abattoir for cattle received for slaughter?

ANSWER

Yes.

Contract Beef Production

491 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is he aware of the decision of the Cattlemens Union to support in principle the contract growing of beef and cattle for specific markets?

ANSWER

Yes.

Powell Creek Telegraph Station

492 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is the Powell Creek telegraph station being stripped of roofing iron, water tanks and paving stones, and being completely neglected by its present lessee?
2. If so, will the government take steps to preserve this historic complex immediately?

ANSWER

The Powell Creek telegraph station is situated on private property. It is understood that the present property manager commenced in September and is not aware of the building being stripped. A departmental officer, as recently as 26 November, attempted to visit the site but was unable to obtain access through a locked gate. However, the manager has no objection to him visiting the site, and he will do so in the near future to document it and, if appropriate, encourage the owners to maintain it.

Darwin Powerhouse Site

495 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Regarding the siting of the powerhouse on Shell Island, is he aware of the mean height of the island and has he taken into consideration the surge level of the island?

ANSWER

1. It is presumed that Mr Collins means Channel Island, not Shell Island.
2. I am aware of the topography of Channel Island and the question of surge level was considered as part of the site selection investigations.
3. The Site Selection Report embodies a section headed 'Storm Surge, Site Levels and Bund Walls', and the references to Channel Island may be summarised:

   It is proposed to locate the power station on or above the 7.5 metre contour with respect to Australian Height Datum, or approximately 3.5 metres above maximum astronomical tide level. This height has been selected on the basis that the probability of surge level exceeding this height is 0.01 percent per annum. This is regarded as being adequately conservative for the construction of a power station.

Complaints under the Fish and Fisheries Act

496 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. How many complaints have been laid for illegal fishing under the Fish and Fisheries Act?
2. How many of those complaints have resulted in prosecutions?
3. How many convictions have been recorded?

ANSWER

1. The Fish and Fisheries Act commenced in February 1980. According to statistics supplied to the police from the Department of Primary Production, 8 complaints were laid prior to fisheries enforcement being transferred to the police and all these matters were disposed of in the courts. Since police assumed responsibility for enforcement there have been 69 complaints laid for breaches of the Act. Therefore, the total number of complaints laid under the Fish and Fisheries Act is 77.
2. Of the 77 complaints laid under the Act, 71 have resulted in prosecution.
3. Of the total 77 complaints proceeded with in the courts, convictions have been recorded in regard to 55, with 16 matters still pending or adjourned.

Research on Industrial Crops

497 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What research, if any, is presently being undertaken on the industrial crops cassava, sugar cane, kenof and leucaena?

ANSWER

There is no current research on these crops for their industrial potential. Kenof and sugar cane have not been researched in the Northern Territory by the Department of Primary Production. Recent work has been conducted at Kununurra by CSIRO and the WA Department of Agriculture.

Only initial research has been conducted on some cassava lines, broadly to assess productive potential and resistance to termite attack. The department does maintain some leucaena variety observation plots, but the emphasis is on supplementary fodder potential rather than industrial usage. Some small pasture trials are being established with leucaena and pangola grass.

The department has also been involved in cooperative trials on leucaena varieties and other tree species with the Conservation Commission on Mataranka Station. These are simple observation trials to assess site preparation, propagation techniques and growth performance.

Housing Commission Rental Assistance to Pensioners

498 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that the Federal government will not pay supplementary rental assistance of up to $8 maximum to pensioners who become tenants of the NT Housing Commission after January 1982 but will continue to pay it to eligible pensioners accommodated by the Housing Commission prior to January 1982?
2. If so, can he give an assurance that those pensioners not in receipt of supplementary assistance will pay no more in rent than those pensioners who continue to receive supplementary rental assistance after January 1982?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. By using the current formula for calculation of rental rebate those pensioners not in receipt of supplementary rental assistance would in fact pay less rental than pensioners receiving the assistance. This situation will continue pending the development of a uniform, Australia-wide rental rebate policy. Under the current Commonwealth-State Hous-

ing Agreement, the states and the Territory are required to develop and apply a uniform rental rebate policy. In contributing to the development of such a policy, the Northern Territory government will be seeking to ensure that no Territory residents in receipt of rental rebate assistance will be worse off under the uniform policy than under the current policy.

Leucaena Trials at Mataranka

501 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What progress has been made with the leucaena trials at Mataranka?

ANSWER

Two research plots and a trial seed orchard were established in the 1980-81 season at Mataranka Station. Three other research areas were cleared and fenced for later trials.

The 2 research plots at Bull Hole and Venn airstrip were established as a cooperative exercise between the Forestry Unit of the Conservation Commission and the Department of Primary Production. A number of observations were made on survival and growth performance of leucaena varieties and other trial species during 1981.

The property owners, Unibeef Australia Pty Ltd, have advertised the sale of Mataranka and continued trials in the area will be a matter for discussion with the new owners.

Northern Territory Public Service

502 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the average female earnings in the NTPS?
2. How many (a) male and (b) female university graduates are employed in the NTPS?

ANSWER

1. As at 30 April 1981 there were 5,161 female employees within the NT Public Service. The following table depicts the various levels at which females are employed and numbers within each designation level. The average salary of females within the service is $13,718.

Designation	No. of Females	Salary Top of Range	Total Amount
Aboriginal Health Worker Grade 2	32	11,037	353,184
Aboriginal Health Worker Grade 1	47	10,579	497,213
Administrative Class A9	36	23,720	853,920
Administrative Class A8	37	21,874	809,338
Administrative Class A7	70	20,028	1,401,960
Administrative Class A6	89	18,331	1,631,459
Administrative Class A5	278	16,493	4,585,054
Administrative Class A4	436	14,648	6,386,528
Administrative Class A3	708	12,797	9,060,276
Administrative Class A2	78	12,622	984,516
Administrative Class A1	300	11,051	3,315,300
Apprentice	2	11,429	22,858
Assistant Grade 2	16	11,051	176,816
Assistant Grade 1	41	10,386	425,826
Assistant Teacher	198	12,214	2,418,372
Assistant Plan Printing Grade 2	2	11,051	22,102
Attendant	9	10,020	90,180

Designation	No. of Females	Salary Top of Range	Total Amount
Attendant Part-time	26	10,020	260,520
Binding Assistant	11	10,525	115,775
Court Reporting Typist Grade 2	1	13,686	13,686
Court Reporting Typist Grade 1	9	12,828	115,452
Community Welfare Worker	21	18,360	385,560
Senior Community Welfare Worker Grade 3	1	23,865	23,865
Senior Community Welfare Worker Grade 2	4	22,338	89,352
Senior Community Welfare Worker Grade 1	8	20,315	162,520
Computing Assistant Grade 2	1	12,713	12,713
Computer Systems Officer Grade 3	3	25,551	76,653
Computer Systems Officer Grade 1	8	18,796	150,368
Computer Systems Officer-in-Training	4	13,831	55,324
Senior Computer Operator Grade 2	1	15,818	15,818
Computer Operator Grade 2	1	13,743	13,743
Computer Operator Grade 1	3	12,633	37,899
Constable (other)	22	16,141	355,102
Consultants and Contract Staff (A4)	1	14,648	14,648
Consultants and Contract Staff (A2)	1	12,622	12,622
Curator Class 3	1	25,286	25,286
Curator Class 2	1	21,915	21,915
Curator Class 1	3	19,051	57,153
Dental Assistant	46	10,726	493,396
Senior Dental Technician	1	15,449	15,449
Dental Therapist	24	15,070	361,680
Dental Therapist-in-Training	4	9,138	36,552
Dentist Class 3	1	29,508	29,508
Dentist Class 2	1	27,020	27,020
Dentist Class 1	4	24,530	98,120
Diet Supervisor	2	11,642	23,284
Senior Draftsman	1	19,325	19,325
Draftsman Grade 2	6	17,941	107,646
Draftsman Grade 1	10	16,600	166,000
Supervising Draftsman	1	20,840	20,840
Trainee Draftsman	3	13,029	39,087
Drafting Assisting Grade 2	7	14,254	99,778
Drafting Assistant Grade 1	8	12,709	101,672
Driver	2	13,469	26,938
Electorate Secretary (A4)	18	14,648	263,664
Electrographer Grade 2	1	11,987	11,987
Electrographer Grade 1	1	11,348	11,348
Executive Level E5	1	37,396	37,396
Executive Level E3	1	29,234	29,234
Executive Level E2	6	27,394	164,364
Executive Level E1	8	25,551	204,408
Finance Officer-in-Training (A5)	3	16,493	49,479
Finance Officer-in-Training (A4)	2	14,648	29,296
Finance Officer-in-Training (A2)	3	12,622	37,866
Food Service Manager Grade 5	1	20,745	20,745
Food Service Manager Grade 3	1	16,513	16,513
Foreman	1	13,241	13,241
Graphic Designer Grade 2	1	17,941	17,941
Health Inspector	1	18,176	18,176
Hospital Assistant Grade 1	74	10,964	811,336
Journalist Grade B	1	19,054	19,054
Keyboard Operator	194	10,879	2,110,526
Laboratory Attendant	4	10,879	43,516
Labourer	518	13,700	7,096,600

Designation	No. of Female	Salary Top of Range	Total Amount
Laundry Manager	1	16,176	16,176
Laundry Supervisor	1	12,172	12,172
Law Officer Class 3	2	31,351	62,702
Law Officer Class 2	1	26,590	26,590
Law Officer Class 1	2	23,254	46,508
Librarian Class 3	1	23,734	23,734
Librarian Class 2	10	20,415	204,150
Librarian Class 1	6	17,925	107,550
Library Officer Grade 3	3	17,084	51,252
Library Officer Grade 2	6	15,385	92,310
Library Officer Grade 1	3	13,652	40,956
Principal Librarian	2	27,471	54,942
Assistant Library Officer	1	12,000	12,000
Library Assistant	1	12,000	12,000
Magistrate	1	39,918	39,918
Manual Arts Instructor	3	12,624	37,872
Matron Grade 6	2	25,298	50,596
Matron Grade 4	1	21,682	21,682
Matron Grade 3	4	19,872	79,488
Matron Grade 2	3	18,738	56,214
Matron Grade 1	11	17,599	193,589
Resident Medical Officer	7	25,560	178,920
Medical Officer Class 2	7	34,121	238,847
Medical Laboratory Assistant	21	11,166	234,486
Medical Records Officer Grade 3	2	18,331	36,662
Medical Records Officer Grade 2	1	16,493	16,493
Assistant Medical Superintendent	1	33,423	33,423
Ministerial Officer Grade 1	1	25,551	25,551
Ministerial Clerk	2	18,331	36,662
Student Nurse	56	9,786	548,016
Nursing Aide	182	11,013	2,004,366
Nursing Aide-in-Training	23	9,312	214,176
Occupational Therapy Assistant	2	11,486	22,972
Occupational Therapist Class 2	4	19,545	78,180
Occupational Therapist Class 1	2	17,174	34,348
Orderly Grade 1 (Wardsman) Grade 1	1	10,964	10,964
Psychologist Class 2	1	22,223	22,223
Physiotherapist Class 3	1	21,906	21,906
Physiotherapist Class 2	3	19,545	58,635
Physiotherapist Class 1	4	17,174	68,696
Plant Operator	1	12,749	12,749
Police Cadet	3	7,329	21,987
Prison Officer	15	13,140	197,100
Senior Prison Officer	2	14,929	29,858
Private Secretary	1	23,720	23,720
Probation and Parole Officer Grade 1	5	18,331	91,655
Professional Level 3	1	28,290	28,290
Professional Level 1	1	23,034	23,034
Radiographer Grade 3	3	17,802	53,406
Radiographer Grade 2	3	16,612	49,836
Radiographer Grade 1	2	14,817	29,634
Radiographer-in-Training	3	12,622	37,866
Ranger R1	3	12,797	38,391
Senior Registrar	6	33,423	200,538
School Assistant Grade 3	59	11,377	671,243
School Assistant Grade 2	160	10,707	1,713,120

Designation	No. of Female	Salary Top of Range	Total Amount
School Assistant Grade 1	89	9,806	872,734
Science 3	1	25,286	25,286
Science 2	17	21,915	372,555
Science 1	32	19,051	609,632
Sergeant 3rd Class	1	20,783	20,783
Sister	457	13,320	6,087,240
Senior Sister	249	15,212	3,787,788
Senior Tutor Sister Grade 1	2	17,381	34,762
Tutor Sister	11	16,289	179,179
Small Offset Operator Grade 1	6	12,317	73,902
Social Development Officer Grade 2	1	14,987	14,987
Social Development Officer Grade 1	21	12,797	268,737
Social Worker Class 3	1	22,338	22,338
Social Worker Class 2	4	20,315	81,260
Social Worker Class 1	2	18,072	36,144
Specialist	3	45,061	135,183
Speech Therapist Class 3	1	21,906	21,906
Speech Therapist Class 2	4	19,545	78,180
Speech Therapist Class 1	1	17,174	17,174
Senior Storeman	3	11,867	35,601
Senior Technical Officer Grade 1	1	19,325	19,325
Senior Technical Officer (Science) Grade 1	1	19,325	19,325
Technical Officer (Medical Laboratory) Grade 2	4	17,941	71,764
Technical Officer Grade 1	9	16,600	149,400
Technical Officer (Medical Laboratory) Grade 1	12	16,600	199,200
Trainee Technical Officer	6	13,029	78,174
Technical Assistant Grade 2	19	14,254	270,826
Technical Assistant Grade 1	6	12,709	76,254
Theatre Assistant	2	12,399	24,798
Town Planner Class 2	1	26,093	26,093
Town Planner Class 1	1	23,034	23,034
Tradesman	35	13,446	470,610
Travel Officer Grade 2	6	14,648	87,888
Travel Officer Grade 1	20	12,622	252,440
Veterinary Officer Class 2	1	26,093	26,093
X-ray Attendant	3	10,831	32,493
TOTAL	5,161		70,797,127

Average: $ 13,718

2. This information is not available.

Housing Commission Rental Rebates

514 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What percentage of Housing Commission tenants are in receipt of rental rebate on public housing?

2. How many tenants receive the full rebate?

3. What proportion of tenants receiving rebates are pensioners or social security recipients?

4. How many public servants are in receipt of rental rebate?

5. Are any public servants at executive level in receipt of rental rebate?

ANSWER

1. 28%.
2. All rebate tenants are on full rebates applicable to their income.
3. 98% of tenants receiving rebates are pensioners or social security recipients.
4. Four applications have been received and are being processed.
5. No.

Allocation of Public Housing

515 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for out-of-turn allocation of public housing from 31 October 1980 to 1 September 1981 were (a) received, (b) accepted, and (c) rejected?
2. How many applicants whose applications were accepted or rejected were in receipt of (a) supporting parent benefit, (b) unemployment benefit, (c) other pensions, and (d) were one income families?

ANSWER

1. Inquiries 321; cases investigated 50; cases approved 31; cases rejected 19.
2. Cases approved - SPB 13; UEB 4; pensions 6; employed 8.
3. Cases rejected - SPB 4; UEB 2; pensions 2; employed 11.

   Figures are not kept on one income families.

Petrol Sniffing in NT

518 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Will he provide details on the prevalence of petrol sniffing in the Northern Territory?
2. What action, if any, is being taken to reduce the incidence of petrol sniffing?

ANSWER

1. No overall survey of petrol sniffing prevalence has been undertaken throughout the Northern Territory. Therefore no specific details are available.
2. Action being taken to reduce the incidence of petrol sniffing involves:

   (a) a research program by Dr Eastwell of the University of Queensland;
   (b) research by Mr Haywood-Ryan of Department of Community Development; and
   (c) use of a widely publicized film on the Pitjantjatjara.

   Petrol sniffing is an indication of social break-down and as such is more the direct concern of welfare agencies especially the Department of Community Development. My department is actively providing medical advice to affected communities and involved welfare workers.

Central Health Office

521 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What functions of the central office of the Department of Health could more appropriately be carried out by regional offices?

ANSWER

The functions of central office that could be carried out more appropriately by the regions are operational activities. Central office's prime role should be that of policy development and operational oversight.

Rationalisation of Health Services

522 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In the light of the new health charges, he said he would reduce staffing at the Casuarina Hospital and close a ward in order to obtain possible savings, and he also spoke of reviewing community health centres. How will health services be rationalised to take account of these changes?

ANSWER

The reduction in staffing at Casuarina Hospital and the closure of a ward were not made in the light of the new health charges.

The operation of all hospitals is kept under constant review by hospital staff with the aim of ensuring efficient functioning. The average occupancy at Casuarina Hospital was below that generally accepted in Australia as an efficient operation, and this was the reason for the closure of the ward. Staff reductions do lead to savings.

Consultants' Fees for Hospital Services

524 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what specific purposes have the allocations of $76,000 for consultants' fees for hospital services and $38,000 in health services been made?

2. In 1980-81, (a) how many consultants were employed, (b) for what purposes, and (c) what payments were made to each consultant?

ANSWER

1. The 1981-82 allocations for consultants fees have been provided for the following purposes:

Hospitals:	Doctors - Sessional Fees	$ 38,000
	- Visiting Specialists	$ 17,000
	Computer Consultants	$ 21,000
		$ 76,000
Health Services:	Doctors - Sessional Fees	$ 7,000
	Dentists	$ 30,000
	Physiotherapists	$ 1,000
		$ 38,000

2. During 1980-81 various doctors, dentists, and physiotherapists provided sessional and visiting-specialist services.

   In addition, 2 firms of computer consultants were employed. One undertook a nursing utilisation study; while the other prepared a hospital admissions system.

3. Consultants' fees payments to doctors, dentists, and physiotherapists, for sessional and visiting-specialist services, amounted to $90,351 for the year.

   Payments to computer consultants during 1980-81 were as follows:

Community Systems Foundation	$ 17,052
IBM Australia Ltd	$ 3,234.

Health Department Debt Collectors

525 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many debt collectors are to be employed as a consequence of the new health charges?
2. What is the 1981-82 budget allocation for their employment?

ANSWER

1. Following advertisements for expression of interest for collection of the department's outstanding debts, a debt collecting agency has been appointed. There are no plans to employ salaried debt collectors.
2. No provision for salaries has been made in the 1981-82 budget allocations. Payment to the debt collection agency will be based on a percentage of debts collected.

Health Charges

526 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

He stated that emphasis would be placed on debtors who can afford to pay health charges rather than those who cannot. How does he expect this differentiation to be made?

ANSWER

Accounts will be raised for all patients who do not hold a current health care card issued by the Department of Social Security. Health care cards are automatically issued to unemployment and special beneficiaries and, on application subject to satisfactory evidence, to people on low incomes, pensioners, migrants and refugees.

NT Patients Transferred Interstate

528 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What are the details of the medical agreements under which NT patients can be transferred to each state?
2. How much was spent and on how many patients under each scheme during 1980-81?
3. How much has been allocated in this year's budget?

ANSWER

1. There are no medical agreements relating to transfer of patients interstate. There are 3 schemes operating in the Northern Territory under which patients may be transferred. These are, (a) IPTAAS, a Commonwealth scheme; (b) an informal arrangement with specialist hospitals in other states; and (c) an informal arrangement with South Australia for mental health patients.
2. The Commonwealth government meets costs incurred under IPTAAS. The Northern Territory assists by advancing money in some cases - this is recovered when refunds are paid to patients.

   Medical evacuations for interstate specialist attention cost $163,660.62 during 1980-81.

   The cost of transferring mental health patients and providing for their treatment and maintenance was $457,137.32 for 1980-81.
3. The budget allocation for 1981-82 for items in 2. above is $1,220,000.

Outpatients Services

531 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does he expect any increase in the use of outpatients departments as a consequence of the new health charges? If so, are there any plans to upgrade the services of outpatients and in what way?

ANSWER

Figures to date have shown no overall increase in the usage of outpatients departments since the introduction of the new health charges. Consequently there are no current plans to upgrade the services which are considered adequate.

Private Hospital in Darwin

536 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many tenders have been received for establishing a private hospital in Darwin?

ANSWER

One tender has been received for establishing a private hospital in Darwin.

School Dental Therapists

539 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many rural areas are covered by school dental therapists in mobile teams?
2. How many areas are not covered?
3. When does he expect the service to extend to those presently not covered?

ANSWER

The Department of Health currently offers dental services to 85% of all rural school children and by the end of term this year it is expected that this figure will be 100%. The department uses an economical mix of both mobile dentists and dental therapists with increasing emphasis upon the training and use of Aboriginal health workers within their communities.

Occupational Health Service

540 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Of whom is the occupational health service comprised?
2. What are its main functions?
3. How does it carry these out?
4. What was its expenditure in 1980-81?
5. What is its allocation for 1981-82?

ANSWER

1. The occupational health services of the Department of Health are based on the Occupational Health Branch of the Environmental Health Division, supplemented by the activities of regional staff and use of regional facilities.

   Following recent re-organisation the Branch comprises:

   - Professional Level 4 (Physicist)

- Medical Officer Class 2 (Post-graduate qualifications in occupational health)
- A9 (Chief Health Surveyor)
- Senior Health Surveyor (Specially qualified in occupational health)
- A5
- A4
- A3
- Keyboard Operator

2. Functions of the service are:

- To meet statutory requirements of the Silicosis and Tuberculosis Act
- Radiation (Safety Control), and Radiographers Registration Acts
- Radiation safety matters under the Mines Safety Act and Regulations
- Advisory service on all aspects of occupational health
- Conduct inspections and investigate complaints
- Assist in relevant health education
- Maintain liaison with other government departments and with industry
- Develop regional occupational health activities.

3. The functions are carried out in 4 ways:

(i) Medical examinations, particularly chest x-rays as required by the legislation or in specific circumstances as requested.

(ii) Monitoring of results of surveillance programs, and field checking as required; e.g., as in uranium mining.

(iii) Field inspections of work places, and inspection and approval of specified equipment; e.g., irradiating apparatus.

(iv) Extensive liaison with other government agencies having related statutory responsibilities, with industry and with national bodies.

4. Expenditure by the branch in 1980-81 was $147,713. This costing does not include activities performed on a regional basis, such as chest x-rays or hearing screening.

5. The budget allocation for 1981-82 is the same as for 1980-81.

Expenditure on Community Welfare

542 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Could he itemise how much was expended in 1980-81 and how much has been allocated in 1981-82 in the following areas of Community Welfare (a) substitute care for children, (b) youth services, (c) family services, (d) income maintenance, (e) subsidies and grants-in-aid to community organisations engaged in welfare services, (f) community work, (g) policy and planning, (h) information, (j) ethnic affairs, (k) administration, and (m) handicapped persons?

   Can an itemisation of allocation under each program be provided where possible with details of which organisations received grants-in-aid? How many unsuccessful applications were there? When was the closing date of applications for grants-in-aid and when were these organisations notified of their funding?

2. What is being allocated in cash in 1981-82 and for which Aboriginal communities under the essential services program of Community Government? What are the proposed new projects?

3. Could he detail where the 400 Aborigines employed within their own communities on the construction of essential services are?

4. How much has been allocated in 1981-82 for the introduction and develop-

ment of community government councils? Are any community government councils to be established and, if so, where?

5. Could he provide details of the budget allocation in 1981-82 for community services in the 4 divisions?

6. Who is receiving grants-in-aid in Arts and Cultural Affairs and Youth, Sport and Recreation, and how much?

7. When was the closing date for such applications and when were the successful organisations notified of their funding?

8. How many successful grants-in-aid applications were there in 1981-82 for these sections?

ANSWER

1. The following tables detail the information requested.

AREAS OF EXPENDITURE

Substitute Care	Expenditure 80-81	Allocation 81-82
Salaries	$ 175,812.18	$ 155,000
Travel	$ 4,902.69	$ 5,000
Payroll tax	$ 6,744.07	$ 7,000
Communications	$ 5,291,06	$ 6,000
General services	$ 12,785.91	$ 13,000
Other administrative expenses	$ 21,037.21	$ 9,000
TOTAL	$ 226,573.12	$ 195,000

Youth Services	Expenditure 80-81	Allocation 81-82
Salaries	$ 575,445.70	$ 600,000
Travel	$ 13,738.99	$ 15,000
Payroll tax	$ 23,353.69	$ 27,000
Communications	$ 12,905.16	$ 15,000
General services	$ 44,245.45	$ 50,000
Other administrative expenses	$ 109,324.52	$ 91,000
TOTAL	$ 779,013.51	$ 798,000

Family Services	Expenditure 80-81	Allocation 81-82
Salaries	$ 226,219.66	$ 324,000
Travel	$ 17,126.73	$ 20,000
Payroll tax	$ 10,014.10	$ 15,000
Communications	$ 6,654.94	$ 10,000
General services	$ 15,327.10	$ 16,000
Other administrative expenses	$ 22,127.98	$ 10,000
TOTAL	$ 297,470.60	$ 395,000

Income Maintenance	Expenditure 80-81	Allocation 81-82
Salaries	$ 693,914.20	* $ 260,000
Travel	$ 48,973.55	$ 5,000
Payroll tax	$ 40,677.43	$ 12,000
Communications	$ 33,203,30	--
General services	$ 8,933.89	--
Other administrative expenses	$ 117,404.80	$ 47,000
TOTAL	$ 943,107.17	$ 324,000

Concessions to pensioners	$ 443,529.29	$ 580,000
Child maintenance	$ 170,232.73	$ 300,000
Financial assistance	$ 407,959.05	$ 332,000
Supporting parents benefits	$ 285,200.63	Nil
Indigent burials	$ 83,481.90	$ 75,000
TOTAL	$1,390,403.60	$1,287,000

* A high proportion of salaries allocations previously shown against the Income Maintenance Program has been transferred to other more relevant division programs in the 1981-82 budget.

Subsidies Unit	Expenditure 80-81	Allocation 81-82
Salaries	$ 41,550.80	$ 73,000
Travel	$ 8,594.94	$ 10,000
Payroll tax	$ 2,424.33	$ 3,000
Communications	$ 6,92	--
General services	$ 1,100.00	--
Other administrative expenses	$ 13,123.62	$ 11,000
TOTAL	$ 66,800.61	$ 97,000
Subsidies and Grants-in-Aid Payments	$1,151,609.65	$1,063,000

Aboriginal Community Work	Expenditure 80-81	Allocation 81-82
Salaries	$ 305,598.14	$ 526,000
Travel	$ 56,267.40	$ 60,000
Payroll tax	$ 14,969.36	$ 15,000
Communications	$ 1,679.59	$ 2,000
General services	$ 466.41	--
Other administrative expenses	$ 29,869.81	$ 8,000
TOTAL	$ 408,850.71	$ 611,000

* Community work for other than Aborigines is carried out as a component of many of the division programs and separate figures are not available.

Policy, Planning and *Information	Expenditure 80-81	Allocation 81-82
Salaries	$ 279,446,06	$ 258,000
Travel	$ 13,336.84	$ 20,000
Payroll tax	$ 12,089.39	$ 12,000
Communications	$ 4,747.47	$ 6,000
General services	$ 1,527.03	$ 2,000
Other administrative expenses	$ 55,291.35	$ 38,000
TOTAL	$ 366,438.14	$ 336,000

* Separate figures for this component are not available.

Ethnic Affairs	Expenditure 80-81	Allocation 81-82
Salaries	$ 63,747.89	$ 77,000
Travel	$ 3,859.56	$ 5,000
Payroll tax	2,836.89	$ 4,000
Communications	$ 1,505.59	$ 1,500
General services	$ 445.20	--
Other administrative expenses	$ 8,585.81	$ 11,500
TOTAL	$ 80,980.94	$ 99,000

Administration	Expenditure 80-81	Allocation 81-82
Salaries	$ 514,454.94	$ 549,000
Travel	$ 14,029.70	$ 15,000
Payroll tax	$ 32,406.77	$ 25,000
Communications	$ 6,050.98	$ 7,000
General services	$ 762.47	$ 1,000
Other administrative expenses	$ 120,885.46	$ 71,000
TOTAL	$ 688,590.32	$ 668,000

Handicapped Persons	Expenditure 80-81	Allocation 81-82
Salaries	$ 26,669.14	$ 49,000
Travel	$ 24,161,82	$ 25,000
Payroll tax	$ 790.21	$ 3,000
Communications	$ 485.03	$ 500
General services	$ 105.90	---
Other administrative expenses	$ 27,130.43	$ 7,500
TOTAL	$ 79,342.53	$ 85,000

1980-81 GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

Organisation	Amount $
Residential Care Funding Program	
1. St Marys Child and Family Welfare Services, Alice Springs	227,574.00
2. Retta Dixon Homes, Darwin	11,623.00
3. Somerville Homes Inc., Darwin	126,000.00
Community Welfare Worker Subsidy Scheme	
1. Yirrkala/Dhanbul Community Association Inc.	13,431.52
2. YWCA, Darwin	13,933.49
3. Catholic Church, Alice Springs	13,933.49
4. 1979-80 Arrears of payments on Social Worker Subsidy Scheme	17,312.96
5. Galiwinku Community Inc.	7,129.75
6. Catholic Church, Darwin	13,848.35

Organisation	Amount $
Youth Service Program	
1. YWCA on behalf of Darwin Youth Refuge	55,600.00
Annual Grants-in-Aid Scheme	
1. Bindi Centre Residential Facility	67,083.08
2. St Vincent de Paul, Katherine for Giles Street Shelter	14,000.00
3. Australian Association of Special Education, NT Branch	1,152.00
4. YWCA on behalf of Darwin Youth Refuge	990.00
5. Darwin Family Centres, Fun Bus Project	700.00
6. Australian Red Cross Society, Darwin Branch	600.00
7. NT Pensioners Association on behalf of Tracey Lodge	10,000.00
8. Australian Red Cross Society, Tennant Creek Branch for Noble House Old Timers Home	8,000.00
9. Aust. Red Cross Society, Katherine Branch, Old Timers Home	8,000.00
10. Australian Inland Mission, Old Timers Home, Alice Springs	8,000.00
11. St Vincent de Paul Society, Darwin	7,000.00
12. Salvation Army, Darwin	5,200.00
13. St Vincent de Paul Society, Alice Springs	14,000.00
14. Tennant Creek Community Development Council	5,000.00
15. NT Pensioner Association	300.00

16. Aboriginal Women's Resource Centre (Money repaid)	6,685.00
Family Support Services Scheme	
1. YMCA, Darwin	28,218.79
2. Evaluation Project	16,000.00
3. Salvation Army, Darwin	12,326.76
4. YWCA, Darwin	4,400.00
5. Darwin Family Centres	9,529.10
6. Central Australian Aboriginal Congress	37,674.00
8. Aboriginal Resource Centre	2,089.79
International Year of the Child Scheme	
1. Browns Mart	11,240.00
2. Darwin Toy Library	708.85
3. Darwin Family Centres	18,860.00
4. Jabiru Playgroup	2,380.00
5. Galiwinku Community	4,500.00
6. Corporation of Katherine	10,000.00
7. Anthelk Ewlpaye	4,830.00
8. Areyonga Housing Association	7,000.00
9. Coconut Development School	25,000.00
10. Lyappa Congress	1,111.00
International Year of Disabled Person	
1. ANSUA, Darwin	2,200.00
2. Uniting Church	200.00
3. Alice Springs Spastic Council	10,000.00
4. NT Spastic Council	5,858.33
5. Mark Davies	5,412.00
6. Somerville Homes	8,299.11
7. Downs Syndrome	4,935.00
8. Mr and Mrs Barraclough	1,200.00
9. Michel Gastagna	500.00
10. Casuarina Girl Guides	475.00
11. Central Australian Toy Library	2,000.00
12. Family Planning Association	2,429.00
13. NT Handicapped Persons	5,000.00

Organisation	Amount $
Ethnic Childrens Services Worker Scheme	
1. Migrant Resource and Settlement Centre	16,000.00
Childrens Services Program	
1. NTCOSS for Childrens Work	2,000.00
States Grants (Home Care) Program	
1. Alice Springs Emergency Home Help Association	14,000.00
2. Northern Territory Council on the Ageing	14,000.00
3. Darwin Red Cross Home Help Services	36,000.00
4. Bamyili Community Council	3,250.00
5. Tennant Creek Pensioners Association (Capital Grant)	90,000.00
6. NT Pensioners Association (Capital Grant)	45,000.00
1979-80 Arrears payments for Home Help Services	5,386.28
7. Lajamanu Council	6,500.00
Operational Subsidies of a Continuous Nature	
1. Northern Territory Council on the Ageing	8,000.00
2. Handicapped Persons Association of Northern Territory	10,000.00

Unsucessful Applicants for Grant-in-Aid 1980-81

NTCOSS
Corporation of the City of Darwin
NT Spastic Association
Central Australian Aboriginal Housing Forum
Stella Maris Centre, Apostleship of the Sea
Darwin Family Centre
National Council of Women
Northern Y Women
Alice Springs Spastic Council
Marriage Guidance Council
Somerville Homes
YWCA
Katherine Red Cross

Grants-in-Aid 1980-81

Notification was sent out in October 1980. Closing date for applications was 14 December 1979 with the Community Service Division.

Grants-in-Aid 1981-82

Closing date for applications was 28 February 1981. Notification was made in November 1981.

2. The Aboriginal Essential Services Capital Works Program for which the Department of Community Development is responsible appears at pages 8 to 19 in Budget Paper No. 5, 1981-82. Works in progress were valued at $12,678,189 whilst new works programmed were valued at $14,420,000. (Total cash available to the program at this stage is $14,130,000). The individual projects are listed in the Budget Paper No. 5 and are too numerous to list in this answer).

   An amount of $5.43m cash has been provided for repairs and maintenance throughout the Northern Territory.

   The Commonwealth government has in its Aboriginal Public Health Improvement Program provided further cash of $1,865,000.

3. The actual number of Aboriginals employed on the construction of essential services at any particular point of time varies depending on a number of factors, including the number of contracts let, the type of work to be carried out, and the time of the year. The figure of 400, which was provided in answer to a similar question asked by Mr Isaacs in May 1981, was an assessment of the number of Aboriginals employed in carrying out such work at that time.

   At present, due largely to the onset of the wet season, and a consequent reduction of work, it is estimated that the number of Aboriginals employed on the construction of essential services is approximately 270. It is expected that the number will rise again with the arrival of the dry season.

   Communities where Aboriginals are currently working on such contracts are Amoonguna, Areyonga, Docker River, Santa Teresa, Willowra, Elliott, Angurugu, Belyuen, Nauiyu Ukume, Kulaluk, Galiwinku, Pularumpi, Kardu Numida, Milikapiti, Miligimbi, Maningrida, Minjilang, Nguiu, Gunbalanya, Peppiminarti, Ramingining, Umbakumba and Warruwi.

4. There is a sum of $169,000 allocated in 1981-82 financial year for the introduction of community government councils.

   There are 3 communities for which schemes have been prepared to exhibition stage. These communities are Angurugu, Milikapiti and

Pularumpi. Schemes are being prepared for other communities and will reach exhibition stage after consultations have been concluded.

5. It is assumed that this question should read, "Could the Minister provide details of the budget allocation in 1981-82 for Community Services Division in the 4 sub-divisions?", to which the answer is:

Salaries	$ 1,906,000
Administration	$ 958,000
Capital	$ 79,000
Other services	$ 3,498,000.

6. Due to the nature of the Community Services Grants-in-Aid scheme it is very difficult to provide a list of recipients of grants until the end of the financial year. At present 319 applications for grants-in-aid have been received from community organisations.

   Applications for grants-in-aid can request assistance in the areas of administration, salary subsidy, equipment, training-coaching, facilities, travel and special projects.

   Any incorporated, non-profit community organisation is eligible to apply.

7. Applications for 1981-82 closed on 17 April, but late applications are often received. If an urgent need is demonstrated the application is processed immediately. Otherwise, applications are assessed progressively. After the Minister gives his decision all organisations are notified as to the outcome of their application.

8. For 1981-82 there have been 319 applications for grants-in-aid received. Of the 319 applications received, the following is a breakdown of their status:

Approved	160
Not approved	50
Withdrawn	10
Deferred	20
Ineligible	5
Under assessment	74
	319

School-to-Work Transition Program

543 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Has there been an evaluation of the school-to-work transition program in the Northern Territory? If so, what was the nature of the evaluation and the results? If not, is an evaluation planned?

2. In 1980-81 how many students, at what level of education, were involved in the school-to-work program?

3. How many teachers, for how many hours per week and where, were involved?

4. Where did the students go for their work experience? In what numbers?

5. What increase and expansion of the program is planned for 1981-82 with the significantly increased funding allocation? How many students will it cater for? Which schools are to receive cash grants and how much?

ANSWER

1. Evaluation of the school-to-work transition program is in hand pro-

gressively. For 1980-81 an evaluation study has been made covering work experience, link courses, career education programs, special year 11 transition classes and foundation for employment (post-school) courses.

The evaluation demonstrated positive benefits flowing from the transition program and results of that study will be widely distributed early in 1982.

2. Students involved in the school-to-work program were -

1980	Work experience	-	Years 10 and 11	-	840
	Career education	-	Years 9 and 10	-	500
	Link courses	-	Year 11	-	168
1981	Work experience	-	Years 10 and 11	-	830
	Career education	-	Years 9 and 10	-	543
	Link courses	-	Year 11	-	87

Regulatory and Advisory Council Meetings

544 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many Regulatory and Advisory Council meetings for schools are expected in 1981-82? What is the average cost per meeting?

ANSWER

It is assumed that the Regulatory and Advisory Council meetings referred to are: Post School Advisory Council, Education Advisory Council, Special Education Advisory Committee, and Northern Territory Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (FEPPI).

The 2 councils are constituted in accordance with the Education Act and meet on approximately 6 occasions per year.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meets 3 times per year and on other special occasions with prior approval.

All the above meetings are normally of 2 days duration.

FEPPI usually meets each quarter and these meetings are generally of 4 to 5 days duration.

The estimated cost for each proposed meeting held in Darwin in 1981-82 is: Post School Advisory Council $4,000; Education Advisory Council $3,000; FEPPI $3,600; and Special Education Advisory Committee $2,000.

Buffalo Domestication

548 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many buffaloes in the Northern Territory are domesticated?
2. How many have been domesticated since the buffalo symposium of February 1980?

ANSWER

1. It is estimated that at the present time there are about 3,000 domesticated buffaloes in the Northern Territory.
2. Most of the above-mentioned buffaloes have been domesticated since the symposium.

Library Service Book Purchases

551 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What was (a) the value of books purchased by the Northern Territory

Library Service since 1 February 1981, (b) from which suppliers or book-sellers were these purchases made, both Territory and interstate, (c) is the Library Service still purchasing books direct from publishers, and (d) what was the total expenditure by the Library Service on book purchases in the financial year 1980-81?

ANSWER

(a) Value of books purchased by Northern Territory Library Service during the period February 1981 to December 1981 inclusive was $355,393.

(b) (i) Northern Territory Suppliers

Bookworld	$ 25,865
Northbooks	$ 74,636
Educational and Technical Books	$ 20,898
Territory Book Depot	$ 9,735
Paul France	$ 4,395
Singing Tree	$ 11,089
Aboriginal Arts and Crafts	$ 256
Arunta Art Gallery	$ 76
Corey Books	$ 40
*Department of the Chief Minister	$ 41
*Government Information Centre	$ 24
Darwin Newsagency	$ 169
Tivoli Bookshop	$ 1,599
NT Nautical Supplies	$ 186
*Maningrida Literature Production Centre	$ 5
*Delta Productions	$ 250
*Summer Institute of Linguistics	$ 22
*Warlipiri Literature Production Centre	$ 246
*NT Field Naturalists Club	$ 8
*Darwin Community College	$ 160
TOTAL	$ 149,700

(ii) Interstate Suppliers

James Bennett	$ 51,170
Grahames	$ 59,230
Dunn & Mason	$ 48,067
Ayres & James	$ 2,983
Berkelouw	$ 1,659
Serendipity	$ 779
Burge Lopez & Craft	$ 1,348
Hearn	$ 230
Gaston Renard	$ 1,838
Mary Martin	$ 114
W.H. Thompson	$ 123
Continental Bookshop	$ 1,405
Southern Scene	$ 1,317
Bookshelf	$ 204
K. Ainsworth	$ 165
Kay Craddock	$ 21
*Department of National Development & Energy	$ 82
*Encyclopedia Britannica	$ 3,282
*Keith Cole Productions	$ 3
*LAA Special Libraries Victoria	$ 15
*Oceania	$ 141
*National Library	$ 44
*Shire of Port Hedland	$ 17
*Pacific Linguistics	$ 188

*Australian Library Promotion Council	$	25
*Unicef	$	24
*Dutch/Australia Publishing Co.	$	23
*Australian Government Publishing Service	$	85
*Remal	$	101
*WA Museum	$	44
*James Cook University	$	13
*State Library of South Australia	$	98
*Lutheran Publishing House	$	14
*CCH	$	134
*Library Board of WA	$	15
*Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies	$	176
TOTAL	$	175,177

(iii) Overseas Suppliers

Combridge Jackson	$	30,516

(c) The Northern Territory Library Service still purchases books direct from publishers when this is financially advantageous. As will be seen from the suppliers listed in (b)(i) and (b)(ii) above, the publishers who are indicated by an asterisk are primarily government departments and authorities and publishers such as Encyclopedia Britannica who do not deal through the retail book trade. If Northern Territory Library Service were to purchase official (i.e., government) publications through the book trade it would cost more because no discounts are given to booksellers who would then have to charge an on-cost.

(d) The total expenditure by the Northern Territory Library Service on book purchases in the financial year 1980-81 was $406,990.

Queensland Mines Yellowcake

552 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Is he able to say whether or not Queensland Mines Limited has been paid for its yellowcake that has already been exported?

2. Can he advise the whereabouts of the first shipment of yellowcake that left Darwin in the vessel 'Mayflower'?

ANSWER

1. Under existing arrangements Queensland Mines Limited is due for payment for its uranium oxide product on dispatch from Australia. I understand that the arrangements have been observed in regard to all product exported to date.

2. Uranium oxide is transported through Singapore for treatment processing (conversion and enrichment) in Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom or Europe, depending on the capacity of each country to accept the product.

   After dispatch from the Northern Territory it may take up to 2 years for the processed product to reach its final destination in Japan.

   The international movement of uranium oxide is a matter for the Australian Safeguards Office. In the interest of international security, the whereabouts of particular shipments at any particular time is classified information, not available for public record or general release.

Buffalo Domestication

554 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Is it the intention of the government to introduce legislation for the control of or encouragement of domestication of buffalo?

2. What progress has been made towards domestication of buffalo to this point?

ANSWER

1. The government has no intention, at this time, to regulate the buffalo industry, outside of already existing regulations.

2. I refer the honourable Leader of the Opposition to my answer to question No. 548.

Market for Donkey Meat

555 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has his department undertaken any investigation into potential markets for donkey meat and, if so, what are the results of such investigations?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Production has undertaken investigation into potential markets for donkey meat.

The conclusions are that the prices available for donkey meat, the yields of donkey meat which may be obtained, and the costs of harvesting, processing and marketing the product, does not make donkey meat production an attractive possibility.

Bali Cattle Research Project

556 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. On what advice did the government make its decision to cancel the Bali cattle research project?

2. What are the details of this advice and source of information?

ANSWER

The decision was made based on information and advice supplied by the Department of Primary Production.

Moratorium on the Granting of Prawning Licences

557 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

When did the moratorium on the granting of prawning licences to operate between Cape York and Cape Ford end?

ANSWER

The moratorium on the granting of prawning licences for the Declared Management Zone (DMZ) of the Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF) which runs between Cape Ford and Cape York is still in effect.

ADMA Crop Purchase Scheme

558 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Does the ADMA crop purchase scheme apply to crops totalling less than 5 tonnes?

ANSWER

The ADMA has not set a minimum quantity of grain to be received at either the Katherine depot or at Adelaide River. The Authority recognises the necessity of catering for growers with small quantities of grains as an incentive for them to expand production over time.

NTEC Transferees

559 Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. How many compulsory transferees from the NTPS to NTEC have applied for transfer or promotion back to NTPS?
2. How many employees have succeeded in transferring back from NTEC to NTPS?

ANSWER

1. No records are held of transfers requested and not successful. This information would be confidential to the applicant.
2. Of the 600 compulsory transferees to NTEC on 1 July 1978 the following transfers have taken place: (a) to the APS - 22; (b) to the NTPS - 34.

   This information is derived from recruitment records.

Northern Prawn Fishery

560 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Given that the northern prawn fishery is heavily dependent upon Japan for the sale of its production and that the price for prawns sold to Japan has fallen considerably recently, what efforts have been made by the government to search out and secure new markets for Territory prawns?

ANSWER

The marketing of prawns taken in the northern prawn fishery has been almost entirely carried out by the various processing companies involved. Recent discussions with the processors have indicated that they prefer to continue developing their own market outlets.

Processing of NT Prawns

561 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Is he aware that many prawns caught in Territory waters are shipped to Western Australia where they are processed and then returned to be sold in Darwin?
2. If so, what action has he taken to enable more prawns caught in Territory waters to be processed in the Territory for the local market?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. The information obtained from local retailers is that the local market is adequately supplied with processed prawns.

Buffalo Industry Conference

562 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Since the Buffalo Industry Conference in February 1981, what action has the government taken to encourage a viable buffalo industry in the Top End?

ANSWER

Considerable progress has been made in the domestication of buffaloes, and a great deal of information is now available to assist private enterprise in the establishment of buffalo projects.

Additional support has been given through the introduction of compensation for buffaloes in which tuberculosis is detected at NT abattoirs under the National Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign.

Brucellosis and TB on Aboriginal Leases

563 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Did he publicly declare Aboriginal-owned pastoral leases to be more prone to the incidence of brucellosis and tuberculosis?

ANSWER

If there has been such a public declaration the honourable Member will no doubt be able to find it.

Travel by Minister for Mines and Energy

565 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the answer to question 111 and ask what is the nature of the 'official business' conducted by the Minister for Mines and Energy on the trip undertaken on 9 July 1979 at a cost of $748?

ANSWER

The nature of the 'official business' conducted by the Minister for Mines and Energy on the trip undertaken on 9 July 1979 was to meet with the President, Ali-Curung Council, Warrabri (Mr Gus Williams), to hold discussions with the Ali-Curung Council about the NT liquor legislation and to visit the Community Health Centre at Warrabri.

Land Rights Inquiry

566 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Why did the NT government decline to make submission to the Commonwealth inquiry into the operation of the Land Rights (NT) Act?

ANSWER

The NT government did not present a formal submission to Mr Rowland but he had a number of discussions with Ministers and departmental officers. It should be noted that the Northern Land Council provided no formal submission, but no doubt its officers were also available for discussions. It was obvious that before there would be any changes there would have to be consultation between both governments and the land councils. The NT government considered it would be preferable to raise its problems at a government to government level, which it did.

Panorama Guth in Alice Springs

567 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has any action been taken by the Museums and Art Galleries Board to acquire Panorama Guth in Alice Springs, or any of the material therein?

ANSWER

Discussion has occurred between Mr Guth and a member of the Museums and Art Galleries Board staff. As a consequence, the Aboriginal collections in Panorama Guth have been documented and photographed. Mr Guth has

indicated that he wishes to sell Panorama Guth as a total entity. The Museums and Art Galleries Board would only be interested in acquiring the Aboriginal material because it is secret or sacred. It does not regard the building and the panorama as being an appropriate acquisition to its display facilities and the permanent art collection of the Northern Territory.

Tender Approvals - Progress Associations

568 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Ti Tree Progress Association, or any other progress association in the Northern Territory, been given the right to approve of tenders allocated by NT government departments?

2. If so, under what terms and conditions do such approvals operate?

ANSWER

No progress association in the Northern Territory has been given the authority to approve tenders allocated by NT government departments.

As the honourable Member for MacDonnell has specifically mentioned the Ti Tree Progress Association, I should perhaps clarify a point.

Funds were provided to the Ti Tree Progress Association for the provision of municipal services to the town.

The association successfully negotiated a contract with a separate body to have the town cleaned up. I believe there is a vast difference between the simple contractual action taken by the Ti Tree Progress Association and the implied meaning which specifically refers to tenders allocated by NT government departments.

Giles House

569 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Will Giles House continue to be used as a substitute care residential facility pending its reclassification as a juvenile corrective insti- institution?

2. If not, will the government provide an alternative facility for the purpose of substitute care of children awaiting placement?

3. If not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Giles House is an institution designed for the detention of juvenile offenders and is currently utilised for that purpose. A principle which has been recognised and widely accepted by child welfare authorities throughout the western world is that children committed to the care of welfare authorities for reasons other than offending should not be detained in the same institutions and under the same conditions as juvenile offenders. This principle holds no matter how good the programs may be within the institution concerned and, in the case of Giles House, the program is widely recognised to be of the highest quality.

2. In Alice Springs the Department of Community Development funds St Mary's Child and Family Welfare Services for the provision of substitute care services through its family homes. St Mary's has a long history of involvement in the provision of substitute care services and the government regards the partnership between St Mary's and the department as being a highly suitable arrangement for the provision of these

services. Currently 3 family homes are funded by the department and these are seen as offering quite adequate capacity for future needs.

3. Not applicable.

Tourism and Heritage Conference

570 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Was his department approached to support the Tourism and Heritage Conference scheduled for March 1982?

2. If so, will his department support it and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. No. Basically the conference program appears to be oriented towards tourism, the natural environment and Aboriginal cultural issues.

   I understand the conference is being financially supported by the Department of the Chief Minister, Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, and Northern Territory Tourist Commission, which is a good measure of Northern Territory government support for the conference.

   The Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Aboriginal Arts Board are also involved.

   In the circumstances, I do not consider it necessary or appropriate that the conference be supported by the Department of Community Development.

Mortality Specifics

571 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does his department (a) compile age-specific mortality statistics, and (b) if so, will he release them publicly?

ANSWER

Compilation of age-specific mortality statistics is not a function of the Department of Health but is undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics which receives information directly from the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics releases information on deaths for each of the states and territories in an annual publication titled 'Deaths Australia' (ABS catalogue no. 3302.0).

Outpatient Treatment at Alice Springs Hospital

572 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people seeking outpatient treatment at Alice Springs Hospital during the 12 months ending October 1981 had suffered injury through broken glass?

ANSWER

Statistics relating to injuries through broken glass are not kept in Alice Springs Hospital. Outpatient attendances are classified according to groups such as motor vehicle accidents, domestic violence, gynaecology, etc.

Community at Kintore Ranges

573 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements has his department made to service the community at the Kintore Ranges?

ANSWER

The community at Kintore Ranges receives health care through the Lyappa medical service from Papunya. This is at the request of the Kintore Range community. Although the department does not provide any direct health service, the Alice Springs Hospital provides support services to all central Australian residents regardless of which organisation supplies primary health care.

Caravans at Ti Tree School

574 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many caravans were supplied to the Ti Tree School for the Aboriginal Adult Education Program and at what cost?
2. Where are the caravans now and for what purpose are they being used?
3. When were the caravans moved?

ANSWER

1. Twenty caravans were located at Ti Tree for the purpose of establishing in the southern region a facility for providing the first year of an Aboriginal teacher training course, the cost involved being $75,000.

2. & 3. All of the caravans have now been relocated. This process started in February 1979 and was completed in October 1981 when the last 2 caravans were sold at auction.

Set our below are details of each caravan's relocation:

1. Tennant Creek Area School - teacher accommodation.
2. Kurrajong, outstation of Utopia - teacher accommodation.
3. Tennant Creek - Karguru - teacher accommodation.
4. Willowra - teacher accommodation.
5. Alice Springs - mobile reading centre.
6. Ida Standley - mobile pre-school.
7. Mt Ebenezer - teacher accommodation.
8. Braitling - janitor accommodation.
9. Amaroo, outstation of Utopia - teacher accommodation.
10. Yirara - teacher accommodation.

11. & 12. Sold by tender 21 October 1981.

13. - 17. Relocated to Darwin - janitor accommodation on school sites.

18. - 20. Transferred to Health Department, Alice Springs.

Apatula Community

575 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will a full-time adult educator be appointed to service the Apatula community?

ANSWER

There has been some difficulty in obtaining a suitably qualified adult educator for the Apatula community. The community has indicated it wants a middle-aged person with a family. The difficulty was further compounded by the lack of suitable accommodation - a difficulty which has only recently been overcome. Despite advertisements throughout the Territory no applicants are available for Apatula. A national advertisement is now being prepared for adult educators and, hopefully, a suitable person willing to work at Apatula can be identified early in the new year.

Pre-apprenticeship Courses for Young Aboriginals

577 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to his press release of 24 March 1981 in which he stated that pre-apprenticeship courses for young Aboriginals were expected to start in July this year and ask (a) why the courses have still not commenced, and (b) why the Priest Street complex remains vacant and apparently in need of renovation?

ANSWER

The reason for the delay in commencing the pre-apprenticeship courses for young Aboriginals at Priest Street which were expected to start in July this year was the difficulty in reaching agreement with the Commonwealth for funding the courses. This has now been resolved and quotations for renovation work were called on 2 December with a closing date of 16 December . Provided a satisfactory contract for this work is achieved and the contractor can commence immediately after the Christmas break, it is expected that the work will be completed by mid-February.

A pre-apprenticeship in automotives will then be able to commence.

Two lecturers have been selected and are expected to arrive in mid-January to commence preparation for the course.

Appropriate equipment has already been ordered by the college.

Housing Commission Dwellings - Tennant Creek

578 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

How many Housing Commission dwellings will be (a) built in Tennant Creek this year, and (b) how many of these dwellings will be allocated for the use of Aboriginal tenants?

ANSWER

Five houses and 44 units will be constructed this year. Sixteen bed-sitters will be converted to 1 bedroom units.

Aboriginal applicants on the Housing Commission waiting list will be allocated accommodation in their turn in the normal manner.

Purchase of Housing Commission Units and Townhouses

579 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

How many tenants have purchased or are in the process of purchasing units

and townhouses from the Housing Commission?

ANSWER

A total of 30 tenants are in the process of purchasing townhouse units from the Housing Commission.

Commonwealth Government Purchase of Lots in Sadadeen Subdivision

580 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

How many lots in the Sadadeen subdivision have been purchased by the Commonwealth government to provide rental housing stock for its public servants?

ANSWER

The Sadadeen subdivision is being sold privately. The Member should direct his inquiries accordingly.

Tenders for Lease of Esplanade Lodge, Melanka Lodge and Kuringai Lodge

581 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Have tenders been received for a 5-year lease for Esplanade Lodge, Melanka Lodge and Kuringai Lodge?

2. How much space does the government intend to reserve in these places for emergency accommodation and for public servants?

ANSWER

1. The calling of tenders for the lease of the NT hostels has been postponed until March 1982. Because the existing management agreement with Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Service Pty Ltd (CACS) expires on 9 January 1982, I have approved an interim arrangement whereby a local Darwin company will manage the hostels under an agreement similar to that with CACS for the period 10 January 1982 to 30 June 1982.

2. (i) Initially, 10 rooms in the Esplanade Lodge, 4 rooms in Melanka Lodge and 2 rooms in Kuringai Lodge will be reserved for the purpose of providing emergency accommodation at the hostels, under a plan currently being formulated through the Housing Commission and the Department of Community Development.

   (ii) Currently 28% of all hostel accommodation is occupied by public servants (both NT and Commonwealth) and at least this amount of accommodation will be reserved for their continuing use under both the interim arrangement to 30 June 1982 and the leasing arrangements after that date. It is intended that the situation be reviewed on a regular basis.

Recruitment of Departmental Staff by P.A. Australia

582 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to question 265 regarding the employment of a private organisation, P.A. Australia, to recruit staff at a cost of $23,000 and his reply that such companies were employed when particular expertise or staff were not available in the department and that the employment of private companies leads to savings in time and money, and ask -

1. Why have not appropriate staff with the required expertise been recruited by his department, with or without the help of outside companies?

2. How can the spending of $23,000 lead to savings?

ANSWER

1. As each vacancy arises, a decision is taken as to the best method of attracting the desired calibre of applicants and this may lead to the use of external organisations. During the period March-June 1981, P.A. Australia was used on 2 occasions in Australia-wide searches for staff for the Department of Transport and Works -

   (a) Services Division: 7 positions, mainly professional/technical and P.A. were used because of earlier involvement in review of plant operations.

   (b) Administration Division: 4 senior positions in Manpower Branch. P.A. were used to seek external applicants on an Australia-wide basis.

   Of the 11 positions involved, 5 were filled as a result of P.A. exercise and a further position is still under review.

2. The value in using external consultants lies in the department's ability to use their expert knowledge of selected labour markets, interstate interviewing facilities, and presenting the department with a short list of suitable applicants. Such activities enable departmental staff to concentrate on productive tasks within the department.

   The use of consultants is seen as an alternative to, not a replacement for, the utilisation of our own staff as the occasion demands.

Poker Machines in NT

583 Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the government commissioned a public opinion survey regarding the possible introduction of poker machines into licensed clubs in the NT, and related matters?

2. If so, (a) which polling organisation conducted the survey, (b) what questions were asked, (c) what were the results, and (d) what was the criteria used to determine the size and composition of the sections of the community such as age, sex, occupation, town of residence and membership of clubs?

ANSWER

As has been explained to the Legislative Assembly on 9 June 1981, a public opinion survey into community attitudes towards racing and gaming in the Territory was conducted as part of research for a review of racing and gaming legislation. Information gathered as part of that research is considered confidential.

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign

584 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Why are compensation rates for the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaign variable with regard to types of cattle but fixed with regard to quality?

ANSWER

The approved compensation values for cattle slaughtered as a result of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Program are shown below.

Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Compensation Scheme

Compensation Values 1 July 1981 to 30 June 1982

Category of Stock	Darwin and Gulf District	Victoria River District	Barkly Tablelands District	Alice Springs
	$	$	$	$
Cattle				
Calf	35	35	45	45
Weaner	55	55	70	70
Store steer	90	100	110	110
Fat steer	140	155	180	180
Store bullock	110	120	120	120
Fat bullock	160	180	270	270
Breeding cow	85	90	130	130
Fat cow	110	135	180	180
Bulls under 7 years of age	180	180	180	180
Bulls mickey or aged	80	80	80	80

	All Districts
Buffalo	$
Calf	40
Weaner	100
Cow	110
Bull	140
Heifers	105

These values are based on the estimated farm-gate value of the types of cattle, and also on market prices. The values vary from district to district because the average weight of cattle marketed varies, and the realised values vary between the districts.

The compensation values have been agreed with the cattlemen's associations as fair and reasonable.

Water Supply to Beswick Station

585 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What steps are being taken to provide a good water supply to Beswick Station?

ANSWER

Water Division of the Department of Transport and Works will undertake an investigation to locate an alternative water source at Beswick during the next dry season. A preliminary report will be submitted to the Water Needs Committee on these findings. Should the investigation prove successful, upgrading of the water supply will proceed as proposed on the Forward Works Program for 1983-84.

MacDonnell Range National Park

586 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to his reply to my question regarding the gazetting of a MacDonnell Range National Park and ask what if any difficulties have been encountered in the acquisition of land for the park and, if so, when and how will these be overcome?

ANSWER

Negotiations for the acquisition of suitable land in the West MacDonnells

for the creation of a national park have been protracted owing to the need to deal with several landholders, including company holdings where consent is required from all parties. Delays have also been occasioned by the need to muster stock from the rugged and difficult terrain being sought for national park purposes. The Conservation Commission is optimistic that these difficulties can be overcome.

Other acquisition proposals are proceeding satisfactorily in the Central and East MacDonnells.

Flagpoles for NT Schools

587 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he ordered flagpoles to be erected at all schools in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Orders have been arranged through the Department of Transport and Works for flagpoles to be erected at all Northern Territory government buildings including schools. Orders have been placed with suppliers.

NTDC Assistance to Aboriginal Organisations

588 Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

I refer to his reply to my question regarding the Northern Territory Development Corporation's response to application for assistance from Aboriginal organisations and ask -

Does the Northern Territory Development Corporation automatically refer applications from Aboriginal organisations to the Aboriginal Development Commission?

ANSWER

Any inquiry from an Aboriginal organisation is referred to the Aboriginal Development Commission as a matter of course.

The reason for this is that the Aboriginal Development Commission was specifically set up to provide finance and in some cases grants to Aboriginal organisations. The finance provided is normally on easier terms and interest rates than the finance that could be provided by the Northern Territory Development Corporation.

Caravan Parks Survey

589 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to a survey by Territory Research Associates entitled 'NT Caravan Parks' conducted in March and April 1981 and ask -

1. Will the government take action on recommendation No. 2 that 'backyard parks ... not conforming to the requirements of the Act ... be required to cease operations'?

2. If so, how is it intended to house the users of backyard parks who are 'unqualified' but 'probably of relatively high incidence' according to the report?

ANSWER

The government is aware of the problems associated with illegal and backyard caravan parks, and will not be idle where unlawful use of caravans as permanent homes is causing nuisance or offence to surrounding land owners.

At the same time the residential shortages in some Territory centres is acknowledged and the government has no intention of exacerbating the problem with wanton and unnecessary action which would deprive people of existing accommodation.

Studies undertaken by government departments and their agents are aimed at ultimate resolution of the housing needs in all centres and, through it, the elimination of unlawful use of caravans as residences.

Housing Commission Building Program for Tennant Creek

590 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In the light of the Peko sackings, will the Housing Commission building program for Tennant Creek in the 1981-82 Budget be maintained?

ANSWER

The NTPS building program has been maintained.

The general public building program has been revised. Twenty-five 2-bedroom and 1 1-bedroom units will be constructed plus 6 1-bedroom units for pensioners.

Napperby Station

591 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has an application been lodged for a special purposes lease or sub-lease on Napperby Station and, if so, when will it be granted?

ANSWER

On 20 December 1977, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs confirmed advice from the Laramba Community that as the lessees of the Napperby Station have agreed to the continued occupation of the existing camp area, no formal request for an excision of land is required. To date, no further advices have been received.

Napperby Station

594 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has a health clinic been erected at Napperby Station and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

The proposed health clinic at Napperby Station has not been erected because agreement cannot be reached on a suitable site.

Staff Numbers in Chest X-ray Area

595 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has there been a reduction of departmental staff in the chest x-ray area and, if so, why?

ANSWER

Yes. Several employees in the administrative classification have been re-deployed to positions elsewhere in the Department of Health. This was possible because of the devolution of responsibility for tuberculosis control from central to regional administration and the consolidation of x-ray services at Darwin Hospital as part of the department's movement from the old Darwin Hospital site.

Oral History Program

597 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to question 185 regarding the Oral History Program, and ask -

1. How many persons have been interviewed by the Oral History Program?
2. Why are only 13 records of these interviews held at the Australian Archives?
3. What arrangements are made for the safe storage and custody of material not transferred to the archives?
4. Under what conditions is the material not in the archives made available to researchers?
5. If these conditions of access are different from those applying to material held at the archives, in what way are they different, and why?
6. What action will be taken to expedite transfer of material to the archives?

ANSWER

1. In excess of 260 persons have been interviewed for the Oral History Program.
2. Transcripts held at the Australian Archives are those in which the interviewer has placed some special restriction as to access and use. Where the only condition placed on the transcript relates to a suitable acknowledgement to the interviewer these transcripts are placed in the State Reference Library.
3. All tapes and transcripts are held in a locked filing cabinet in the Executive Officer's room. The Chairman and the Executive Officer have the only access to the keys.
4. No material is made available to researchers which is not in the archives or the State Reference Library except for members of the committee and historians who have won the Northern Territory government's history award and who are currently researching their projects.
5. Conditions of access are laid down by the interviewee. All material, whether in the archives, State Reference Library or in the History Unit's offices, is covered by the conditions laid down by the interviewee.
6. Before material is placed in the archives the transcription has to be checked by the interviewee and the History Unit. This is done as soon as practicable within existing resources.

NT Traffic Signs

598 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Where are Northern Territory traffic signs purchased from and, if purchased interstate, why?
2. How much did the government spend on traffic signs in (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
3. Has the government investigated whether any Territory based firm can manufacture and supply traffic signs?

ANSWER

1. The NT government has been obtaining recent supplies of traffic signs from firms in Melbourne and Brisbane. The 3 firms involved were the only tenderers to the NT government for the supply of traffic signs.

Contracts were let on the basis of competitive tender. The contracts expired on 30 November 1981.

2. (a) $276,000; (b) $197,000.

3. Investigations were made into local manufacturing capacity prior to reallocation of contracts. Detailed discussions were held with representatives of 2 local firms. It is considered both firms have capacity to manufacture at least some of the local requirements.

   New tenders for the supply of traffic signs were advertised on 29 October 1981. Six local firms were invited to tender but declined. Tenders were received from 7 firms including 2 from the Northern Territory. Tenders are currently being evaluated.

Railway, Darwin Wharf - Berrimah

599 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has a route for the standard gauge railway line linking the Darwin wharf and the proposed railway terminal at Berrimah been determined?

2. If so, what is the route?

ANSWER

While a preliminary examination has been made there has as yet been no final decision. I would be pleased to advise the honourable Member when the route has been determined.

Access Roads to New Darwin Airport Terminal

600 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has the location of an access road or roads to the new Darwin airport terminal been determined?

2. If so, what is the location?

ANSWER

1. Yes. The location of the access road is in accordance with the Darwin airport traffic study conducted by the consultants, Maunsell, for the Department of Transport, Australia.

2. The access road route roughly follows the alignment of Rapid Creek and the aerodrome boundary ending at the new complex. It will connect with McMillans Road between Rapid Creek and Rapid Creek Road.

'Minimum Security' Prisoners at Gunn Point

602 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Are male prisoners classified as 'minimum security' permitted to go fishing and swimming at Gunn Point at times?

2. If so, when and what similar provision will be made for female prisoners?

ANSWER

1. All prisoners at Gunn Point Prison Farm are classed as 'minimum security'.

   Fishing is permitted on some Saturday afternoons but only under the supervision of 2 prison officers and if there are no members of the public using the beach.

   For both safety and security reasons, these activities require super-

vision and this is dependent upon availability of staff.

2. There are no facilities for women prisoners at Gunn Point which at this stage of its development will remain a male prisoner institution.

Transfer of Prisoners

603 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Are male prisoners at Berrimah gaol transferred to Gunn Point Prison Farm following department assessment?

2. If so, what similar provision will be made for female prisoners and when?

ANSWER

1. All prisoners in the Northern Territory are subject to a classification process as soon as possible after reception into prison. This is carried out by a classification committee that makes recommendations to the Director of Correctional Services. The committee is made up of senior prison officers, including some from the Gunn Point Prison Farm. Suitable Alice Springs prisoners are included in this process.

2. Female prisoners can only be placed at the Darwin or Alice Springs prisons since these are the only institutions with appropriate facilities. Gunn Point is not likely to receive facilities for female prisoners in the foreseeable future.

Grants-in-Aid, Nhulunbuy Sporting Bodies

605 Mr LEO to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

What amount was provided through grants-in-aid to Nhulunbuy sporting bodies during 1980-81?

ANSWER

A total of $27,199 was provided through grants-in-aid to Nhulunbuy sporting bodies during 1980 and 1981.

Industries Training Commission

606 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does the Industries Training Commission examine employers' records to ensure apprentices are fairly treated?

ANSWER

The Industries Training Act 1979 sets out the conditions under which apprentices are to be employed and the NT Industries Training Commission is empowered to oversight the enforcement of these conditions, which include the on-the-job training of apprentices, their attendance at college and the standards they must acquire during their apprenticeship.

More specifically, section 72(1) of the Act provides that an apprenticeship supervisor employed by the commission may inspect employers' records in relation to the employment of an apprentice or to make inquiries of an apprentice to ascertain whether the provisions of the Act are being complied with. Any person who wilfully obstructs a commission officer in carrying out this role is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine of $100. Further, section 73(1) of the Act requires the production to the commission of such books, papers or other documents, other than a tax return, kept in relation to the employment of an apprentice or person within the time specified in the notice. Once again a penalty of $100 can be served on a person contravening such a notice.

Apprenticeship supervisors of the commission regularly visit employers to ensure that both parties are meeting their obligations under the indenture and that appropriate training is being provided. In cases where there is some question as to the adequacy of training, then records may be examined where necessary.

In a number of limited cases the NT Industries Training Commission is also required to regulate the rates of pay and conditions for apprentices indentured to employers who are not respondent to an award, agreement or determination in the Northern Territory.

Aborigines on St Vidgeon and Eva Valley Stations

608 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Are Aborigines camping on St Vidgeon and Eva Valley Stations trespassing or merely re-establishing traditional links with their country?

ANSWER

(i) The Aborigines who have camped at St Vidgeon Station homestead area did so without the permission of the mortgagees. The Northern Land Council was advised by the Secretary, Department of Lands, in July 1981 that the Aboriginal group was considered to be trespassing.

(ii) In the case of Eva Valley Station the Aborigines camped apparently with the agreement of the former lessee, Mr B.G.L. Killen, and their continued presence has not been objected to by the mortgagees.

Electricity Supply at Mataranka

610 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

Is there sufficient electric power at Mataranka to meet recent developments? If not, does the government intend to introduce rationing of power?

ANSWER

The maximum demand at Mataranka is approaching 200 kilowatts and with the imminent connection of several major loads is likely to reach 300 kilowatts over the next few months.

As the existing 2 machines in the power station are only rated at 200 kilowatts each, arrangements are being made for parallel operation of the units prior to these major loads being connected. This will enable the power station to adequately supply these loads. Maintenance will be carried out during periods of low load.

Public Servant Pilots

612 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Are veterinary officers, stock inpsectors and other public servants required to visit widely separated centres in the Territory and who possess pilot licences encouraged to fly themselves and so reduce travelling time between centres?

2. Are such officers encouraged or assisted to obtain pilot licences?

ANSWER

1. No specific encouragement is given to field staff who possess pilot licences to fly themselves to centres within the Territory.

2. As with motor vehicle licences, employees who wish to obtain a pilot licence are not specifically encouraged nor financially assisted.

Alleged Rape near Top Springs

613 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What were the circumstances of the alleged rape, robbery and assault near Top Springs recently?

ANSWER

On 23 November 1981 at 6.20 am the Katherine police were notified by radio telephone from Top Springs concerning an alleged serious assault having taken place on the Buchanan Highway, 27 kilometres south of Top Springs.

Katherine Criminal Investigation Branch members attended at Top Springs and interviewed the complainant, a Willy Breider (European), and his de facto wife, Elsie Raymond (Aboriginal), and their 4 children.

The complainant and his family had been travelling between Top Springs and Camfield Station when their Toyota vehicle broke down between 10 pm-11 pm on 22 November 1981.

In the early hours of the morning, approximately 2 am, on 23 November 1981, another vehicle containing approximately 12 male Aboriginals stopped where the complainant's vehicle was broken down.

Several males came over to the complainant's vehicle.

One male assaulted the complainant and broke his nose.

While this assault was taking place other male persons were taking the complainant's property, which included a quantity of beer and food, from his vehicle.

This group then caused the family to flee from the area with the exception of one of the females, Pauline Murrimal, aged 13 years, who was forcibly detained and taken into the surrounding bush where she was allegedly raped.

Police investigations resulted in the following alleged offenders appearing before the Katherine Court of Summary Jurisdiction on 7 January 1982:

Happy Barcoo	Receiving stolen property. No appearance. Bail $100 estreated. Withdrawn
Robbie Peter	Receiving stolen property. Fined $100 I.D. 4 days
Luke Dodd	Receiving stolen property. Fined $75 I.D. 3 days
Gilbert Dodd	Rape. Committed for trial next sittings of Supreme Court in Darwin in March 1982
Richard Algy	Rape. Committed for trial next sittings of Supreme Court in Darwin in March 1982
Bruce Dodd	Rape. Committed for trial next sittings of Supreme Court in Darwin in March 1982
Alan Douglas	Attempted rape. Committed for trial next sittings of Supreme Court in Darwin in March 1982
Hal Peanut	Aid and abet commission of offence (Rape). Committed for trial next sittings of Supreme Court in Darwin in March 1982
Ross Dodd	Aid and abet commission of offence (Rape). Committed for trial next sittings of Supreme Court in Darwin in March 1982.

Katherine Police District

614 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that the Katherine Police District is never up to establishment strength because of officers on leave or attending training courses and resignations?

2. Are 2-man police stations in the district seldom at establishment strength for the same reasons?

3. If so, will he ensure that the district is staffed at establishment level to enable police services to function at full efficiency?

ANSWER

1. Katherine Police Station is headquarters for No. 3 Division, Northern Command, and as such the establishment at this station includes a relieving component of 6 members who are required to relieve at 9 stations throughout the division.

   Gazetted establishment at Katherine is 1 Sergeant First Class, 6 Sergeants Third Class and 21 Constables, at total of 28 members. This station also has the services of a police aide.

   With 6 members required for relieving duties actual working establishment at Katherine Police Station is therefore 22 members, more than enough to provide efficient service for the population of Katherine. Average working strength at that station for the 12 months ending December 1981 was 20 members or 90% of actual working establishment. This was despite 5 resignations and the necessity for 10 members to attend 7 training courses for a total of 143 days during that period.

   Katherine Police Station is currently 1 Third Class Sergeant under strength. However, this position should be filled after the Third Class Sergeant Promotions Board sits in the first week of March this year.

2. Of 7 2-man stations in the division only 2 were under strength at any time during the 12 months ending December 1981: Mataranka for a period of 2 months and Kalkaringi for a period of 6 months. The former could quickly be assisted from either Maranboy or Katherine should the need arise and the latter in similar circumstances would be assisted by members from Lajamanu.

   Both stations are currently at full strength as are all other 2-man stations in that division.

   No problems have been experienced in providing efficient police services within the division.

   The following table shows actual and gazetted strength at Katherine and all 2-man police stations within No. 3 Division, Northern Command, for the 12 month period ending December 1981:

KATHERINE POLICE STATION AND 2-MAN POLICE STATIONS

No. 3 DIVISION, NORTHERN COMMAND

	1*		2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
1981	G+	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A
JAN	22	19	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
FEB	22	19	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
MAR	22	22	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
APR	22	22	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
MAY	22	20	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
JUN	22	19	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
JUL	22	17	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
AUG	22	19	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
SEP	22	22	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
OCT	22	21	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NOV	22	23	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
DEC	22	17	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2

Average 20

1 - Katherine 3 - Kalkaringi 5 - Maranboy 7 - Ngukurr
2 - Borroloola 4 - Lajamanu 6 - Mataranka 8 - Timber Creek

G - Gazetted establishment. A - Actual establishment.

* Katherine - On 23 June 1981 and 4 January 1982 confirmed with OIC Katherine Police Station that their 'Actual Strength' includes all General Duties.

\+ Gazetted establishment + 6 relief.

3. Police services are functioning efficiently in the Katherine Police District and within the division and will continue to do so.

Interest on Commonwealth Funds to NT

615 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

1. Is interest earned on Commonwealth funds received by the Territory during the time between receipt and expenditure?

2. If so, is such interest used to provide additional housing for low income families, assistance for the Electricity Commission and similar needs?

ANSWER

1. Interest is earned on cash balances held from day to day by Treasury, including any funds received from the Commonwealth. Funds held or invested are not distinguished according to source, since they are the temporary residue of a continuous stream of payments and receipts. Interest is therefore not imputed to particular sources or holdings except in a few instances such as the NT Housing Commission.

2. It follows that interest earnings are not hypothecated to particular types of expenditure but instead are placed in the general funding pool for allocation through the budget to expenditure needs including, as determined by the government from time to time, those identified in the question.

Sale of Government Houses

616 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Are prices for government houses sold to occupants determined on the basis of replacement cost?
2. How many government houses in Katherine have been sold to their occupants?
3. How many new government houses have been built in Katherine to replace those sold and where have they been built?

ANSWER

1. Sale prices of houses sold under the NTPS Staff Sales Scheme are determined at whichever is the greater of (a) the Valuer-General's market valuation; or (b) the average of Valuer-General's market valuation and the Housing Commission's replacement cost.
2. Since 1 July 1978 to end of 1980-81 financial year, the commission had sold 7 houses to tenants in Katherine under the NTPS Staff Sales Scheme. A further 10 houses have been sold to date during the current financial year.
3. Since 1 July 1978, the Housing Commission has built 8 staff houses in Katherine. A further 10 NTPS houses are in current year's program for construction at Katherine East development.

The houses built and those to be built, are to meet demand for rental accommodation, rather than to specifically replace any dwellings that may have been sold.

Katherine Building Inspector

617 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will a building inspector be stationed permanently in Katherine to provide a uniform interpretation of building regulations for builders and prospective builders?

ANSWER

The stationing of a building inspector permanently in Katherine was last reviewed in November 1981 and it was not justified by the volume of work. There is an average of 46 building approvals per year.

One result of the review was an upgrading of service. Inspections have been increased from 1 to 2 a month.

The element in the uniform interpretation of building regulations contributed by building inspectors is the exactitude with which the regulations are applied in the field. Interpretation is the province of the Building Board and its plan examination section. Inspectors for the Katherine area are now being changed at 3-monthly rather than 1-monthly intervals and consistency in inspection standard for the longer period is ensured.

Television Service to Mataranka

620 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of any reasons why televison services have not been made available to residents of Mataranka?

ANSWER

Information obtained from Telecom reveals that the link fed system for a television service to Mataranka was scheduled for the financial year

1981-82. Work is proceeding on schedule and, unless unforeseen circumstances arise, Telecom expects that the necessary equipment will be installed by the middle of April 1982. The television service will commence when the work is completed.

Petrol Issues for Government Vehicles

628 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. When did petrol issues for government vehicles at the 2½ mile depot cease?
2. What company has been given the contract for supplying (a) petrol, and (b) distillate for government vehicles and at what price per litre?
3. Were tenders called for this contract and, if so, (a) how many tenders were received, and (b) what was the price per litre of each tender for (i) petrol, and (ii) distillate?
4. When was the petrol storage and bowser facility at the 2½ mile depot installed?
5. How much did it cost?
6. Which company had the contract to supply fuel to the 2½ mile depot in (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
7. At what price did the company supply (a) petrol, and (b) distillate to the depot in (i) 1979-80, and (ii) 1980-81?

ANSWER

1. 31 December 1981.
2. Since 1 July 1978 the NT government has by arrangement with the Australian government utilised the Australian government contract for the supply of fuel and lubricants. The contractor for this period has been Shell Australia Pty Ltd. The current contract rates for fuel supplied at Darwin (ex-resellers) are:

   super petrol - $0.3341 per litre; standard petrol - $0.3248 per litre; distillate - $0.3280 per litre.

   Contract rates are subject to change due to periodical increases approved by competent statutory authorities.
3. No tenders were called for the above reasons.
4. The petrol storage and bowser facility at the 2½ mile depot was installed in June 1980.
5. The installation cost was borne by BP Australia who owns the bowser and storage tanks. The department leases this facility from BP at a cost of $1,697.18 per annum.
6. Shell Australia Pty Ltd held the Australian government fuel and lubricants contract in 1979-80 and 1980-81 as mentioned in answer 2. above.
7. The contract price for bulk fuel was as follows:

	1979-80	1980-81
Super	$ 0.2375 - $ 0.2852	$ 0.2853 - $ 0.3243
Standard	$ 0.2265 - $ 0.2760	$ 0.2760 - $ 0.3150
Distillate	$ 0.2090 - $ 0.2802	$ 0.2802 - $ 0.3217.

   The prices shown are those in effect at the commencement and close of each financial year. A number of contract amendments are received during the course of each financial year related to price variations.

Territorians Covered by Health Insurance

634 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Of Territorians now exempt from payment of health care charges, (a) how many, and (b) what percentage, have obtained health insurance?

ANSWER

My department has no way of providing the answer to these questions. Exemptions under the 'disadvantaged' persons scheme are handled by the Commonwealth Department of Social Security. Health insurance is provided by privately operated health insurance funds and Medibank Private. No details of persons insured since 1 September 1981 are yet available. Details will be supplied to Commonwealth Department of Health in June 1983 by the health insurance funds.

Foreshore Protection Proposals

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In the light of the minister's recent statement that the government was drawing up foreshore protection proposals for Darwin, can he advise when these proposals will be made public?

ANSWER

The government intends to adopt a scheme whereby there will be additional protections over and above those provided for in the Darwin Town Plan and in the Planning Act to ensure that people can feel much easier than they have been able to in the past about the possibility of development on what has been fairly loosely termed 'foreshores' around Darwin. The proposals are not yet finalised. I hope to be in a position next week to release them publicly. Prior to their formal adoption by government, we will have a period of public exhibition with a view to obtaining comments from the public. It is a matter in which I expect some interest will be taken. I am pleased to accept all representations not only from individuals in the community but from organisations suggesting ways in which we should go about it. I would hope that information will be available next week.

Federal Sales Tax Law

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did he ask both of our CLP federal representatives to vote against the proposed sales tax on essentials of life because of the inequitable burden it will place on Territorians and did he seek an explanation from the Prime Minister as to whether or not our federal representatives were threatened by the Fraser government with a cut in general funding to the Territory if they failed to vote in favour of the sales tax as was suggested in the press by Senator Kilgariff?

ANSWER

I have made representations to quite a considerable number of people on my views in relation to the sales tax legislation. I might say that they are my views as Chief Minister; they are not the views of the government of the Northern Territory. I believe that the federal government has reasons of its own for wishing to spread the burden of tax across the community and those reasons are obviously so that it can afford to give some relief by way of cuts in personal income tax.

Being rather cynical in relation to taxation, my own view is that I have never really noticed that taxation goes down. Some taxes are abolished. We have seen the case in Queensland of the abolition of succession duty. That is a very good selling point for the Queensland government. The Northern Territory has no succession duty so the Territory is in the same position as Queensland. I noticed that, at about the same time as Queensland abolished succession duty, it raised imposts in other areas such as on the renewal of life insurance policies. I have a couple of life insurance policies that I took out when I was a law clerk in Queensland. At the time of the abolition of succession duty in Queensland, I started getting billed $20 a year stamp duty on the renewal of each of these life insurance policies.

Mr Speaker, it is experiences like that that have made me rather cynical about reductions in taxation. Reductions in taxation just cannot occur; there has to be a public acceptance that there will be less demanded of government. If there is less demanded of government, the government structure itself can be reduced. It is arguable whether this is desirable because a reduction in the government structure will, of course, result in a lowering in the number of people employed by the public sector in Australia. The public sector employment

in this country is very considerable. All those things have to be taken into account. I am one of those people who believe that the public should be educated. It will be a lengthy process because, unfortunately, our people have become accustomed to saying that the government should do this or the government should do that or the government should undertake something else. I believe that we should embark consciously on an effort to persuade the people of Australia that they should expect and demand less of their governments. In those circumstances, real reductions in taxation will be possible but not before.

I must say that I think that it has been a failing of every Australian government since the 1930s that it has not been explained to people that the more that they ask for the more they will have to pay. Of course, the present government is desirous of reducing personal income tax which I think we all would like to see but, in order to reduce personal income tax without at the same time cutting back expenditure on government services, there has to be an alternative source of revenue. If there is a reduction in personal income tax, it may be accompanied by an additional sales tax impost which I am told will raise in the order of $300m around this country in the course of a full year. Certainly, I am implacably opposed to any addition to the categories of items that are subject to sales tax, particularly the necessities of life - building materials, clothing and so on - although I believe that a reduction in personal income tax may well follow. It may come this year; it may come next year. However, inexorably, personal income tax will creep back up again.

Apart from educating people to expect less and to ask less of their governments, the only real solution is a total restructuring of our tax system. No government has had the guts to put it like that or to embark on that exercise. There were reports such as the Asprey Report of some years ago. Whatever restructuring of the tax system may come about, one thing that we have to avoid in the future is the opening of possibilities for tax avoidance. I am not going to say tax evasion. Tax evasion must be dealt with by the law and dealt with harshly. There are quite legitimate circumstances under the present laws whereby tax avoidance can be engaged in. I suppose most of us would like to minimise whatever liability we have for income tax. However, it is this that moves me towards a position that I would never have entertained seriously: that of saying that I would accept a flat rate of tax. When I say 'a flat rate of tax', I think that is putting it too simply. I do not think that there can be an across-the-board rate of tax. I believe that we must devise a very simplistic tax system which will remove all chances for tax evasion and tax avoidance.

I have put my views to the Territory members, to the Prime Minister and to other members of the federal government. I hope that they will take my views into account. I believe that there are many other people who have put views forward to them. The matter of how the Territory members of the CLP vote in the federal parliament is a matter for them. Unlike the party of the Leader of the Opposition, my party does not as an organisation dictate to its members how they will vote in divisions of the federal parliament. I am not in a position to dictate to our federal representatives as to how they will vote. I put my views to them and they will make a decision which they consider to be in the best interests of the Northern Territory. There is no doubt a government that is hard pressed for revenue will probably not look sympathetically at people who put forward views that are easy to hold when one does not have to bear the responsibility of balancing the federal budget annually.

Jabiru Hospital

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the position regarding the current building, equipping and chartering of the Jabiru Hospital?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth funded the Northern Territory government for the construction of a community health centre and hospital at Jabiru and that funding was made available some 2 years ago. The construction of that building is due to be completed in the middle of June and operating in July.

There has been some change of circumstances surrounding the hospital since the initial grant. During the initial stages, it was proposed that the Commonwealth would share the cost of operation of that hospital. I have been advised by the federal Minister for Health that the federal government no longer plans to meet any obligation for the operational costs of running the Jabiru hospital. In light of our present financial difficulties, that is just one more burden that we will have to wear and it is one that undoubtedly we will sort out.

There is another criterion that has been raised by the medical people within the Department of Health. They believe that the hospital at Jabiru should not be a full base hospital as was originally proposed. It is a half an hour from Darwin by air and it averages one admission to Darwin per week. Half of the admissions would have to come to Darwin anyway because they could not be dealt with in Jabiru because there would be insufficient facilities. What the medical people are arguing is that, irrespective of what we build there, most people will opt to avail themselves of the new Casuarina Hospital any way. That is a perfectly normal reaction.

In light of these considerations, I propose to visit Jabiru in the next 2 weeks with the member for Tiwi, in whose electorate this hospital stands, to consult with all the groups and, in particular, the companies and unions involved. I do not have any particular view that we should have a hospital if it is not needed or that we should not have one if people really want it. Once I can get the grassroots feeling of the people and the attitude of the community towards paying for the service, then I will be in a much better position to advise the member of the future of the hospital.

Parap Community Health Clinic

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Rumours have been circulating for some time that the Parap Community Health Clinic is to be closed. Can he advise whether that decision has been made and, if not, can he advise when a final decision will be made with respect to the Parap Community Health Clinic?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the rumours that she has heard and I cannot comment on those. But there are plans being considered by the community health section of the Northern Region section of the department. I will give the member a bit of detail surrounding that consideration.

As members are aware, the department is moving away from the Darwin annex totally. In fact, I think it has handed the keys over already to the Department of Transport and Works and we do not have a presence there at all. The future of the community health centre at the annex was something that had to be taken care of and the community health section has been reviewing the boundaries and functions of both the Darwin annex centre and the Parap Community Health Clinic. I have not received a final report on its recommendations but I can advise the House that the annex will be transferring to the MLC building this week and that the future of the Parap centre is still under consideration.

I would be more than happy to receive a representation either personally or in writing from the member for Fannie Bay in whose electorate this facility is stationed. If she has any firm views about the continuance of the Community Health Service in her electorate, I would be pleased to hear those too. Quite a few people have said to me that it would be terrible if the Parap clinic was shifted because there are so many people in the flats who rely on Parap.

My first thought was that, if the situation in the flats is as bad as people say it is, then perhaps we should have rooms in the flats. Again, I would like to discuss that with the honourable member who would have a much better feeling for it than I would.

Nightcliff Dental Clinic

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER FOR HEALTH.

There has been speculation in the press that the Nightcliff Dental Clinic will close. Is that a fact and, if so, by what criteria was this decision reached given that the clinic is used to capacity and charges fees for service?

ANSWER

The honourable member can rest assured that it is not a rumour. The Nightcliff Dental Clinic will be transferring to the new community health facility in the Casuarina Shopping Centre area. There will be a consolidation there of the department's dental services. As well as the Nightcliff unit, the Sanderson unit will also be transferred. They will be combined to operate at the new building in Casuarina. The school dental program, which is currently conducted from the Nightcliff clinic, will be transferred to the Ludmilla Primary School and St Pauls School. This consolidation should provide a better service for the whole of the northern suburbs region. If the honourable member needs any further information, I would be happy to supply it.

Commissioner of Police

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of recent press reports that the Commissioner of Police, Mr McAulay, is about to take up a position interstate, could he advise the truth of those reports?

ANSWER

There have been press reports and speculation over several months that the Northern Territory Commissioner of Police was to be offered, according to one press report, the post of Commissioner of the South Australian Police or, according to other reports, the post of Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police. It is some credit to Mr McAulay that these rumours should circulate. Obviously, it shows that the Northern Territory is very fortunate in the person that it has as Commissioner of Police in that the press, who consider themselves to be intelligent, could print such rumours and give credence to the sound stature that our commissioner has in police circles. It is with some pleasure that I can advise honourable members that Mr McAulay has assured me that he is not entertaining offers received from other parts of Australia or overseas. At one stage, Mr McAulay was being solicited to head the United Nations Police Force. He has assured me that he will be here in the Northern Territory for the foreseeable future. From the point of view of the government, I can only say that I am very pleased to hear that and I hope that he can continue here until his retirement.

House in Brunei for Chief Minister

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister been offered the gift of a house in Brunei by the Brunei government? If so, what does he intend to do with it? The question is asked without malice.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have not heard this rumour myself but it may have circulated in the press whilst I was absent in Jakarta last weekend. I hasten to add that I have received no offer of a free house or a house to purchase from the Indonesian government. I had the pleasure of visiting Brunei with you, Sir, early in 1981. The north coast of Brunei is a very pleasant part of the world. It is an independent sultanate and is very wealthy. I think it has revenues of approximately $2,56b a year. It has a population of about 250,000 people. It is not much bigger than greater Darwin and it only manages to spend about $200m a year on its people. Obviously it has a lot of money to spare. I understand that the ruler of the sultanate uses some of this money in playing polo. I hoped our Minister for Primary Production would get some facility for playing polo so that he could converse with the Sultan over a chukka or two.

Mr Speaker, unfortunately, it is not true that the government of Brunei, or any other government, has offered me a house, free or otherwise, or any other structure. No one in the course of my career has yet offered to me even a used King George IV fiver. I have to disappoint the honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Ti Tree Inquest

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister inquired into criticisms of police practice and procedure made by the coroner following the Ti Tree inquest and, if so, what conclusions has he drawn?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, certainly that is a question to which I adverted when I got a chance to read the finding of the coroner, Mr Gerry Galvin SM, in relation to the unfortunate chapter of events which is known collectively as the 'Ti Tree inquest'. The situation is that the police have taken account of Mr Galvin's comments. The Police Commissioner personally reviewed Mr Galvin's findings. I believe that certain actions had already been taken which might well assist in the future to obviate any problems which do occur. From memory, the matter was raised in the press very early this year and the Police Commissioner wrote a letter to the Managing Editor of the Northern Territory News. I could answer this question by reading this letter. It is a couple of pages long but I think the matter is of some importance and is worth putting in the record:

Dear Sir,

The questions raised in your article following an examination of the publication of Mr Gerry Galvin's findings into what has become known as the 'Ti Tree inquest' fall broadly into 2 categories. The first relates to the general evidence available to Mr Galvin at the time and upon which he decided to commit Constable First Class Jack Clifford for trial on a charge of murder. Quote obviously, Mr Galvin discharged his duties to the best of his abilities and I infer no criticism of him whatsoever in what I subsequently say. But it must be emphasised that Jack Clifford subsequently stood trial and was

exonerated by a jury of his peers. Therefore, any further speculation as tohis guilt or innocence is untenable both on moral and legal grounds. I deplore any backdoor methods to retry Clifford at this time.

The other issues raised relate to the general efficiency of the police investigation. In this context I must draw attention to what Mr Galvin said at page 22 of his findings, and I quote inter alia:

> *I am satisfied that there could be no finding that the police investigation was biased, incompetent or proceeded on the basis of seeking to protect the police officers. It is clear that the investigation was difficult and that there had been a fracas. There had been some 10 witnesses some of whom were adversely affected by alcohol, some severely so. The investigation was done partly at night in a remote area and this added to the difficulty of the investigation.*

Nevertheless, the administration of this force has been aware for some time of deficiency of certain aspects of investigation management due to the type of difficulties alluded to by Mr Galvin. Consequently, a major crime plan has been developed and staff trained for the purpose of better co-ordination of the collection and collation of evidence in serious crimes. The plan has since been implemented and, should an investigation of this type occur in the future, it would be conducted in conformity with these new procedures.

Comments have also been made as to the inadequacy of certain aspects of the forensic investigation and its co-ordination. Coincidentally, the major crime plan adverts to this type of deficiency. Having said that, I am the first to concede that the forensic facilities in the Northern Territory are inadequate, not so much in quality but in sufficiency.

This same situation pertains not only in the Northern Territory but in the whole of Australia. It may be interesting to know that in the case of Victoria, which has arguably the best forensic facilities in Australia, comment was recently made that the prosecution of certain major crimes has been delayed for several years awaiting forensic reports.

The simple fact is that law enforcement agencies are in a dilemma because of the lack of forensic facilities. While one waits for extended periods for the results of complicated forensic tests to come to hand, the quality of other conventional evidence deteriorates due, in some cases, to the failing memory of witnesses. This is a point which Mr Galvin himself made. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that the delays in waiting for forensic evidence to become available may be unproductive because the reports are frequently inconclusive.

In the Ti Tree matter, it appears to me that the evidence would not have been more conclusive even had the forensic examination been more extensive. As something of an aside, I ought to mention that for several months now I have been having discussions with the Chief Minister and the Secretary of the Department of Health with a view to the establishment of a forensic laboratory in the Northern Territory.

Some of the other specific questions raised in your article are difficult to answer without creating press speculation in relation to the charges laid against Clifford. It would be grossly improper to do so, especially as Clifford's innocence has since been clearly established. Nevertheless, I have separated out those issues which can be looked at separately. For example, much has been said about the extent of inquiries into the amount of liquor consumed by certain people taken

into protective custody that night while the police appeared to have ignored clarification of certain discrepancies in relation to the amount of liquor consumed by the 2 officers concerned. I totally reject this criticism. On the one hand, the amount of liquor consumed by the persons apprehended was directly relevant to the lawfulness or otherwise of their apprehension. On the other hand, the consumption of liquor by 2 police officers was irrelevant once it was established that they were in no way affected by liquor.

The only justification for further inquiries in relation to the consumption of beer by the 2 police officers would be if there was any intention on the part of this administration to charge either or both officers with a breach of discipline. I am sure that any reasonably-minded person would agree that to consider minor disciplinary action against a man who subsequently stood trial on a charge of murder for which he was exonerated would be ludicrous. This is also true in relation to considering any other minor breaches of discipline, if any. In any event, the definition of when police officers stationed in remote areas are on or off duty has always been unclear and will remain so in the future.

There have also been suggestions made that the police officers were engaged in an improper patrol. Mr Galvin found that it was not a punitive patrol. In any event, police officers do not need reasons to patrol their districts. It is part of their duty and I would consider them derelict in the performance of these duties if they did not engage in regular peace-keeping patrols.

The question of non-issue of batons has also been raised. For some time now, the effectiveness of issued batons has been under review, especially when considered in contrast to the type of weapons which are frequently used against the police. When a conclusion is reached, the remedy will be provided.

There are 2 further questions which have been raised, the first of which I do not consider particularly relevant to this matter. In regard to police-Aboriginal relationships, I believe that these are generally good. However, there is no doubt the police do not enjoy good relationships with law breakers whether they are Aboriginals or otherwise. I foresee no change.

The question related to customary law is again totally irrelevant to this case but is extremely complex and is currently being studied by a number of learned groups in Australia. I have made appropriate submissions and I do not care to debate them at this stage.

The Commissioner refers to submissions he has made to the Kirby Commission, Mr Speaker.

In conclusion, I would like to say this about Constable Clifford: anyone who had the opportunity to study his demeanour during the traumatic inquest and subsequent trial would have conceded that he is a man of great courage and integrity. He is admired by his fellow members in general and me in particular. I would only hope that, in the light of everything that has happened, his fellow Australians would now adopt their traditional approach in these circumstances; that is, of giving a man a fair go.

I return to the question of forensic facilities and a forensic laboratory. The trend in criminology seems to be to wish to separate forensic facilities from the direct jurisdiction of the police force. I understand that forensic institutes are established for that purpose. My recollection is that

Victoria has such an institute although I am not certain of that. Most Australian police forces have forensic branches. To deal with the collection and collation of evidence at the crime scene, it seems it will be necessary for police forces to maintain at least some forensic skill and strength. When I say that, it really brings me to the nub of the question.

I was concerned that the Northern Territory did not have a sufficiently strong forensic section. I raised this with the Commissioner of Police, with the Solicitor-General and with the Secretary of the Department of Health because all 3 are to some extent involved. The Solicitor-General has to carry the responsibility for prosecutions and in the limited circumstances of the Northern Territory - limited financially and in terms of personnel - it may be that the appropriate place to locate a forensic branch would be in the Department of Health. This might keep it at arm's length from the police force, and avoid what some lawyers apparently believe is a relationship of chumminess growing up between the forensic people attached to the police force and the police with whom they operate on a regular basis. In fact it has transpired that some forensic specialists whose services we have been fortunate enough to acquire have been located within the jurisdiction of the Department of Health. Nevertheless, on a day-to-day basis, sufficient delegation has been given by the Secretary of the Health Department to the Police Commissioner to enable him to issue necessary operational orders so that things will happen quickly.

I want to review the operation of this section in the near future because one of its shining lights has resigned recently. I understand that the reason for resignation, while not necessarily apparent on the face of the resignation, are some degree of frustration with the system. As I see it, it will be many years before the Northern Territory can afford to have its own separate forensic institute. I attend the Police Ministers' Conferences which occur about twice a year. I usually manage to get along once a year or maybe once every 2 years. I am supporting what appears to be a very long-winded effort to establish a national forensic research institute. It may be that, in the short term, it will be necessary for the complete forensic resources of the Northern Territory to be located within the police force. I have few misgivings about this. I believe that our police force is a good one. It may not be everything that we would desire in terms of sophistication but it has one overwhelming virtue: it is a completely clean police force. I do not know of any circumstances in which it has been alleged that the police have attempted to fabricate evidence in prosecuting cases in the Northern Territory. In our circumstances, for the sake of attracting and retaining the right sort of people, we have to locate the forensic resources within the police force for the time being.

I have tried to outline to honourable members the problems with which we are faced at the moment. I do not pretend that my comments have been exhaustive. I wish to give people some idea of what is going on. If anyone is particularly interested, I would be pleased to receive written comments at any time on this subject. I hope that I have answered the honourable member's question.

Artificial Insemination Facilities

Mrs PADGHAM PURICH to MINISTER FOR PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What is the situation regarding artificial insemination facilities extended to primary industry by the Department of Primary Production?

ANSWER

It is about 10 years since artificial insemination was used experimentally on some of the larger stations. Under open-range conditions, the technicians were unable to establish the oestrus cycle of the female bovine. In those days,

2905.824—31

they abandoned the scheme in favour of closer settlement. I believe that new techniques are now available and a subsidy is being proposed for pastoralists for artificial insemination on the smaller landholdings. It involves the payment of some money: about 25% of the actual cost of the process.

Koolpinya Lease

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is it a fact that the government intends to accept part of Koolpinya lease in exchange for granting the Koolpinya management an additional lease? Will he advise the location and the area of land that Koolpinya is to relinquish to the government and the location and area of the new land to be released to Koolpinya?

ANSWER

The matter is under discussion by the government. I do not think that the plans have been finalised. I would suggest that he place his question on notice.

Yipirinya School

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he advise his decision to register or otherwise Yipirinya School in Alice Springs as an independent school under the Education Act?

ANSWER

I propose writing to the Yipirinya School Council this week. It would be less than courteous to that council if I advised my decision prior to communicating with it.

TAA - Special Gove Flight

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

I understand TAA has made approaches to the federal Department of Transport for permission to operate a DC9 flight into Gove on 2 April to enable schoolchildren to return home from boarding schools in central Queensland. Is he able to advise whether or not this has yet been granted?

ANSWER

The question of DC9 flights in particular in and out of Gove is a vexed one. I have been having correspondence with the federal Minister for Transport, Mr Ralph Hunt, on this matter for quite some considerable time. At present, there is a DC9 flight operated by TAA which overflies Gove on its way between Darwin and Cairns. I have asked the Minister for Transport if he would give permission for this flight to land at Gove on each occasion. Before Christmas, I met with the Minister for Transport in Canberra and with his departmental head. The minister indicated to me that matters of air safety - and he categorised this as such - are left to the professional head of his department. Thus, I received short change from the Minister for Transport although I did query why one Ansett and one TAA DC9 were allowed to land in Gove at present. The obvious answer is that it is safe because the 2-airline system operates.

It is quite clear that as many F28s as wish can land and take off in Gove on any day of the week. The minister and his departmental head were quite clear about that. They consider the F28 to be different to the DC9 in that the pilots have a better view out of the windows. I am told that the problem is that there is no control tower at Gove. I have asked the Minister for Transport formally that, if he maintains his objection to DC9s landing in Gove, he should start the construction and manning of a control tower in Gove.

I consider that his objections are ludicrous. If F28s can come and go at will, why shouldn't DC9s or even Jumbos if the airstrip could take them. I cannot see any distinction between one jet aircraft movement. For the minister to tell me that the degree of visibility out of a particular aircraft's cockpit is such that it renders it unsafe for it to land at Gove without a control tower is so much crass nonsense. If the visibility is not sufficient, the aircraft should not be in operation in Australia.

However, I do have some pleasure in announcing that the minister has agreed to allow this school special to land. I see that hopefully as the thin end of the wedge because, if it is safe for this extra plane to land on one occasion - full of school kids - why would it not be safe on another occasion?

Federal Plant Variety Rights Bill

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has he expressed to the federal government his support for that government's Plant Variety Rights Bill currently before parliament and, if so, when and in what form was his support expressed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Northern Territory government has supported the plant variety rights legislation over a considerable period of time. I think it has been before the Australian Agricultural Council on 3 occasions. I cannot remember saying very much about the scheme at the Agricultural Council meeting but the consensus arrangements of council indicated Northern Territory support.

The system of plant variety rights is a system whereby the breeder of a variety is believed to claim ownership of the material. This may or may not involve his charging a fee for others to use this superior plant material. Some 22 countries have some form of plant variety rights and the system is recognised worldwide. The Plant Variety Rights Bill was introduced in the House of Representatives in May 1981, and allowed to lie on the table of the House to include public debate.

At the recent Australian Agricultural Council meeting in Adelaide in February, it was agreed that the legislation should proceed in parliament in accordance with the present draft. The Commonwealth minister has advised, in keeping with the expressed interest of the states, that the Commonwealth has sole responsibility for the funding of the scheme once it becomes operational but that the issue of the plant variety rights is not at all a clearcut case for or against legislation. However, the Northern Territory government still believes that the plant variety rights is in the best interests of local and national agriculture and should be supported.

Emergency Services Heliport in Alice Springs

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

Has he considered the proposal to provide land for an emergency services heliport next door to St John's Ambulance, Telegraph Terrace, Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have very little knowledge of this matter and am advised that the department has been unable to give full consideration to an application which has been received in this regard as there are considerable details required before a decision can be made.

However, it was pointed out that the Sacred Sites Authority's recent registration of 2 trees in the vicinity has complicated the matter anyway.

Regulations to the Education Act

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When are the regulations to the Education Act going to be promulgated?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am unable to give a decisive answer. It certainly did not happen in August as I indicated about last February. I will find out the information for the member. I might add that, in detailed examination of the proposed regulations, it was found that the act may well be deficient in respect to the registration of school councils, particularly if the government and school councils are to get together on financial control of school-based funding. It may well be that greater protection needs to be afforded to school councils by way of the principal legislation rather than by regulations. That is the reason for the delay. I shall take the matter up as soon as I can with my colleagues and come back to this place if that is necessary.

Caretakers for Housing Commission Flats

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I have recently been approached, with regard to positioning caretakers in Carinya flats. Has reconsideration been given to placing caretakers in flats run by the Housing Commission and, if not, can this issue be raised again?

ANSWER

I undertake to have this matter examined again. I am aware that the commission has had caretakers in flats in the past and found the system did not work very well. I understand that there is considerable difficulty in getting the somewhat unique type of person suitable for handling the difficulties and, no doubt, continuous stream of complaints that may well be received by any caretaker. Everyone can only stand so much of such things. However, in conjunction with the Housing Commissions I am having a very close look at the situation in regard to one particular set of flats in Darwin. Perhaps this examination can be extended to other areas such as the flats mentioned by the honourable member for Port Darwin.

Possible Government Land Purchases on New Estates

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the government purchased or does it intend to purchase blocks of land at the North Lakes Country Club Estate and Brinkin and, if so, for what purpose?

ANSWER

I have no details with me as to whether or not the government proposes to purchase land at the North Lakes Country Club Estate.

Plenty Highway Reconstruction

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will construction commence on the Plenty Highway utilising the $700,000 recently announced by the minister? Will this construction include that allocation of funds already announced in the 1981-82 budget?

ANSWER

The continuation of sealing of the Plenty Highway is an ongoing project and $700,000 was allocated in the 1981-82 capital works program. Work is to commence shortly. I am seeking a further $700,000 from my colleagues for continuation of that program next year.

UN Convention on Discrimination against Women

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

What stage has been reached in the consultations being held between the Australian and Northern Territory governments regarding the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and in what areas, if any, does the Northern Territory government have reservations about the convention?

ANSWER

It is very pleasing that the honourable member for Nightcliff has asked me this question. I intended to raise this matter in general business today in the course of debate on a certain bill. I would prefer to give a detailed answer to this if the honourable member will place the question on notice. However, I will attempt to answer it as best I can at the present time.

My recollection is that, at the standing committee meetings of the Attorneys-General where this matter is being dealt with, the Northern Territory has not expressed any reservations. I do not attend all of these meetings, Mr Speaker. There are 3 or 4 meetings of the standing committee every year, and usually I only manage to get to 1 or 2 a year. However, to the best of my knowledge, the department has not sought approval from me to express reservations and therefore I do not think that we have expressed any reservations to the particular provisions of the convention. We dealt with part of it at the standing committee meeting at Queenstown in New Zealand recently. I think that we are quite substantially through it. My recollection is that the method of dealing with it is to take the convention clause by clause. I think it has been ratified by the Commonwealth government although I cannot say that for certain. The convention really affects the laws of the states and the Territory more than those of the Commonwealth. The situation is that each particular clause has to be examined in the light of what effect it would have on any particular law of the states or a territory, and remedial action, if such is necessary in any particular case, has to be instigated.

To the best of my knowledge and recollection, the Northern Territory is certainly not throwing any hurdles in the way of the early resolution of this matter. I shall obtain further details for the honourable member if she will be good enough to place the question on notice.

Primary Industry Assistance to Sarawak

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he advise what assistance, if any, will be offered to the government of Sarawak in the field of primary industry?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has had a policy of assistance and closer cooperation with the South-east Asian nations over a considerable period. We have in the past extended professional services to Indonesia and Malaysia in the form of veterinarians working on foot and mouth eradication programs. We have developed a very close friendship with South-east Asia over the period since self-government.

In January this year, following our visit to Sarawak in October 1981, members of the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation visited Darwin and the Northern Territory. They were here to discuss their own development plans in respect of retail meat production in their state. They looked at cattle stations and were generally guided by officials of the Northern Territory government. As a result of their visit and a request for further technical assistance by the Chairman of the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation, the Northern Territory government has agreed to provide technical assistance in the form of one qualified official to stay in Sarawak for 6 months to assist the Sarawak government to produce plans for retail meat and processed meat introduction. We look forward to our continued relationship with this region and we see it as a great benefit to the Northern Territory.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister announced his intention in the August sittings that a new Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill would be introduced in the next or following sittings. When does he now anticipate introduction of this new legislation?

ANSWER

This sittings.

Liquor Legislation

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER FOR HEALTH

My question concerns the Liquor Amendment Bill and Summary Offences Amendment Bill presently before this Assembly. Has the Liquor Commission or any other government instrumentality to his knowledge prepared a map of Darwin showing the licensed outlets and the areas of Darwin which will be affected if the proposed bills come into effect? If so, would be made available to the Assembly that information prior to the committee stage of the bills?

ANSWER

I am of the view that there is a map. It has been some months since I have seen it. It was drawn up by the committee that reviewed the legislation in the first place. I will endeavour to obtain copies of the map and have them presented to the Assembly today. If the maps cannot be made available in time, I still propose to proceed with amendments this afternoon and then provide the maps as soon as possible to the member.

Nhulunbuy - Year 7 Students

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will Nhulunbuy remain the only town in the Northern Territory where Year 7 students are forced to go to high school?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not think the member is correct. That occurs in another centre that you ought to be fairly familiar with, Sir, and in Tennant Creek although now there is a primary school and high school as separate entities in the latter town. In those centres, it has been necessary to have Year 7 children attend high school although the government has adopted a policy that that will not generally be the case. I suppose that 30% of parents would disagree with that but the other 70% would oppose the idea of Year 7 students going into high school. In the case of Nhulunbuy High School, it is a matter for constant review.

Satellite Programs for Outback Communities

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the current position regarding satellite programs for outback communities bearing in mind Intelsat 4 and its waining working life, the coming into operation of Intelsat 4A in October, the Indonesian satellite Palapa and the wholely Australian-owned domestic satellite coming into operation in 1985?

ANSWER

The international satellites Intelsat 4 and Intelsat 4A are owned and operated by an international consortium. It is possible to pick up ABC television signals via Intelsat 4 using a specially designed earth station placed in the area of the satellite's footprint. When Intelsat 4A is launched, the position of the footprint will change and there may also be a change in signal strength which could affect television reception. It may also be possible to pick up television signals from the Indonesian satellite Palapa with suitable earth station equipment. The domestic satellite, Aussat, should provide a full range of communications services to all areas of Australia when it is launched in 1985.

Flagpole at Sanderson Clinic

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In these days of austerity, why was a flagpole erected outside the Sanderson Health Clinic last week at a cost exceeding $2000 when, in a few months time, the Sanderson clinic will be moving to new accommodation opposite Casuarina shopping centre?

ANSWER

The short answer would be poor communication. It has been no secret for some months now that the Sanderson centre would be vacated and the clinic moved to Casuarina. The establishment of flagpoles at government buildings throughout the Northern Territory is a matter between the Department of Transport and Works and the Department of the Chief Minister. If this expenditure has been incurred, it can only be put down to poor communication.

Liquor Legislation

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has he considered an amendment which would allow the consumption of liquor in a public place within 2km of premises licensed when the licence was not operating? I hope I have made my question quite clear.

Mr Speaker, that was about as clear as mud. Can I offer an invitation to the honourable member to join with the Liquor Commission officers during the lunch break, or at some other convenient time, to go over the problem that she is raising? It might be more fruitful than passing it backwards and forwards here.

Trees Provided by Conservation Commission

Mr D. W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

How many trees has the Conservation Commission planted or given away since 1978?

ANSWER

The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission commenced tree planting and the giving of trees for planting programs on 1 July 1978 or thereabouts. This program was subsequently taken over by the Conservation Commission which is continuing with it. Some 500,000 trees have been planted or given away from the Darwin nurseries of the Conservation Commission, and from its Alice Springs nurseries 200,000 trees have been planted or given away. Honourable members will probably be surprised at the numbers of those trees: 700,000 in total. There are some signs of improvement throughout the Territory as a result of the very fine work of the Conservation Commission and of the local councils in their various areas. I believe the program is a worthwhile one and the Conservation Commission will be continuing its tree planting efforts throughout the Territory.

We have a 3-stage program to upgrade the Botanical Gardens. The first stage of that program is already under way. There is a 3-year or 5-year plan in respect of Darwin. Funds were given to Alice Springs council and to the councils of Tennant Creek and Katherine this and last year to assist them in urban beautification proposals. I believe that, whilst an enormous amount of work has obviously been done, there is still considerably more work to be done. But those 700,000 trees is an indication of the extraordinary effort that is being put into this work by the Conservation Commission and the quite large sums being allocated annually by this government to these very worthwhile projects.

Mudginberri Station Buffalo Export Operation

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Did he agree to provide land for the manager of Mudginberri Station to assist that person in developing a buffalo export operation involving 1000 head of buffalo? Was part of the arrangement the sale of buffalo to Beatrice Hill Research Station for a fifth of their market value and did he fail to honour his commitment to provide the land causing this project to be abandoned?

ANSWER

No promises have been made to anybody to give him land to set up a buffalo farm. If an application has been made, it has probably been made through the proper channels and it will come before the government in due course.

NTEC Power at Newcastle Waters Station

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Is it a fact that the Northern Territory Electricity Commission is to install an electricity generator set at Newcastle Waters Station and, if so, what is the justification for installing a public power supply to a community the size of that at Newcastle Waters Station?

ANSWER

I do not have details of this matter to hand. I will advise the member in due course.

RAAF Noise Level Demonstrations

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

During the recent Parliamentary Public Works Committee hearings on the RAAF Stage 1 works associated with the stationing of a Tactical Fighter Squadron at the RAAF Base in Darwin, the question of noise levels was raised and both the council and the Northern Territory government made submissions on the noise levels. At that time, the Defence Department witness stated that it could arrange for appropriate demonstrations to demonstrate those noise levels. Is the Chief Minister aware of those proposals and, if so, has a date been set for such a demonstration to be held?

ANSWER

I understand from the Commanding Officer at the RAAF base here in Darwin that tests will be held in the near future. In fact, the Parliamentary Public Works Committee suggested 2 tests should be conducted: for any untoward effects at night and for noise levels during the day. The RAAF has advised that a Mirage aircraft will be in Darwin the evening of 23 March 1982 for assessment of any unusual effects during the evening, and on the morning of Wednesday 24 March 1982 for the purpose of demonstrating the noise levels associated with the proposed engine test facility.

Contrary to the interjection by the member for Fannie Bay, I instructed the Director-General, who put the government's submission to the Parliamentary Works Committee, to raise the matter of the engine test facility and the associated noise there from. Of course, I have raised this myself with RAAF authorities. The demonstration will allow for the scientific measurement and recording of noise levels as well as for a subjective assessment by the public. It is understood that the RAAF will be making a public announcement on this matter so that the public is fully informed that the demonstrations are taking place.

I understand that the RAAF will be extending an invitation to all members of this House and Aldermen of the Darwin city council to attend the demonstrations on the Wednesday morning. Unfortunately, I will be precluded from attending these demonstrations myself by a prior commitment to attend a field day at the Douglas-Daly farms. I suppose other members will be caught in that clash of interests. No doubt, observers can be sent by those people who are interested and I understand that the Minister for Transport and Works will be on hand to represent the government.

NTDC Loans for Farm Machinery

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Farmers needing loans from the Northern Territory Development Corporation for farm machinery can obtain the necessary money only through a mortgage or a second mortgage on their farm. Could he explain why this mortgage procedure is necessary and why the NTDC refuses to grant loans on the normal basis of a bill of sale over machinery?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the procedures that the member outlined. I will look into the matter and let him know later today.

Closure of Causeways in Central Australia

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise who has the legal authority to close causeways in Central Australia and on what basis can roads and causeways be closed, particularly during floods?

ANSWER

Power to temporarily close roads outside a municipality are vested in the Minister for Transport and Works. The circumstances and procedures by which roads may be temporarily closed are contained in section 11 of the Control of Roads Act. In Central Australia we give the area manager for Alice Springs the power of delegation to temporarily close a road in a municipal area to the local corporation under section 313 of the Local Government Act. Powers to permanently close a road are vested in the Executive Council. If a causeway forms part of a road, then the Control of Roads Act or Local Government Act equally applies.

Katherine Hospital

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. What plans has he for Katherine Hospital to become a regional centre?

ANSWER

As far as is practicable, it would be the department's wish to see the delivery of health services to the people of Katherine come from Katherine as a regional base. Katherine is geographically ideally situated to provide several services that the department could offer. Let me say that the establishment of the Aboriginal Health Workers Training School in Katherine, as distinct from Darwin, would have a great deal of benefit for the people going to it, the department and the hospital. Having the school in a hospital of that size would also enable the students going to the school to have practical hospital experience in some of the things that they will be confronted with in the bush. That is something that is lacking in the Health Workers Training Program at the moment.

Members are already aware that the transfer of the leprosy unit to Katherine is imminent and that there will be some very substantial side benefits to that. To start with, the pathology laboratory will go from East Arm to Katherine and that will enable us to provide for the first time a very substantial pathology service at the Katherine Hospital. The leprosy pathological unit is quite a substantial one and will have a lot of spin-off benefits to the centre as a whole.

Also, the Department is very keen to see the microsurgery unit which is now operating out of the leprosarium at East Arm transferred to Katherine because there is a great deal of work that can be done in that area in the provision of inner ear and middle ear surgery that is not currently being undertaken. People working in the microsurgery unit would be well-qualified and equipped to be involved in this particular ear surgery. This is a new development.

Because Katherine is a hospital that is much cheaper to run, there are many patients from outlying areas who could be as well accommodated in Katherine as they could be in Darwin Hospital. The Darwin costs are about exactly double Katherine costs. If a mother in the bush has a baby that needs 3 or 4 weeks in hospital because it is run down, that sort of service could be provided at Katherine.

I see a great number of services coming to Katherine as a result of some of the department's new initiatives. The department is looking at what options it has to improve its service to the people and to provide a better service for the same amount of money.

Compulsory Destocking

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has the minister received recommendations from his department that compulsory destocking should be carried out on certain properties in the Territory as part of the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaign following recent legislation enacted in this Assembly? If so, has he declined to give ministerial authority for destocking to proceed?

ANSWER

The question of destocking was raised extensively during conferences with pastoral industry representatives during 1981. The very words alarm me quite considerably because of the cost involved, but that is not to say that the eradication program which has been proceeding for quite some years should not proceed. The question revolves around this destocking question. I am reluctant to use this as any formal policy. The day will come when some destocking will have to be undertaken. The word 'destocking' puts fear into the hearts of pastoralists. With so many feasibility problems in the running of these properties - inflation, high costs and costs that cannot be passed onto the consumer - it is obvious that station owners are very concerned about the future. Mr Speaker, I will be making a statement later this afternoon on the current status of the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication program.

Vacant Land Behind Millner Primary School

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What does the Department of Education intend to do with the vacant piece of land under its control at the rear of Millner School?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the lot referred to is lot 8643. It is a piece of land that was set aside in 1979 for further educational purposes. The Department of Education is hard-pressed to provide educational services much less look after vacant Crown land. As a result, the land has become somewhat unkempt. Local people in the area have expressed concern about the hazard of snakes and so on. I notice that Millner Primary School students are here at the moment so no doubt they have some interest in the matter raised by the member for Millner.

At present, the land is zoned open space 1, public recreational use. It would be the government's intention that it remain so zoned. It is quite obvious that it is not required for educational purposes. I intend to write to the Department of Lands indicating that lot 8634 is no longer required by the Department of Education and should be returned to it for the purpose for which it is zoned.

Incidentally, there is a Millner Development Plan and I understand the recommendation to the Planning Authority is that the piece of land remain available to the public which, of course, includes students of Millner Primary School and residents generally, particularly in the northern suburbs. Upon its return to the pool of vacant Crown land, lot 8634 will remain for the purposes of the public. That means that its present untidy state will have to be addressed with the intention to maintain it properly as open space. One would hope in the very near future to see an improvement in the condition of that land.

Effect of Palmerston on Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Could he assure me that the building and development of Palmerston will in no way be detrimental to the water supply and turning off of available subdivided land in the rural area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I assume that the honourable member's question on water supply and availability of land are connected, because I cannot see any way in which the development of Palmerston would affect the ability of private landowners in the rural area to subdivide land. To the extent that subdividers may be required to supply water reticulation, it is true that there could be an effect if Palmerston was taking an undue share of resources in the area. I am advised that the Palmerston development water supply will be taken from the trunk delivery mains which supply water from the Darwin River Dam to Darwin. The information I have from the Department of Transport and Works is that this will not affect the amount of water which would be available for subdivisions in the Darwin rural area.

Bridge and Carriageway at Mouth of Rapid Creek

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is planning and survey presently under way regarding a possible bridge across the mouth of Rapid Creek and a carriageway to take people from Brinkin into the city and, if so, what level of carriageway is anticipated?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the proposal to bridge the Rapid Creek area was first put forward in the form of a cycle path or bridge. The estimated cost was in the order of about $600,000. At the time, I mentioned to the department that if $600,000 was to be spent on a cycle bridge perhaps a proposal should be examined to bridge the Rapid Creek estuary with a two-lane vehicle causeway - subject, of course, to environmental recommendation, Cabinet approval on financing, and a whole host of other things pertinent to such a development. It was really only an idea; it is not a firm proposal. Government is unaware of it. It was just an idea that I put forward to my department to have a look at. If there is any feasibility to it, then I will put a proposal to Cabinet and the people.

Alice Springs Meeting of Department of Health Executives

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What was the purpose of a meeting at the Alice Springs Casino on Saturday 6 March between the minister, the secretary of his department and some officers of his department from Elliott and Tennant Creek? How did they travel to the meeting and how was the meeting financed?

ANSWER

The meeting that was held on the weekend was1 of 3 held last weekend in Alice Springs. It was a meeting of departmental officers and myself. The assistant secretary, southern division, the rural medical officer from the Barkly region, the 2 nursing sisters from Elliott, the area matron for the Barkly region, Dr Fleming and myself had a meeting for over 3 hours on the way in which health care is to be delivered to people in the remote areas in that region. Let there be no doubt that consultation and management decisions coming from within the department are on the basis of the best possible service that can be provided and that consultation is going right through to the grassroots level. When I have a meeting of that nature

I prefer everybody to be there so there is no misunderstanding about who said what. Because of the concerns of the sisters in Elliott and the rural matron, who has difficulties at the moment providing staff to remote areas, it was absolutely essential that the meeting be held as soon as possible. Had it not been held last Saturday, it would not have been possible for a further 2 or 3 weeks. At my request, Dr Fleming arranged for the staff to be brought to Alice Springs which was the most convenient point for all people concerned. I add that 2 of the other meetings that were held in that town involved people from interstate and one person from overseas who came to Alice For that meeting on that day. While I would have preferred to have avoided the expense of meeting, the most important thing was to set the foundations and ensure everybody in the department was aware of what is to be done concerning the new programs for the delivery of health care in remote areas.

It is my intention to work right through the Northern Territory, to go to every place where we deliver health care, to talk to everybody involved and, where necessary, to take with me the rural managers and departmental officers concerned in providing support for those people in the rural areas. I have no false illusions that many people in the rural areas feel abandoned from time to time. That is something we will change. I am happy to work at it for the rest of my period in this job. I have no intention of restricting my travel to the remote areas just because there is a cost involved. My experience is that, by attempting to save an air fare or not to go for another reason, a few bob might be saved on the one hand but, on the other hand, hundreds of thousands of dollars may go down the drain. I like to see where the money is going.

Water Supply Under Essential Services Program

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What population level is required for the installation of a water supply under the essential services program? Has such a water supply been installed at Newcastle Waters Station and is it being maintained by the government under the essential services program?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

The palm leaf beetle continues on its path of destruction. Are we any closer to approving the introduction of a wasp to the Darwin area to control the palm leaf beetle?

ANSWER

I am informed that eradication of the palm leaf beetle by spraying insecticides has ceased largely because of the illegal planting of palms outside the quarantine area. Infestations were confirmed in the Nightcliff area for the first time in September. Approval has been received from the relevant authorities for the erection of warning signs. An application has been made to Commonwealth Quarantine to import the parasite Tetrastichus brontispae for laboratory testing. Further information on the host specificity of the parasite was requested and this has been sent to it. This means that the parasite works only on the palm leaf beetle and no other. The Director-General of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries has confirmed his organisation's preparedness to receive under quanrantine and

safety test the palm leaf beetle parasites. The parasites will be held in Queensland and bred up to a population level for eradication purposes. This is expected to take 12 months.

The task force at its last meeting on 23 February agreed to send Mr Ted Fenner to Western American Samoa to study the parasite in its natural habitat. A 10-day visit has been organised from 21 April 1982.

Funding for Teacher Aides on Aboriginal Outstations

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has any of the $100,000-plus that has been provided to the Department of Education by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for the employment of teacher aides on Aboriginal outstations been utilised?

ANSWER

The figure is $125,000 and the answer is yes.

Supply of Services to Commercial Establishments

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What consideration does he give to the supply of services such as roads and water to commercial establishments in the interests of Territory development?

ANSWER

Every reasonable consideration is given to the supply of water services to commercial establishments and any proposal dealing with water supplies would be treated on its own merits. With regard to the upgrading of roads, we have to be careful because, whilst commercial establishments are moving out to the rural area, the money supply for the construction of roads is not inexhaustible. We need to have our priorities in order and ensure that main traffic roads are given priority over isolated instances where industry in an area might be established.

NTDC Loans to Nurserymen

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Given that a nurseryman's assets are in living plants, why did the NTDC refuse the normal lending procedure of a crop lien for farmers wanting to borrow money?

ANSWER

I will find out and let the member know.

Opinion Survey on Poker Machines

Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

Why is the government not prepared to provide the Assembly with details of an opinion survey about poker machines in clubs since it has been prepared to release the same details about poker machines in casinos?

ANSWER

It seems to me that the opposition has not got the message. This matter was raised before. The government said that the study was a confidential document. It was wideranging on the subject of gaming throughout the Territory. The information is in-house information and will not be released.

We have said that many times. The opposition can save its breath and the House's time by not bothering to ask again.

Solar Power for Yulara Tourist Village

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the House the current status of the solar power project proposed for the Yulara Tourist Village in Central Australia?

ANSWER

In fairness to the member, I should say that there is a great deal of behind-the-scenes work going on with this project at the moment. I think that it would be more appropriate if the question were put on notice.

Boat Ramp at Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Does the government intend to make good an undertaking to construct a boat ramp adjacent to the Nhulunbuy township?

ANSWER

If it is a commitment of the government, of course it would. I would need to check it out exactly. I would certainly be happy to advise him later in the sittings.

Relocation of Department of Mines and Energy in Tennant Creek

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the Tennant Creek section of the Department of Mines and Energy been relocated from the government office block to privately-owned premises and, if so, what is the reason for the move and what is the cost of the new accommodation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no knowledge of any move.

Proposed Entrance to new Airport Terminal

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In response to a question on notice, he stated that the proposed entrance to the new airport terminal would leave McMillans Road between Rapid Creek and Rapid Creek Road. What plans, if any, are there to upgrade McMillans Road and Rapid Creek Road as a result of this decision?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Dental Act

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the Dental Act been reviewed as yet and, if it has been reviewed, when are we likely to see legislation before this Assembly?

ANSWER

This is more commonly known as the 'Tooth Fairies Act'. I am happy to advise the House that the Dental Act is ready to come before the House. There

has been a last-minute hitch in consultation with the dental fraternity in the Northern Territory. I hope to introduce the bill in the next session.

Yulara Tourist Village

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he give a report to the Assembly on the progress of negotiations for the development of Yulara Tourist Village?

ANSWER

I could give a brief report this morning on negotiations proceeding for the development of Yulara Tourist Village. I can certainly assure members that negotiations are well in hand and it is hoped that work will commence at the Yulara site within 2 months or so. That is subject to satisfactory documentation in relation to the funding arrangements and all the other legal niceties that must precede the embarkation of a project involving as it does the eventual commitment by the government to the expenditure of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money. I should make it clear that, when I say the 'expenditure of taxpayers' money', that is a contingent commitment because it is proposed at the outset that the total project be funded from private sources and the government will have what amounts to an option to purchase those facilities within the project that are in fact government facilities, such as police stations. For the first 5 or 10 years, the government will leave those facilities.

The government will be giving a guarantee of performance of the terms of the loan. In due course, I have no doubt that full details of these transactions, subject to the approval of the various lenders, will be made public knowledge. I do issue that caveat, Mr Speaker. I am quite prepared to disclose anything in relation to the Yulara project because I think that the Territory government and the Territory itself should be fairly pleased that it has been able to gain national interest in this project and to get it carried out on what amounts to a similar arrangement to the New South Wales government's funding of the Eraring Power-station. Whether the bankers and the various financial institutions who are involved wish wideranging publicity to be given to the various details, I do not know. I think it would probably be better if I gave a detailed statement to the Assembly at the next sittings because I believe that I will have many more facts to report on at that stage. At this stage, negotiations, to cut it short, are proceeding. There is every sign that they will be concluded shortly and every expectation that work will commence within 2 months or so.

Child Health Unit in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the future of the Child Health Unit next door to the council chambers in Alice Springs been decided and are there any plans to establish a child health unit on the East Side.

ANSWER

I assume the honourable member is referring to the Child Health Unit on the council grounds in Alice Springs. About a year and a half ago, I received a representation from His Worship the Mayor saying that our health centre was on their patch and it looks pretty dreadful compared to the new corporation complex we have just built. He asked us to move out and push it over. I put it to him that, if he could provide free space for the health centre in the new corporation buildings, that might be a possibility. He

did not warm to that at all. He felt that there should be some sort of remuneration. I was not quite sure of the basis of his thinking. It seemed all right for us to accommodate him but it was not all right for him to accommodate us. I followed the matter up with the department. It turns out that the block on which the health centre stands is a special purpose lease held by the department. In fact, we are the owners of the building. We inherited the building and have been operating it for many years as a community health centre and a child clinic.

There are several aspects of the building that are being reviewed by the Department of Health in Alice Springs. It was built in 1956 and the complexion of Alice Springs has changed very considerably over the years. There is a review now as to whether the building is ideally situated for the services that we wish to provide. If it is not ideally situated, the department will look at alternative sites. One of the considerations has been to try to obtain rooms in some of the education facilities on the east side if that was acceptable to the Department of Education and the minister who is also from Alice Springs and has an understanding of the problem.

The review on the distribution of community health and infant health services in Alice Springs will probably continue for some months. Where possible, we will try to accommodate the council. If it is absolutely essential that we stay in the present premises, it would not be unreasonable that, in the next year, we should make an effort to make that building more attractive in order to fit in with the decor of the new council complex. If the member wishes, I would be happy to provide him with a departmental briefing on the issues.

Assistance to External Students

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does the Education Department have any plans to assist external students with compulsory residential school costs at southern universities? For example, a University in New England requires Batchelors of Letters to attend 2 residential periods during each year?

ANSWER

The matter is somewhat complicated. I certainly undertake to examine the matter and advise the member later. The Commonwealth government has retained the responsibility of assistance to tertiary students. No state provides the type of help which the honourable member refers to. The Commonwealth in its subventions to the states does not make allowance for those sorts of matters. Since the introduction of the Territory Education Act, the Commonwealth has retained unto itself that responsibility and we are simply not funded to pick up these Commonwealth responsibilities.

Compensation for Assistance to Police in Rural Areas

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What consideration is given to country people receiving compensation for services in kind that they extend to the police in the performance of their duties?

ANSWER

Each particular case has to be considered on its merits. The consideration to be given to compensate for assistance that country people afford to police is something that has to be looked at each time assistance is extended.

I believe that police have a pretty good relationship with most country people. There is a degree of assistance rendered to police by country people in the performance of their duties. At the same time, country prople appreciate the services of the police, or at least you, Sir, have told me on several occasions that they do. I think this matter has never really produced any great difficulties. There have been 1 or 2 cases where people have attempted to get the police to meet the account for certain services in which they engaged themselves, believing them to be necessary for the proper enforcement of the law. There has been disputation over those matters but, by and large, I believe the relationship is a good one and the police do everything they can to extend every consideration.

Pensioners' Air Fare Scheme Provisions

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the department been able to amend arrangements for the pensioners' air fare scheme to remove the need for pensioners to pay the full amount of the fare before receiving the government subsidy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the matter is under consideration.

ADMA Marketing Strategy and Mung Beans

Mr. B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has ADMA yet established firm export markets for mung beans and what progress is being made with ADMA marketing strategy generally?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would relish the thought of the Chairman of ADMA answering the question because it would keep the Leader of the Opposition occupied for about 2 days. I have no specific answer to his question but, if he puts it on notice, I will endeavour to get a reply for him.

Control of Salvinia Molesta

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is salvinia molesta a problem in Northern Territory waterways and, if so, are there any plans to attack it with the Brazilian weevil cyrtabagaus singularis hastache which was so successful in the control of salvinia in Lake Moondarra via Mt Isa?

ANSWER

I will have trouble pronouncing the name of this weevil. Salvinia is a problem in Northern Territory waterways. I refer the member for Alice Springs to a press release that was issued by the department on 1 March regarding the introduction of the weevil he has just mentioned. The release stated:

> *Salvinia is a free-floating water fern which was dispatched around the world as decoration for aquaria and ornamental fish ponds. According to the Department of Primary Production weeds agronomist, Mr John Gillette, salvinia's explosive growth and lack of natural predators make it a serious menace in Northern Territory waterways. The weed has been growing rapidly in the Nhulunbuy town lagoon since 1976. Chemical and mechanical control methods have not been successful. The Department of Primary Production has started a biological control program aimed at total eradication of the weed. Mr Gillette says that the answer to the*

problem may be the small weevil. The weevil has already been used with spectacular results on Lake Moondarra near Mt Isa. The weed on Lake Moondarra was wiped out in 1 year after the weevil was released. Over that year, weevils munched through an estimated 50,000 tonne of salvinia. Adult weevils and their larvae actually reduced the weed to a soft pulp which sinks and decomposes. Mr Gillette said that the DPP released 850 weevils plus a big supply of salvinia into the Nhulunbuy lagoon last November. The extra salvinia was put in to give weevils enough food to multiply and fill the lagoon during the wet season. The first monitoring survey will take place early in April. This will tell weeds agronomists if the new line of attack is meeting with the success anticipated by the Department of Primary Production.

Alice Springs Meetings of Department of Health Executives

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer once more to last weekend's meetings. Given that the meetings were held in Alice Springs Casino rather than the hospital, and given that so many officers had to fly so far to attend the meetings, and given that the southern region of his department has been fronted with a bill for entertainment for the meetings, were the meetings cost-effective?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member made certain statements there that I do not have access to. I understand that, if the officers went to Alice Springs, they would be accommodated by the department or paid a travel allowance. That is what happens normally. If there are any extraneous expenses on top of that, I will take the matter up with the secretary of the department who organised the transport and accommodation. The honourable member may not be aware of it but I do not worry about the organisation of travel arrangements within the department; it is left to the department. I can say that the meal and accommodation and expenses that I had in Alice Springs were within my own travelling entitlements. I did not have any frills on the side. If the member is suggesting that we provide petty cash for everybody to play a few tables, then I think that we had better have a look at that too. I think the member is getting a little carried away with the whole thing and I can assure him that, from time to time, there will be a need to bring officers of the department in the rural areas to the main centres. It is happening every day with meetings of this nature. On this particular occasion, I stayed at the casino. The venue for this meeting was set around the hospital swimming pool and that was cancelled 10 minutes before the meeting because of the impending rain. If it was held at the casino and caused him some embarrassment, I am sorry.

Golden Staph at Casuarina Hospital

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is being done to contain the spread of golden staph at Casuarina Hospital?

ANSWER

I would like that question placed on notice.

Relocation of Police Regional Centre

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he supply the reasons why the Police Department moved its regional centre from Nhulunbuy to Jabiru?

ANSWER

I do not have details that would enable me to provide a good and sufficient answer to that question. I can say that, basically, I leave the organisation and administration of the police force to the Police Commissioner. I have spent a great deal of time in this Chamber being lectured by members opposite that that is the proper course for elected officials to adopt. Nevertheless, since elected officials bear the responsibility, I think they should have some say in what they are expected to bear the responsibility for. I can certainly see that there should be no political interference with public service appointments and I heartily endorse that tenet. As to the administration of departments, I think that politicians responsible for those departments should have a voice in the proposals.

However, such is my confidence in the Police Commissioner that I leave the ordering of the police force very largely to him. He did mention to me that he was proposing to move the headquarters of the police district in question from Nhulunbuy to Jabiru. The reasons that I recall him giving me were that the district extends even to the west of Darwin, and Nhulunbuy, unfortunately, is not accessible by road or by any other means other than by air. Quite an extensive police complex is being established at Jabiru. From the commissioner's point of view, it is more central to that district, more accessible to the people operating in that district and the facilities at Jabiru will be more modern and provide a better situation for the administration of the district.

I would not think that it would affect the police strength at Nhulunbuy to any significant degree. It would mean the transfer of the officer in charge of the district to Jabiru but the police strength at Nhulunbuy would remain the same. From the number of court proceedings that take place in Nhulunbuy, the town could be presently considered as being over-policed. However, there are no proposals that I know of to reduce the police strength there.

Rural Roads Conference

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise the House when and where the next Rural Roads Conference will be held?

ANSWER

It will be held in Tennant Creek on 25 March.

Bilingual Program in Aboriginal Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

The bilingual program in 4 Aboriginal schools was under evaluation last year and a report was expected to be ready for presentation to the accreditation panel in 1982. Has this occurred and have the 4 schools been accredited?

ANSWER

A program of accreditation has been going on for quite some time. The most successful bilingual program to date has been that at Yirrkala. It is worth pointing out that the panel came to the conclusion that, whilst there was a significant improvement in the performance of particularly that school, nonetheless the 2 primary objectives, literacy and numeracy, were not achieved to the level that the panel would like. However, I certainly saw fit to give interim accreditation to the program at Yirrkala for a 2-year period. At the end of that 2-year period, the matter will be further reviewed and hopefully lead to formal accreditation of the program. The other schools where the program is being conducted will also be under review during that period.

Licensing of Mortgage and Insurance Brokers

Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

Has the government made a decision regarding the licensing of insurance and mortgage brokers?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has not made a decision on the licensing of insurance brokers yet. We will have to have further discussions with members from the industry on it. However, to date no decision has been taken on whether or not to proceed with legislation on this matter.

Erection of Road Signs in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he give me details about the program for distribution of road signs in the rural area.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at the moment, the Department of Transport and Works is engaged in erecting a series of guide and regulatory signs in the rural area. I believe that the program is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

Circular Concerning Health Matters in Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

He would recall that at last sittings objections were voiced in this Assembly about a certain circular issued by the Department of Education concerning health matters involving children being sent home without treatment. I understand the circular was withdrawn. Could he inform the Assembly what is happening now?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the circular was withdrawn. I cannot give him information on the exact position at present. I thank him for the question. It is something that I needed a reminder on and I will follow it up.

Assessment of Sales Tax Rebate Program

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Has an assessment of the impact of the government's sales tax rebate program been undertaken and, if so, will he make copies of the assessment available to members of the Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not quite sure what the honourable member means by an assessment of the program. The government has not had any reaction from its initiatives to provide rebate for the sales tax on the freight component of products brought to the Northern Territory. The scheme is proceeding and we are making payments to the various bodies which comply with the necessary guidelines that have been laid down by Treasury. Applications are assessed and cheques are paid out. We have had assurances from wholesalers participatingin the scheme that the scheme has had an effect on the prices of goods that they supply to the retail sector. From our point of view, the scheme is working and it has not been reviewed in any way.

Private Hospital in Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the fact that only one application has been received in response to tenders for the establishment of a private hospital at the old Darwin Hospital, what plans are under consideration for, firstly, the future use of the area that has been vacated by the old Darwin Hospital and, secondly, the establishment of a private hospital facility in another area?

ANSWER

The Department of Health has handed the keys and its former interest in the Darwin annex to the Department of Transport and Works. My colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works, will be charged with the responsibility of the future use of the property. In answer to the second part of the member's question, only one tender was received for a use of a part of the old Darwin annex. That tender is now before Cabinet but I am able to say that it has requested certain financial assistance from the government in terms of upgrading and maintaining the property. It is highly unlikely that any favourable decision in this regard will be forthcoming.

I am still firmly of the view that, if it is possible to establish a private hospital in the Darwin area, we should proceed to do that. I have now asked the department to consider what options are available to us to have a private hospital started from scratch. I might also advise the House that we had nearly a dozen or more expressions of interest in the old Darwin Hospital when it was first advertised. Some people took one look at it and said there is no way that it could ever be run viably as a hospital. The fact that we received one tender seeking a lot of help would add a certain amount of weight to that argument. Given that it does not have a future as a private hospital, I have now asked the department to examine other possible options for the establishment of a private hospital in the Northern Territory.

Brinkin Traffic

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will the Minister make available to the Assembly any maps and supporting documents prepared by his departmental officers regarding the options for the traffic flow from the new Brinkin subdivision?

ANSWER

When they are available, I will do so.

Consultation with Aboriginal Traditional Owners

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What consultation, if any, took place with Aboriginal traditional owners and other citizens of Central Australia before officers of his department commenced blasting a section of the Sadadeen hills to enable the erection of a water tank?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Nhulunbuy Primary School

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

As the Nhulunbuy Primary School will fill to capacity during 1982, are there any plans to provide further accommodation for projected needs?

ANSWER

I would be pleased if the Nhulunbuy Primary School did reach capacity because it would indicate that the town is continuing to grow. I was unaware of that particular information. I will certainly check it out. If we can find the means, we will ensure that appropriate accommodation is available. I would certainly want to check the honourable member's figures notwithstanding that he does come from that region.

Ghan Service

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of recent press reports that the demand for berths on the new Ghan service Adelaide to Alice Springs is far in excess of berths available, can he advise whether he has had any correspondence with Australian National Railways to provide additional services on that line?

ANSWER

That has always been the Northern Territory government's policy and, from time to time, we have made requests to Australian National Railways to increase the capacity, especially of passenger services, on the line from Adelaide to Alice Springs. I am pleased to be able to inform members that a second weekly Ghan service is to be introduced on a 3-month trial basis from 2 May this year. The new service will leave Adelaide on Sundays and return from Alice Springs to Adelaide on Mondays. The number of persons carried between January and July 1981 compared with the same months in 1978 showed an increase of 269% northbound and 225% southbound. In those figures lies an object lesson for the airlines. It is obvious that they have pushed the cost of air travel to the stage where the public is not prepared to contemplate it. Many members may have seen an item on last night's ABC TV

news where it was possible to compare our air fares with United States' fares. I think it is possible to travel from New York or the east coast of the United States to San Francisco or Los Angeles for under $100. An equivalent trip in Australia would cost at least in excess of $300. This is what is putting people back on to the railroads, and good luck to them.

Bynoe Harbour Road

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What type of development is envisaged that would justify the building of the Bynoe Harbour access road currently being constructed parallel to the old Mandorah Road? What parts of the Cox Peninsula will the road reach and where will it end? Could he give an estimate of the total cost of the planned work?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place his question on notice.

Motor-bike Club Activities at Thorak Reserve

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that section 107 known as Thorak Reserve at the corner of Branch and Campbell Roads in Berrimah is being used by a motor-cycle club for its activities to the detriment of the nearby rate-paying residents? How long will he allow this section 107 at Berrimah, which has been considered as land for the use of the Department of Primary Production, to be used for an antagonistic use - motor bike club use?

ANSWER

Neither I nor the department have had complaints about the activities of motor-cyclists on the area of land the member refers to. Section 107 is Crown land under the control of the Department of Lands and at present there are no development proposals in respect to this land. I will have the department investigate the suggestion that motor-cycle activities there are annoying nearby residents and see if we can find some way to prevent those activities continuing.

Home Purchase by Australian Public Servants

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What stage has been reached in negotiations with the Commonwealth government to allow Australian Public Servants to purchase their homes?

ANSWER

It is the policy of this government that Australian Public Servants should be able to purchase their homes and decide to become true Territorians and settle here if they so wish. Our policy does not mean a great deal other than it is a cause that we take up with the Commonwealth minister and Commonwealth officials from time to time. Both our representatives in the federal House or at least one of the senators and certainly the member of the House of Representatives have been pushing the case to Commonwealth ministers. We believe that it is unfair that they are currently barred. To date we do not seem to have had very much success. The Commonwealth has been putting the view that it finds it very expensive to continue to build houses in the Northern Territory. Notwithstanding those arguments, we will continue to press for the right of those people to buy their homes in the Territory and to settle here. I do not know how long it will be. It could be a long fight.

Use of Public Facilities by Doctors in NT

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Are there private doctors using public facilities in Northern Territory centres and, if so, what contribution are they making to the cost of those facilities?

ANSWER

There would probably be 15 or 20 private practitioners in Darwin who have access to the Darwin Hospital. There is a part-time GP in Tennant Creek who is operating out of the Community Health Centre for half a day 3 times a week. There are a great number of people in the paramedical field that come into our hospitals on a sessional basis. Very shortly, we will have private specialists operating out of our hospitals in the Northern Territory on a sessional or a fee-for-service basis. There are a great many people in the Northern Territory in private practice who use the facilities of the department. This is a perfectly normal practice right throughout Australia. It is new to the Northern Territory at this stage but it has been going on in the states for about 50 years.

Remuneration for the use of these services depends on the circumstances. There are pretty formal guidelines for specialists and doctors who use facilities on fee-for-service or sessional basis. Most of these charges are laid down in agreements that exist between the department and each doctor. If a GP went to a place such as Groote Eylandt, I feel sure that we would be disposed to having a peppercorn rent just to have a GP operate out of the health centre that we have there. I think it would be futile to ask the person to build another premise when ours is underutilised. It would be an additional service that not only the department could offer but the individual could offer.

The short answer is yes. If he has special queries about persons using these departmental facilities, I would be happy to have him briefed. If the member has any suggestions on how private doctors could better utilise some of the resources we have and make better services available to the community as a whole, then I would be pleased to receive them.

The member would also be aware that, in Alice Springs, for instance, the congress doctors do not have access to the hospital and the wherewithall inside the hospital. I think that is not really totally productive. In the course of time, we should make all our facilities available to those doctors who need them to provide a service in the community, whether for private or government patients.

Licensing of Carpenters and Bricklayers

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the government introduce legislation requiring the licensing of carpenters and bricklayers similar to that legislation which applies to electricians?

ANSWER

I am curious as to why I should have been asked the question. I was not aware that amongst my ministerial responsibilities were carpenters and bricklayers. I do not have any objection because they are a very worthy group of individuals and artisans. I only wish that there were more qualified carpenters and bricklayers in this country.

I do not believe the government has ever considered registration of carpenters and bricklayers. As my colleague, the Minister for Lands and Housing says, we might as well consider registering carpetlayers, tram

conductors etc. It would get to the stage of being very unnecessary bureaucracy. In my view, there is a strong case for the registering of plumbers and gas fitters. Gas fitters are dealing in a very volatile area where considerable harm can occur if a job is not done properly.

The government has certainly considered registration of home builders. It has been urged to do so by the Master Builders Association. Our concern is that the industry would like to shut out new entrants to the home building industry. For the sake of home builders, we obviously want to ensure as much competition as possible. There are more problems than meet the eye, even with the registration of home builders. I do not see much of a case for registration of carpenters and bricklayers. I urge on the member for Nhulunbuy that we must try to remain as free as possible of red tape. I see this involving at least another 30 forms and 4 or 5 bureaucrats.

Assistance to People Stranded at Rabbit Flat

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A recent report indicated that a large number of people were stranded at Rabbit Flat northwest of Yuendumu over the last couple of days. Could he advise what assistance his department has offered to these people?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, from memory about 77 people, including 4 children, found themselves stranded in the Rabbit Flat area. I understand that they had travelled from Balgo Mission to Yuendumu for business purposes and were returning when they found they could proceed no further. They got as far as Rabbit Flat and Mr Farrens who owns the store there promptly ran out of food himself. Yesterday, some several hundred kilograms of admittedly very plain - but we hope nutritious - food was flown by police aircraft to Rabbit Flat and Mr Farrens kindly agreed to assist with its distribution.

Mr Speaker, I think there are some people from the Yuendumu area in the public gallery and I suppose they would have a wry grin about these people from Balgo getting stuck on roads with which they would be very familiar. I say 'roads' because the people from Balgo would be very familiar with the country but perhaps not so familiar with Northern Territory roads.

I understand that a number of 4-wheel-drive vehicles have left Balgo Mission for Rabbit Flat in order to assist these people to return home. I believe also that a conventional vehicle has traversed that road in the last couple of days, so hopefully the crisis is over. In events like this, it does not matter where people come from; whether they are Territory people or from across the border. Quite clearly, if they are in trouble, it is a matter for this government to assist them and we have done everything we can in this case.

Review of Mental Health Act

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In 1981, submissions were invited relating to a review of the Mental Health Act. What action does the government intend taking as a result of that review?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for the question. I was absolutely shattered by the number of submissions I received on the way the Mental Health Act is being administered and the activities involved. I think I have received 2 submissions from the general public. That means either it is working very well or it is working so badly that nobody is even going to worry about forwarding a submission.

There are some amendments I would like to make to the act as a result of the submissions received. Probably they will be introduced during the June sittings of the Assembly. All in all the act seems to be working fairly well, although some minor problems have arisen. However, I think that we can deal with those without a great deal of controversy.

Breaking and Entering at Millner School

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What plans does the Department of Education have to prevent further breaking and entering at the Millner School?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, short of digging a moat around the primary school, one tends to wonder what the Department of Education can do to prevent breaking and entering. We run schools not concrete fortresses. In the face of behaviour of that sort, there is very little any Department of Education can do to prevent people who are determined to pursue it. It is very regrettable. Without completely altering the character of our schools - by putting mesh over windows and so on - we have very limited options in this regard. I certainly would not want to see alterations like that. We can only appeal to people on this. The damage is usually done by children and they should be made aware of the fact that they inconvenience their peers when they behave in this manner.

Disposition of Unserviceable Government Firearms

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

How are unserviceable firearms held by government departments disposed of, who makes the decision and what procedure is usually followed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not sure of the disposition of unserviceable firearms. The Registrar of Firearms has informed me that, as far as he is concerned, the position is as follows. It is for each particular department or statutory authority to determine if a firearm is unserviceable and take its own steps to dispose of it. The registrar has no firm policy which is applied to all departments in respect of this matter.

Final Proposal for the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Program

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Could he advise the Assembly of the progress that is being made on the development of the final proposal for the Northern Territory's brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication program?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition was not in the Assembly late yesterday afternoon when I presented a statement on the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication policy. I refer him to that statement.

Eye Specialist for Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise when an eye specialist will be hired to replace the one in Alice Springs who was brought to Darwin.

ANSWER

I will refer that question to the Secretary of the Department and will advise the member as soon as I have information for him.

Financial Assistance to Fruit and Vegetable Growers

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Could he advise if any financial assistance is available for farmers experimenting with fruit and vegetable growth; for example, members of the Rare Fruits Council.

ANSWER

I am not aware of a special policy for people in that category. There are other special benefits available to farmers generally and in cropping development particularly. I will take on board the question that he raises and see if some further expansion of existing schemes can be undertaken.

Demolition of Wells Building

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When is it proposed to demolish Block 1, known as the Wells Building, which I believe is now uneconomic.

ANSWER

At the moment the department is deciding whether to call for tenders or to ask some private firms to put in a preferential quote. Once we have an estimate, I would be able to decide then when the Wells Building would be demolished.

Blood Tests for Drugs

Mr D. W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Are blood samples taken from drivers involved in motor vehicle accidents in the Northern Territory tested for drugs other than alcohol and, if not, will he undertake to investigate the feasibility of such testing and collection of statistical data.

ANSWER

My understanding is that it is required by law for drivers involved in motor vehicle accidents to have a blood sample taken. At the same time, I do not know whether other tests are taken.

If the member is referring to the possibility of testing for marijuana or some other drug in a person's body, I can only say that, at the time we dealt with the drug and the liquor legislation some years ago, there was no test available to detect whether people had been smoking pot or driving under the influence of a psychotropic substance. I will seek further information from the department and, if there are any advances in that area, I will advise the member accordingly.

White Paper on Education

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Honourable members would recall the successful efforts of the minister last year to attract public comment on the Green Paper on Education. Could he advise me of the status of the White Paper?

ANSWER

I have given a lot of thought to the question of producing a White Paper in the usual parliamentary sense. It has occurred to me now that that may not necessarily be the best way of approaching it. I have discussed with officers of the department the possibility of putting out policy decisions,

arrived at as a result of the excellent discussion and feedback on the Green Paper, in the form of booklets. Rather than having one massive document that people have to hunt through to find their own particular interest and in the interests of providing information on policies which have arisen from the Green Paper, very precise booklets of policy would be more appropriate. If I take that decision, we will shortly see the first of those booklets produced.

Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority does not have the funds to fence and signpost at least 4 sacred sites in Alice Springs which were registered at a meeting of the Authority on 11 February?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I might just point out to the member for MacDonnell that I am not the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. I exercise a liaison role on Aboriginal matters. I am well aware of the funding position of the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority. It has been given by the Northern Territory government the total amount of funds received by the Northern Territory government from the Commonwealth. The Territory protested at the level of those funds at the time and we have continued to protest. Only a couple of weeks ago, I wrote to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Prime Minister telling them that the authority would run out of funds by the end of April. To the best of my knowledge, I have not received a response but all previous responses from all levels of the Commonwealth government have been negative.

Natural Gas

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Recent reports have indicated natural gas finds both offshore in the Northern Territory and in Central Australia. Could he indicate whether it is intended to utilise those resources to provide cheaper energy for the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The government has taken an initiative in purchasing from one operator in Central Australia sufficient gas reserves to operate the Alice Springs Powerhouse for the next 20 years. At this stage, there is no additional requirement for gas in the Alice Springs area. As explorers are finding gas, it is being tapped and left in the hope that eventually we will find a basin big enough to justify either sending gas to Darwin, to South Australia, New South Wales or some other market that needs it. Certainly, our own requirements for a long time to come are well in hand.

So far as the offshore gas is concerned, the indicators that the exploration companies have had are extremely exciting and could possibly have the potential to provide us with some power with gas. Whether it would be more economic than coal is an argument that could be debated at quite some length. We would be talking about a period of 7 to 10 years to get the gas inshore and an infrastructure cost that is so heavy at the moment that it would not be possible for us to pay off the infrastructure just for use in the Darwin powerhouse. Naturally, we would need to find another use for the gas such as a petrochemical works or export to Japan. I think that all of these things are possible but the most important thing that we have to do at the moment is to keep on punching holes in the ground. The results of that drilling are most important for the Northern Territory.

Electricity Charges for Caravan Dwellers

Ms D'ROZARIO to the TREASURER

What steps have been taken to give caravan dwellers whose sites are individually metered the benefit of domestic electricity tariffs?

ANSWER

I could be wrong but I understood that caravan dwellers whose sites were individually metered were given domestic electricity tariffs. In fact, the electricity commission has advised caravan park operators that that is the case providing the operators are prepared to bear the cost of such a metering system. I do not have the full information before me. If the member writes to me, I will spell out the existing policy quite clearly.

Use of Government Vehicles

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

From time to time the issue of the use of government vehicles for purposes other than government business is raised. What is the Northern Territory government's policy on the use of government vehicles?

ANSWER

I am told about the misuse of government vehicles from time to time. I have also talked about this on talkback radio and in letters to the editor of the various so-called newspapers that circulate in this Territory. The government does have a policy which is many pages in length because it has to cater for quite a number of situations. It boils down to this: if people are entrusted with a vehicle in consequence of their employment in the public service, then that vehicle is for their use in the execution of their duty. The majority are further entrusted with the home garaging of the vehicle.

To my mind, this is a sensible and rational idea which saves the government the problems of maintaining security over those vehicles. Those public servants can drive the vehicles to and from work which, I suppose, is a quid pro quo to them for garaging the vehicle at home and taking more care of it than if they drew a different car from a store each day. This encourages better maintenance of government vehicles. It is usually in relation to home garaging of government vehicles that complaints of misuse arise. I have received complaints of vehicles with NT government number plates being seen carrying loads of stones and gravel on Saturdays and Sundays. Quite often, when these complaints are investigated, it is found that the people are in fact on the job. As in any system, there must be some abuse but this is quite a good policy. I think we introduced it 2 or 3 years ago. It has been updated from time to time. It seems to me that it is the most rational policy that a government could adopt in all the circumstances.

Fog Bay

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What negotiations have taken place between the federal and Territory governments in relation to an agreement on the operation of Fog Bay as a closed fishery?

ANSWER

The Chief Minister spoke to the Prime Minister about it and, prior to that, there were interdepartmental discussions.

Medical Practitioners at Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the position regarding permanent medical practitioners practising at Jabiru?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the department has a permanent officer at Jabiru. It is the intention that there will always be a permanent doctor there. Whether the doctor is an officer of the department or a private practitioner is something that I can discuss with the member for Tiwi and the constituents in her town of Jabiru some time within the next 2 weeks. I do not know of any proposals not to have a permanent doctor at Jabiru. I am aware that there are already private dentists operating there. If the member has any fears to the contrary, she may wish to raise them with me at another time.

Model Bylaws for Local Government Authorities

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What progress has been made in the preparation of model bylaws for local government authorities?

ANSWER

As members would be aware, the government had previously undertaken through the Local Government Association to provide local government with so-called model bylaws. When these model bylaws in a range of forms were presented to the Local Government Association, it was found that, because of the varying needs and sizes of the corporations throughout the Northern Territory, members of the Local Government Association could not agree among themselves as to what a reasonable and standard form was. Regrettably, we virtually had to completely abandon the model-bylaw system and, through the Local Government Association, we have again made the offer of the resources of the Department of Community Development's Local Government Division and the Department of Law to assist councils with their own bylaw making.

I understand this is now fairly well down the road and indeed a number of bylaws are about to come forward for approval by Executive Council. It is rather surprising that, what was indicated previously to us as being impossible - that is, individual councils making their own bylaws - is now according to the councils the only way of ever achieving bylaws. That is the current position. I am still hopeful that bylaws will be tabled in this Assembly pursuant to the normal procedures of the Subordinate Legislation and Tabled Papers Committee, certainly within the next 6 months.

Quite frankly, there has always been the capacity at law for local councils to make bylaws. I cannot understand why it has not been done. Hopefully now it will be.

Local Government at Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Have there been further discussions between the joint partners, the federal government and the Territory government to confer full local government status on Nhulunbuy and, if so, at what stage are the negotiations?

ANSWER

I have raised this issue with the people of Nhulunbuy. The Chief Minister did so again during his speech opening the Nhulunbuy High School. I am not certain how far negotiations have gone. I certainly know there is significant

reluctance on behalf of the company to enter into any such agreement. I do know that there is a significant backing from the community for a much greater say in their own affairs than exists at the moment. The people of Jabiru feel much the same way. That is an interesting one. We have been working on that for months. I notice now that a piece of legislation on that will be presented by the opposition spokesman. He was given a thorough briefing on exactly that by my department about 3 weeks ago so I dare say he has stolen the idea.

Nonetheless, it is a difficult area. The mining company believes it has certain asset considerations in relation to the rating of its own property. It is a difficult one. We are anxious to conclude negotiations with Nabalco and with the people of Nhulunbuy. But without the cooperation of the mining company, it will be a very difficult task indeed.

Dangerous Goods Act

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

The Dangerous Goods Act was assented to in January 1981. Can he explain to the Assembly why it has not yet come into operation?

ANSWER

I ask the member to put the question on notice. I cannot give her that answer off the top of my head.

Allegations of Employment of Underage Children at Marqua Station

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer him to an inquiry carried out by officers of his department into allegations of employment of underage children at Marqua Station. Will he table the results of that inquiry?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, without knowing the content and nature of the report, if any, I cannot give that undertaking. If it is an internal document, I dare say I would decline to do so. If it is a document which contains information which it is in the public interest to have, then I would certainly do so.

Grain Receival Depot at Katherine

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Could he report on the progress of the grain receival depot at Katherine?

ANSWER

The Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority is in the process of concluding a major grain receival depot which will be operating in time for the 1982 harvest. The depot, costing $489,000, will have facilities for storage and receival of grains, either bunkers or vertical silos, and a cool store where seed can be held from season to season. In addition, seed cleaning and grading equipment are to be installed to assist in the marketing of pasture seeds and mung beans. The depot will be managed by the authority in a manner that will bring grain receivals and handling into line with standards established in the other states.

We are hopeful that grain production will continue to increase to a stage where quantities surplus to the domestic market must be exported overseas. It is therefore essential that internationally-recognised standards for grain exports be introduced at this early stage so that the Northern Territory product will ultimately be acceptable on world markets. 75% of the expenditure incurred in the construction of the depot at Katherine has gone to

Territory suppliers. Of the total $489,000 cost of construction, just over $250,000 has gone to Katherine contractors.

Petrol Sniffing at Maningrida

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will he table a report prepared by his department on petrol sniffing at Maningrida?

ANSWER

The answer to that question is precisely the same as the other one. I do not know in detail what is in that document. I have certainly scanned it. I intend going back and reading it very thoroughly. The document could well contain the names or sufficient information to identify individuals and it may not be in the public interest to make it public.

Health Clinic at Napperby Station

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware of agreement being reached on a suitable site for the proposed health clinic at Napperby Station? If agreement has been reached, when will the clinic be erected?

ANSWER

I carry many answers around in my head but that is not one of them. I ask the member to put that question on notice.

Failure of Roads in Alice Springs

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is there any evidence of pavement failure on the roads constructed in both the Araluen and Sadadeen subdivisions in Alice Springs? If so, what action does the government intend to take on this matter?

ANSWER

I am unaware of any pavement failure. However, I will obtain information and provide it to the member later.

Jabiru Hospital

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

My question relates to this morning's ABC news. Did he hear this morning the ABC refer to the Jabiru hospital as being downgraded to the status of a health centre? That is at variance from what the minister said yesterday. Is the minister wrong or is the ABC wrong?

ANSWER

It is not like the ABC to be wrong; it generally gets everything right. On this occasion, I did not hear the ABC news. If it said that about the Jabiru health centre, I do not know what the basis of its information is because I advised the House 2 days ago that the future of the Jabiru hospital was a matter that the member for Tiwi and myself have to take up with the local people and mine management at the earliest possible time. I went through a range of reasons why that discussion was necessary, Mr Speaker. With all due respect to the ABC, if it broadcast that, it probably has wrong information.

2905.824—33

Golden Staph at Casuarina Hospital

ANSWER TO QUESTION:

Mr TUXWORTH (Health) (by leave): Mr Speaker the honourable member for Sanderson asked a question yesterday about golden staph and I undertook to get the information she required. I regret that it was not available for yesterday afternoon. I have a briefing paper here that I will read, Mr Speaker. I think most members will find the contents of it interesting. It has been broken into a series of questions and answers and is not very long.

METHICILLIN RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS

What is it?

A bacterium which is resistant to all of the safe, commonly-used antibiotics. It can cause serious and even fatal infections in patients.

Whom does it affect most?

It affects vulnerable patients; for example, intensive care patients with multiple systems failure, low birth weight neonates, patients with depressed immune systems.

When was it first found in Darwin Hospital?

A patient transferred here from a Victorian hospital with an infected, discharging wound brought the organism to this hospital.

Is the organism under control at Darwin Hospital?

Darwin Hospital experience has shown that the organism can be controlled and at the same time normal patient services can be maintained.

What is the hospital doing about it?

Control of the spread of all infections, including MRSA, comes under the direct supervision of the Darwin Hospital Infection Control Committee. This Committee consists of the Medical Superintendent, various Medical Specialists and Nursing Staff, including a Registered Nurse whose full-time work involves all aspects of Infection Control practice.

The Infection Control Committee has a policy, which is reviewed as necessary, to control spread of MRSA.

The policy is aimed at:

1. *Detecting all MRSA organisms.*

2. *Isolating all patients with the MRSA organism from patients without the organism.*

3. *Special effort is put into keeping the infection out of wards/units where patients who are very vulnerable are nursed. We have succeeded in keeping the organism out of the Children's Ward, the Special Care Nursery, the Obstetric Unit and Ward 3A where we nurse patients who have had implant surgery.*

All outbreaks of MRSA have been contained by the tightening of our control policies. While the organism is still in the Hospital, it is considered under control. The Infection Control Committee is of the opinion that we will not be rid of this problem bacterium in the foreseeable future but it is one that we shall continue to work on.

Possible Loan for Hilton Hotel for Alice Springs

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Northern Territory Development Corporation is to advance a loan of $480,000 to a company called the Central Australian Development Corporation for the purpose of purchasing a site upon which to construct an international hotel at Alice Springs and that this hotel will eventually become part of the Hilton group of hotels? Is it further a fact that the loan is to be for a 10-year period and interest free?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government does propose a plan of assistance to establish a Hilton hotel in Alice Springs. The details are not all available to the government at this time. I would ask the honourable member to place her question on notice.

Sale of Cattle by Department of Primary Production

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In Northern Territory Government Gazette No G9 of 5 March 1982, a sale made by Department of Primary Production for 92 head of cattle which cost $6660 was shown under the heading 'Contracts Arranged'. Could the minister please give us details of this transaction and why it was necessary?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the purchase of these cattle from a station in Central Australia was undertaken to provide a sentinel herd for the blood-testing procedures undertaken regularly for blue tongue viruses. This is a monitoring program that we have undertaken for some years and will continue for some years to come. We purchased 40 heifers, 42 steers and 10 bulls, and paid an average price of $72 per head.

Possible Loan for Hilton Hotel for Alice Springs

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Northern Territory Development Corporation is to advance a loan of $1m in the first half of 1982 to a company called the Central Australian Development Corporation as assistance to construct an international hotel at Alice Springs which will eventually become part of the Hilton group of hotels? Is it further a fact that the loan is to be for a 10-year period, interest free for the first 5 years and thereafter to be repaid in the second 5-year period at 12%?

ANSWER

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

Realignment of Stuart Highway in Alice Springs

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

What progress has been made regarding the planned realignment of the Stuart Highway through Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Following the release of land by the Australian National Railways, I am pleased to say that work on the realignment is now scheduled for the 1982-83 financial year. It will involve significant improvement to the highway between Telegraph Terrace and Smith Street. Discussions on the proposed route are taking place between government departments and the Alice Springs council.

My department perceives the design development as a matter of urgency. The development will eliminate hazardous Larapinta Drive, Telegraph Terrace, Railway Terrace and Wills Terrace intersections and provide for a new direct link between Larapinta Drive and Stott Terrace. The new intersection of Stott Terrace, Larapinta Drive and Stuart Highway will be controlled by traffic signals. I will be writing to the Mayor of Alice Springs advising him of these details.

Sealing of Virginia and Bees Creek Roads

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he give an indication when sealing of Virginia Road, which was promised to be finished in early 1981, will be completed, and when the government plans to seal Bees Creek Road?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am unable to provide the member with that information. I will provide it to him later in the day.

Proposed Amendments to Poisons Act

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

He would be aware that the Northern Territory is out of step with the rest of Australia as far as the Poisons Act is concerned. Has the Poisons Act been reviewed as yet and when will amendments be introduced into the Assembly to make our act consistent with other acts in Australia?

ANSWER

I am aware that we are not in concert with the rest of the nation so far as legislative control over poisons is concerned. I am happy to advise the member that a great deal of work has been done on this within the department over the last 9 months. I am not able to advise when the legislation is likely to be presented to this Assembly after it has been to Cabinet.

Possible Loan for Hilton Hotel for Alice Springs

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Territory Development Corporation is to advance a further loan of $1m in the 1982-83 financial year to a company called Central Australian Development Corporation as assistance to construct an international hotel at Alice Springs and that this hotel will eventually become part of the Hilton group of hotels? Is it further a fact that the loan is to be for a 10-year period commencing 1982-83, interest free for the first 5 years and at an undetermined rate of interest for the next 5 years?

ANSWER

I indicated to the honourable member that she should place those questions on notice so that I may give an exact reply rather than one that is not fully confirmed. I indicated that the government is looking at a proposal to support the establishment of a Hilton hotel group in Central Australia. If a package of assistance is required, obviously the government will take a decision on that at a later time.

Daylight Saving

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

There is a press report that representatives of state governments are to meet to decide on an orderly plan for daylight saving next year. Will the Northern Territory government be represented at any such talks and at what level?

ANSWER

Firstly, I avoid attending any meetings of whatever sort between states and Commonwealth that I possibly can. I can think of nothing more time or money-wasting than going all the way to Melbourne or Queenstown in New Zealand or even as far as Fiji. As far as I am concerned, I will not be there to talk about daylight saving. I will be back here doing a bit of work.

As I recall it, this Assembly debated the concept of daylight saving for the Northern Territory back in 1977 or 1978. We rejected it along non-party lines. I think it was a free vote that the Northern Territory would not participate in daylight saving. I cannot see any reason why this Assembly would want to change that decision at this stage. We are still situated in the same Territory with the same climatic conditions which causes the sun to rise at around 6.30 am and set later than it apparently does down south. Therefore, I do not really see that our participation in these talks will benefit the Northern Territory at all. I would think it would be fairly impractical for us, unless we want to become a territory of night owls, to participate in daylight saving. I think it is something that we have to leave to those poor misbegotten people who inhabit the frozen wastes of Tasmania and Victoria and the icy cold plains of New South Wales where the electricity turbines are the only things that do not work well. At least, that is the way the New South Wales government would have us believe it.

I would say in answer to the honourable member's question that we will keep our ear to the ground and see what sort of blather comes out of this particular ministerial meeting and how it might affect the Northern Territory. Certainly, it affects our commerce because, when they start earlier in Melbourne and Sydney, it means that it is harder for businessmen here. Nonetheless, I am sure that it will not do us that much damage should it be necessary to take any action. I am sure that we will hear the results.

Place Names Committee

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What consideration does the Place Names Committee give to requests from people to have roads named after particular people?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Place Names Committee receives many requests from members of the public to have roads named after particular people. The committee first checks that the names will not duplicate or nearly duplicate an existing name in the area. If necessary, and where possible, the committee also seeks consent to the use of the name from a near relative. If there are no other conflicting suggestions for a particular road, and the name is suitable, in most cases the committee will recommend to the Administrator to adopt that name.

If the request is of a general nature, the name is placed in a bank of names and used at an appropriate time.

Possible Loan for Hilton Hotel for Alice Springs

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Northern Territory Development Corporation has offered to underwrite any capital losses which may be incurred by Central Australian Development Corporation in relation to its proposal to construct an international hotel at Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The government has not taken a decision of that nature. As I indicated just previously, the government is looking at a proposal of assistance to establish the Hilton in Central Australia. We see the establishment of new hotels in the Northern Territory as being very central to the question of tourism. We do have a policy of assistance, particularly in the field of tourism. We are not frightened to say that we would contemplate assistance of the magnitude that the member has discussed.

Rebate Scheme for Solar Equipment

Mr DOOLAN to TREASURER

As it was one of the CLP government's election pledges, does the government intend to continue the 10% rebate scheme to encourage people to install solar equipment which is due for renewal this year?

ANSWER

I am not sure that I heard all of the member's question. The Northern Territory government does have a rebate scheme relating to the installation of solar appliances. This scheme has been working and applications have been processed, not only in Darwin but in other areas in the Northern Territory. The government has no plans to discontinue the scheme.

Nhulunbuy Community Library

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Given teacher response to a questionaire on the community library in Nhulunbuy, will he instigate an inquiry which will reflect the parent, teacher and public opinion into the value of the library as both an educational and community facility?

ANSWER

Yes, Mr Speaker. The Department of Education in conjunction with the Department of Community Development will be investigating not only the success or otherwise of the Nhulunbuy situation because the government has a broad policy of combining as far as possible community facilities with new schools, particularly high schools. We are looking to do that at Humpty Doo and certainly at the school complex/community centre in Palmerston. Mr Speaker, I think much has been learnt by the experience of Nhulunbuy. The information gained from that experiment will assist us in properly planning the further proposals that we have for community use of educational facilities. That is not to say that, at the same time, we will not be looking at the Nhulunbuy position in detail to see what is required to alleviate any difficulties it may be experiencing.

Aboriginal Housing on Pastoral Properties

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can he advise what responsibility the Aboriginal Development Commission has for the provision of housing for Aboriginals on pastoral properties?

ANSWER

As far as I am aware the Aboriginal Development Commission has been given responsibility by the federal government for distribution of housing funds emanating from the federal government to Aboriginal people throughout Australia. One of the objects in its statutory charter is in fact the provision of housing for Aboriginal people whether they be on pastoral properties or anywhere.

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the government made a decision to rationalise the boundaries of East Point Reserve or regarding its future development? If not, when does he expect such a decision to be made?

ANSWER

The Department of Community Development would really only have a role in this in its relationship with the East Point Trustees, as it channels the funds to that organisation, and in discussions with the Darwin city council as to its aspirations. The actual boundaries will be a matter for the Minister for Lands and Housing.

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I redirect the question to the Minister for Lands and Housing.

Has the government made a decision to rationalise the boundaries of East Point Reserve or regarding its future development? If not, when can we expect such a decision to be made?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government is very much interested in the future of the East Point Reserve. As honourable members will note, the East Point Reserve Trustees have had on public display for some time now a proposed plan for East Point. The public comments will be collated and referred to the government by the trustees fairly soon. The government wishes to rationalise the boundaries of East Point. The matter has reached a stage now where the firm future of East Point can be determined. The original groups for which East Point was set aside under trustees have now been allocated sites elsewhere in the city. This has brought us to a situation whereby the boundaries can be rationalised and the future management and development of East Point can be determined. I suspect that, within probably a 3-month period, all these questions will be determined finally and announced by the government.

Jabiru Hospital

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the position of the future Jabiru Hospital vis-a-vis the current health clinic?

ANSWER

I answered that last week. I refer the member to the Hansard of last week.

Lake Nash

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What efforts is the Northern Territory government making to upgrade the present inadequate facilities at Lake Nash?

ANSWER

I would like to advise the member that the government has committed a contract of $15,000 this year to upgrade the toilet and ablution block. I am being continually pressured by the member for Stuart who is constantly on my back to upgrade facilities in that area. The works will include the provision

for 2 urinals, 3 stainless steel hand basins, 6 full-flushing systems, 1 double bowl laundry tub, 8 shower roses - 4 male and 4 female - 2 taps at each hand tub and 4 taps fitted on the walls of each corner of the ablution block. The work was expected to take about 8 weeks and should be completed later on this month.

Royal Flying Doctor Service Hangar at Alice Springs

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH

Who was the successful tenderer for the Royal Flying Doctor Service hangar facility at the Alice Springs Airport? Was this decision consistent with the Tender Board's recommendation and what were the grounds on which this decision was based?

ANSWER

The transaction relating to the letting of the aero-medical hangar in Alice Springs is one that took place about 9 to 12 months ago. I would need to reflect back on the files to get the member the information he wants. I am happy to do that. Could I suggest to the member that, if he expects an answer to questions like that on the day, an hour's notice would go a long way in enabling a minister to provide the information.

Redco Proposal for Ludmilla Creek Area

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Could he advise what status, at government level, the proposal by Redco for a development around Ludmilla Creek has?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the proposal referred to by the honourable member is one that is being promoted and developed privately by the company concerned. As I understand it, studies by the company have not yet reached the stage of submission to the Northern Territory Planning Authority which would be a requirement for rezoning of the area. Should it receive approval at that stage, I imagine there would be a subsequent stage of development approval, including environmental impact statements. To date, the government has neither undertaken to support or not to support this particular project. It is entirely in the hands of private proponents. At this stage, it is not considered to be appropriate for government necessarily to comment on it. It is a very complex proposal dealing with development and environmental matters.

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Program

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

I ask this question on behalf of both the honourable member for Elsey and myself. Is the minister aware that some larger cattle stations are going to discontinue their involvement in the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication program because of the lack of economic markets at present?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have not been advised formally by any station owners or landholders that they are not proposing to continue with the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication program during 1982. I fear, however, that the season itself, although quite good, may not bring the prices that people need to maintain their mustering programs although it is a bit early to say. I will be very interested to see what the early prices of cattle will be.

In Vitro Fertilisation Research Assistance

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the Northern Territory government, through the Department of Health, intend to provide any funds for further research into in vitro fertilisation as Northern Territory couples are affected by it?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that is another question that I am not able to answer at this moment. I ask the honourable member to place it on notice.

Legislation for Sale of Housing Commission Homes in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the government introduce legislation, as foreshadowed by the former Minister for Lands and Housing, which would enable Housing Commission tenants in Nhulunbuy to purchase the houses which they occupy?

ANSWER

If the member for Nhulunbuy cared to read Hansard or listen to second-reading speeches, he would be aware that the Tenancy Bill currently before the Assembly is designed to alleviate the problem which has faced the company at Gove in the past with a view to enabling land tenure matters to be settled in order that Housing Commission tenants may be given the opportunity to purchase their homes.

Mustering Subsidies for Aboriginal Properties

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he advise whether his department has applied for financial assistance for mustering subsidies for tuberculosis control on pastoral properties owned by Aboriginals?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think my statement the other day indicated that the greatest area of concern for government was in the area of feral animal control and the large areas of land that are not under pastoral holdings. All pastoral holdings will be treated on an equal basis as far as this program is concerned. In respect of mustering subsidies, we looked very closely at what subsidies could be applied to mustering. They amounted to much more than could be obtained from either state or Commonwealth governments, and I do not believe that a mustering subsidy is a viable option in any respect.

Library Service for Jabiru

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I understand that some preparations were made for the establishment of a public library service at Jabiru. Is it true that those plans have been deferred or shelved?

ANSWER

I do not have the information the honourable member seeks but certainly I will write to her with that information in due course.

NTEC Power at Newcastle Waters Station

ANSWER TO QUESTION:
Mr PERRON (Treasurer) (by leave): Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Sanderson asked if NTEC was proposing to install generator sets at Newcastle Waters Station, and the justification for such a decision if it had been taken.

NTEC does not intend to install generator sets at Newcastle Waters Station. However, the commission has installed 2 generators in the township of Newcastle Waters to supply domestic, commercial and streetlighting needs. These sets were commissioned on 10 April 1981. Newcastle Waters Station is one of the consumers being supplied from the NTEC installation. The installation of a reliable power supply for Newcastle Waters arose from a petition of the townspeople to the minister in October 1980. NTEC was able to provide 2 surplus sets previously used in Larrimah at a cost of approximately one third of the alternative of erecting a feeder line to Newcastle Waters from Elliott.

Amendment to Tenancy Act

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer him to his previous answer to the question from the member for Nhulunbuy. Is he aware of the amendment to the Tenancy Act which was introduced into this Assembly in the last sittings, to say nothing about the matter of land tenure at Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

I think the members opposite have oversimplified the form of legislation required to fix up the land tenure problems at Nhulunbuy. Nhulunbuy is in a complicated situation because the land is referred to in various pieces of legislation, including the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act and various agreements between the Commonwealth government and the company out there relating to the land tenure, security for the mine and the town, and so on. The problems that are associated with the company giving the necessary securities and approvals to allow for other persons to take up subleases in the area would involve more than a simple act altering the land tenure in the area. They would also involve the law relating to tenancies. That is what is proposed in the bill.

Nightcliff Primary School

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that a decision has apparently been made not to proceed with stage 3 of Nightcliff Primary School meaning the school will have to continue using a demountable? Will he undertake to make a statement in the House later this sittings if at all possible?

ANSWER

I certainly could not undertake to make a statement later in these sittings because I imagine there is not a great deal of them left. Mr Speaker, there are many demountables in schools in the Northern Territory and I certainly would not like to place the government in a position of saying that we will remove all demountables in Nightcliff and not be able to say that in respect of all the other schools around the Northern Territory. Faced with that problem, I will investigate the matter.

Quite often demountables are put in because of a climb in the graph of children of the particular age who go to either a primary school or high school. It is quite often not wise to build permanent facilities just to take up a short-term population variation. In any event, I will investigate the matter and, if there is anything particular that the member ought to know, I will write to her in due course.

Aboriginal -
  Community Work Program *626
  health workers *622
  housing on pastoral properties 730
  leases, brucellosis and tuberculosis 664
  Liaison Unit 635
  outstations, teacher aides 704
  properties, mustering subsidies 732
  Sacred Sites Protection Authority 719
  teaching assistants *620
  traditional owners, consultation with 713
Aborigines -
  employment 636
  pre-apprenticeship courses 668
ADMA, crop purchase scheme 662
Agriculture, government expenditure 641
Alice Springs -
  Hospital, outpatient service 666
  roads 723
  Women's Community Centre 630
Anti-depressant medication *616
Apatula community 668
Artificial insemination 691
Australian Public Servants, home purchase 714
Australian United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association Convention 639
Bali cattle, research 662
Beef -
  contract production 642
  exports to South-east Asia 631
  tenderising techniques *637
Bellenger, Geoffrey Peter *622
Beswich Station, water supply 671
Bilingual education programs *621, 711
Blood tests for drugs 718
Brinkin traffic 713
Brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaign *622, 670, 717, 731
Buffalo domestication 659, 662
Buffalo Industry Conference 663
Bynoe Harbour road 714
Caravan parks survey 672
Casuarina Hospital -
  golden staph 709, 724
  separate facilities *619
  staff reductions *619
  waiting time 637
Causeways, closure in central Australia 700
Chest x-rays *616, 673
Chief Minister -
  circular to 'Fellow Territorians' *629
  house in Brunei 688
Child Health Unit, Alice Springs 706
Child Protection Consultative Committee *621
Circular on health matters in schools 711
Collia Tin Mine *617
Commercial establishments, supply of services to 704
Commissioner of Police 687
Commonwealth funds to NT, interest 680
Commonwealth health grants *617

Community health centres -
   allocations *617
   medical practitioners 630
Community welfare, expenditure 652
Compulsory destocking 701
Conservation Commission, trees 698
Corporation of the City of Darwin, houses *628
Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Bill *625, 696
Dangerous Goods Act 722
Darwin Airport -
   access roads to new terminal 675
   entrance to new terminal 705
Darwin Central Community Health Centre *616
Darwin Hospital, pathology laboratory *614
Darwin powerhouse, site 642
Daylight saving 727
Dental Act 705
Department of Community Development, counselling *615
Department of Education, computers *628
Department of Health -
   central office 648
   debt collectors *625, 650
   grants-in-aid *618
   internal reviews *618
   meeting of executives in Alice Springs 702, 709
Department of Mines and Energy, Tennant Creek office 705
Department of Primary Production, sale of cattle 726
Detoxification centres *615
Disabled persons, aid 618
Disadvantaged cards *619
Doctor/patient ratios *620
Doctors, use of public facilities 715
Domestic violence *621, 636
Donkey meat 662
Douglas-Daly and Upper Adelaide River farms *621
Drug education programs *617
East Point Reserve 730
East West Airlines 629
Education Act, regulations 694
Electricity charges for caravan dwellers 720
Elizabeth River Dairy, government cattle 640
Elsey and Hodgson Downs Pastoral Leases 629
Elsey electorate, fire fighting equipment *623
Emergency accommodation for females *615
Emergency services heliport, Alice Springs 693
Essential Services Program, water supply 703
Eva Valley and St Vidgeon Stations *614, 677
External students, assistance 707
Eye specialist for Alice Springs 717
Fifteen-mile camp, special purposes lease 632
Firearms, disposition of unserviceable 217
Fish and Fisheries Act, complaints 642
Fisheries Division program 639
Flagpoles for schools 672
Fog Bay 720
foreshore protection 684
Fruit and vegetable growers, assistance 718
Ghan service 713

Giles House 665
Government -
   departments, liaison *623
   houses, sale 681
   land purchases on new estates 694
   vehicles 682, 720
Grants-in-aid *617, *627, 631, 632, 676
Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust Account *624
Gunn Point Prison Farm 675, 676
Health charges 650
Health funding *620
Health insurance -
   claims 637
   Territorians covered by 683
Health services, rationalisation 649
Hilton Hotel for Alice Springs, possible loan 726, 727, 728
Hospital patients, security for belongings *614
Hospitals -
   consultants' fees 649
   outpatient services 651
   patients transferred interstate 650
   payments by instalments *625
   staffing levels *620, *625
   variation in bed costs *619
Hostels, tenders for leases 669
Housing Commission -
   assistance to pensioners 643
   building program for Tennant Creek 673
   caretakers for flats 694
   out-of-turn allocations 638, 648
   rental rebates 647
   sale of units and townhouses 668
ILO conventions *623, *624
Industrial crops, research 643
Industries Training Commission 630, 676
Interpreter service for Aborigines *614
In vitro fertilisation research 732
Jabiru -
   Hospital 685, 723, 730
   library service 732
   medical practitioners 721
Juvenile crime *624
Kailis fishing company, trucking route 634
Katherine -
   Aboriginal camping area *615
   building inspector 681
   electricity supply *613, *622
   grain receival depot 722
   Health Centre 632
   Hospital 638, 700
   hospital costs *626
   Police District 679
   town boundaries *623
Kintore Ranges, community 667
Koolpinyah pastoral lease *628, 692
Lake Nash 634, 730
Land rights inquiry 664
Leucaena, trials at Mataranka 644

Library Service, book purchases 659
Licensing -
    carpenters and bricklayers 715
    mortgage and insurance brokers 711
Liquor -
    campaign *616
    legislation 696, 697
Litter campaign *621
Local government authorities, model bylaws 721
Ludmilla Creek, Redco proposal 731
MacDonnell Range National Park 671
Marqua Station, alleged employment of underage children 722
Mataranka -
    electricity 677
    television service 681
Mental Health Act, review 716
Mentally retarded children in primary schools 638
Millner Primary School -
    breaking and entering 717
    vacant land near 701
Minister for Mines and Energy, travel 664
Ministerial statement on health 633
Molyhill Mine *621
Mortality statistics 666
Motor vehicle accidents *626
Mudginberri Station, buffalo exports 698
Mung beans, ADMA markets *627, 708
Napperby Station 673
Natural gas 719
Newcastle Waters Station, electricity 698, 732
Nhulunbuy -
    boat ramp 705
    Community Library 729
    local government 721
    Primary School 713
    Sale of Housing Commission homes 732
    Year 7 students 697
Nightcliff -
    Dental Clinic 687
    Primary School 733
Northern Meat Exporters, interest rate on loan *613
Northern Territory Public Service -
    employees 644
    superannuation fund *622
NTDC -
    assistance to Aboriginal organisations 672
    loans *615, 699, 704
NTEC -
    employees, remuneration and benefits *627
    motor vehicles *627
    transferees 663
Nursing and administration of medicine report *619
Nursing, home care *619
Occupational health hazards 637
Occupational health service 651
Oral History Program 674
Outpatients -
    attendance figures at NT hospitals *616
    treatment of non-urgent cases *616

P.A. Australia 669
Palmerston, effect on rural area 702
Palm leaf beetle 703
Panorama Guth 664
Parap Community Health Clinic 686
Pastoral leases 633
Pensioners -
   air fare scheme 708
   free health care 636
Petrol sniffing 648, 723
Pilot licence holders in public service 677
Pine Creek Hall *626
Place Names Committee 728
Plant Variety Rights Bill 693
Plenty Highway, reconstruction 694
Point Stuart abattoir 641
Poisons Act, amendments 727
Poker machines 670, 704
Police Regional Centre, relocation 710
Powell Creek telegraph station 642
Prawning industry *615, 662, 663
Private hospital for Darwin 651, 712
Progress associations, tender approvals 665
Psychiatric patients, transfer to SA *620
Psychiatric services 619, *620, *625
Public housing in NT, applications *618
Public servants -
   male *626
   number employed in NT *625
Queensland Mines, yellowcake 661
RAAF, noise level demonstration 699
Rabbit Flat, stranded people 716
Railway from Darwin wharf to Berrimah 675
Rape in southern region of NT *613
Rapid Creek, bridge at mouth 702
Rapid Creek Water Gardens *622
Regulatory and Advisory Council, meetings 659
Road signs in rural area 711
Royal Flying Doctor Service, hangar at Alice Springs 731
Rural areas, compensation for assistance to police 707
Rural Roads Conference 711
Sadadeen subdivision, purchase of lots by Commonwealth 669
Sales tax 684
Sales Tax Rebate Program 712
Salvinia, control of 705
Sanderson Clinic, flagpole 697
Satellite programs 697
Sarawak, primary industry assistance 696
School dental therapists 651
School leavers, apprenticeships *625
School-to-work transition program 658
Sexual assault cases *614
Sexual harassment 634
Solar equipment, rebate scheme 729
Stuart Highway Alice Springs, realignment 726
Student assistance *613
TAA, special Gove flight 692
Tenancy Act, amendments 733
Tennant Creek, Housing Commission dwellings 668

Ti Tree -
inquest 688
school 667
Top Springs, alleged rape 678
Tourism and Heritage Conference 666
Trachoma, treatment in Aboriginal communities 636
Tradesmen for remote areas *613
Traffic signs 674
Tuberculosis, incidence in 1979-80 *614
United Nations Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women *624, 635, 695
Virginia and Bees Creek Roads 727
Wells Building 718
White Paper on education 718
Yipirinya School *620, 692
Yulara Tourist Village 705, 706

2905.824—34

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.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 18 November 1980

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?

From 24 February 1981

Katherine Electricity 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 sub-divisions on the Gorge road, and to Katherine Gorge?

From 2 June 1981

Interest Rate on Loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

195 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What rate of interest is being charged on the $1.4m special assistance loan granted to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd?

From 9 June 1981

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service

198 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the present staffing of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Centre? Are there plans to increase the staffing levels and, if so, what positions?
2. What are the functions and duties of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service?
3. During the 6 months to 31 May 1981, (a) how many Aboriginals have been treated per week by AIMS, (b) what are the major categories of illness, and (c) where do the Aboriginals, in the main, come from?
4. How many Aboriginal liaison officers are attached to Casuarina Hospital; what hours do they work; and are there plans to increase the numbers?
5. Are any Aboriginal liaison officers to be employed at Darwin Hospital?

From 18 August 1981

Rape in Southern Region

210 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. (a) How many rapes have been reported in the Southern Command region since 1 July 1980 to 10 June 1981, (b) how many have resulted in charges being laid, (c) what is the state of these charges, and (d) have any reports of rape been false?
2. What facilities and resources are available for the psychological counselling of women raped in (a) the Alice Springs region, and (b) the Tennant Creek region?

3. Has he received any representations from women's organisations regarding the level of rape counselling services in the Territory?

4. If so, (a) what organisations have made representations, (b) what has been the basis of these representations, and (c) what has been his response?

Darwin Hospital Pathology Laboratory

224 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can he inform me as to the fate of the pathology laboratory at the Darwin Hospital?

2. Has he considered the future of the laboratory in the light of a lack of such scientific facilities in the Department of Primary Production?

Security for Belongings of Hospital Patients

225 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are made to ensure the security of the belongings of hospital patients, for example psychiatric and geriatric patients, who are unable to care for themselves?

Incidence of Tuberculosis in 1979-80

241 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What was the incidence of tuberculosis in 1979-80 in (a) Australia, and (b) the Northern Territory?

2. Is his department undertaking any program to eradicate tuberculosis in humans similar to the program being undertaken to eradicate tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle?

From 24 November 1981

Sexual Assault Cases

379 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many sexual assualt cases have been seen at the major Territory hospitals in (a) 1980-81, and (b) 1979-80?

Emergency Overnight Accommodation for Females

476 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the government aware of the need for emergency overnight accommodation for females in the NT?

2. Does the government intend to provide subsidies to willing organisations such as the Salvation Army and the St Vincent de Paul Society who have corresponded with the government on such a service and, if so, when?

Aboriginal Camping Area in Katherine

477 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the government aware of and does it agree with the decision of the Katherine Corporation to allow Aborigines to set up a camping area in Katherine, despite the existence of Kalano Farm and the Corroboree Motel?

From 1 December 1981

Liquor Campaign

500 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is being spent on the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign?
2. For what reason was the contract awarded to a southern firm?
3. Has any contact been made with the liquor industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

Collia Tin Mine

512 Mr B. COLLINS 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 in NT - Applications

513 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for general public housing were received during (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81, and how many applications were outstanding at (c) 1 July 1980, and (d) 1 July 1981 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Katherine, (v) Nhulunbuy, and (vi) Pine Creek?
2. How many outstanding applications were there for general public housing (a) at 1 July 1980, and (b) at 25 June 1981?
3. How many applications for general public housing were received in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
4. How many applications for general public housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
5. How many tenants were accommodated in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

Internal Reviews of Health Department

517 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. He stated during the June 1981 sittings that his department had reviews taking place on all aspects of medical services offered to the public, and referred to an internal review of community health services. What were the details and outcome of this review?

2. In regard to other internal reviews conducted during the past year, (a) in which areas were they conducted, (b) who have the committees comprised of, (c) how many times have they met, and (d) what has been the outcome of these review?

3. How many internal reviews are being conducted at the moment?

Report on Nursing and Administration of Medicine

527 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When does he expect the report on manpower requirements for nursing and the administration of medicine to be completed?

Psychiatric Services

534 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what reasons is psychiatric services included in the general administrative expenditure for health services?

2. For what reason has the level of funding for psychiatric services been reduced from $510,000 to $475,000? Where will this cut be felt?

Transfer of Psychiatric Patients to South Australia

537 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much was spent in 1980-81 on the transfer of psychiatric patients to South Australia?

2. How many were transferred?

3. What was the average length of stay per patient?

4. When does the NT government expect to provide suitable secure premises for chronic patients in the Northern Territory?

Doctor-Patient Ratios in NT

538 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the current ratio of doctors per patient at each hospital in the NT?

2. What are the duty rosters of doctors and nurses? How does this compare with last year?

3. Is the percentage that salaried doctors can earn on top of their income to be increased from 25%? If so, to what level?

Yipirinya School in Alice Springs

545 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action, if any, has been taken by the Department of Education on the application for registration of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs?

Litter Campaign

547 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How much was spent on the anti-litter campaign?

2. Why was the contract for the campaign awarded to a southern firm?

From 9 March 1982

'Fellow Territorians' Circular

564 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the cost of a circular letter dated October 1981, addressed to 'Fellow Territorians' and signed by the Chief Minister?

Rapid Creek Water Gardens Project

596 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Given that the Rapid Creek water gardens project already had 2 signs, 1 being a conventional Transport and Works sign and the other a pictorial representation of what the gardens will look like, what was (a) the purpose of erecting a third much larger sign identifying the project, and (b) what was the cost of the third sign?

Geoffrey Peter Bellenger

611 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the hardship suffered by Geoffrey Peter Bellenger, who was injured by a truck on a pedestrian crossing in Alice Springs on 23 May 1975 and who has not yet received any compensation for his injuries or costs?
2. Was the driver of the truck involved in the incident charged with any offence?
3. Is any of the almost 7 years delay between the injury and compensation attributable to any shortcoming or congestion in Northern Territory courts?

Liaison between Government Departments

618 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is there liaison between the Department of Lands, other departments and statutory bodies such as Telecom on the provision of services such as electricity, water, sewerage and telephones for new private or government subdivisions?

Katherine Town Boundaries

619 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Katherine Municipal Council applied to have the town boundaries extended?
2. If so, (a) has the application been made as a result of any government action, and (b) what benefits would be expected to flow from an extension of the town boundaries?

ILO Conventions

622 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware that the Minister for Industrial Relations informed the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives on 18 November 1981 (H. of R. Hansard, p. 3098) that on 26 May and 3 June 1977 the Northern Territory indicated by letter that in its view the Aboriginal population of the Territory does not constitute a dependent, indigenous population for the purposes of International Labour Organisation Convention No. 65, Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) 1939?

2. Who wrote the letter and on what date and by what means did the Northern Territory government authorise it?

3. Is he aware that a former Commonwealth Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations informed the former Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives on 4 October 1977 (H. of R. Hansard, p. 1607) that a review instituted by his department in April 1977 had revealed inconsistencies between provisions in the Northern Territory Apprentices Ordinance and the ILO convention?

Standards Set by ILO Conventions

623 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by those International Labour Organisation conventions which the ILO lists as basic human rights conventions but which Australia has not yet ratified, viz.:

   (a) No. 135 - Workers' Representatives, 1971;
   (b) No. 141 - Rural Workers' Organisations, 1975;
   (c) No. 151 - Labour Relations (Public Service), 1978; and
   (d) No. 156 - Workers with Family Responsibilities, 1981?

2. What views has the NT government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of each of these conventions?

3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have consultations taken place between the NT and Commonwealth governments concerning each of these conventions?

ILO Convention on Civil and Political Rights

624 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by the 1966 ILO Convention on Civil and Political Rights which Australia signed in December 1972 and ratified in August 1980?

2. What views has the Territory government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of this convention since it entered into force in March 1976?

3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have discussions or consultations taken place between the Territory and Commonwealth governments concerning this convention?

Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women

625 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by the 1980 Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women?

2. What views has the Northern Territory government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of the convention?

3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have consultations taken place between the NT and Commonwealth governments concerning the ratification of the convention?

Juvenile Crime in NT

626 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has there been an increase in the incidence of juvenile crime in the Northern Territory?
2. If so, (a) can he provide figures to demonstrate this increase, (b) what are the causes of this increase, (c) what action is to be taken to rectify the situation, and (d) what are the main offences being committed?
3. What is the average age of juvenile offender?
4. (a) How many juvenile inmates are in NT institutions and how does this figure compare with that for the same period last year? (b) What is the average length of stay for a juvenile inmate?

School Leavers Entering Apprenticeships

636 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware of the problems that school leavers, particularly those not living with their parents, face when entering apprenticeships?
2. If so, what does the NT government do or intend doing to enable such disadvantaged youths to enjoy equality with their peers?

From 16 March 1982

Male Public Servants

640 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

As at 30 April 1981, what was (a) the average male earnings in the Northern Territory Public Service, and (b) what were the numbers and levels of the males?

Aboriginal Community Work Program

641 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. The Northern Territory government initiated the Aboriginal Community Work Program for a pilot period of 3 years, which was to conclude in January 1982. Has this occurred?
2. Has a report been compiled for consideration by the government agency reviewing the program?
3. If so, when is it anticipated that the government will table this report?

Motor Vehicles - NTEC

645 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. How many motor vehicles are (a) owned by NTEC, (b) what classes of vehicles are they, and (c) in what numbers?
2. To which designations of NTEC employees are these vehicles allocated and allowed to be driven to and from work?
3. Is it a fact that a lawyer retained by NTEC has an NTEC vehicle assigned to him for his personal use?

Computers, Department of Education

648 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Did the Department of Education hire Price Waterhouse to draw up a report on its use of computers at all levels?

2. If so, (a) when was the report given to the department, (b) is it available for scrutiny, and (c) is it true that the department has 14 different types of word processors?

Houses, Darwin City Council

649 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of (a) the number of houses owned by the Corporation of the City of Darwin, and (b) to what use these houses are put?

Koolpinyah Pastoral Lease

650 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does the government intend to accept part of Koolpinyah lease in exchange for granting Koolpinyah management an additional lease?

2. If so, what is (a) the location and area of land Koolpinyah is to relinquish to the government, and (b) the location and area of the new land to be released to Koolpinyah?

Koolpinyah Boundaries

651 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

I refer to the proposed 'Rationalisation of Boundaries for Koolpinyah' and ask: is it a fact that both the Department of Primary Production and the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority recommended against the proposed re-drawing of the boundaries and, if so, on what information did Cabinet agree on 22 December 1981 to accept in principle the proposed re-drawing of the boundaries?

From 25 May 1982

In vitro Fertilisation Research

653 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the NT government, through the Department of Health, intend to provide funds for further research into *in vitro* fertilisation as Northern Territory couples are affected by it?

Grants-in-Aid, Nhulunbuy Sporting Bodies

654 Mr LEO to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORTS and RECREATION

I refer to his answer to question No. 605 and ask what was the break-down of the $27,199 provided through grants-in-aid to Nhulunbuy sporting bodies during 1980-81?

Dangerous Goods Act Commencement

655 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why has the Dangerous Goods Act, assented to in January 1981, not yet come into operation?

Tender, RFDS Hangar, Alice Springs

656 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Who was the successful tenderer for the Royal Flying Doctor Service hangar facility at Alice Springs airport?
2. Was this decision consistent with the Tender Board's recommendation?
3. What were the grounds on which the decision was based?

Repairs and Maintenance, Rapid Creek Primary School

657 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What plans does the department have to (a) repair and cyclone proof the roof of the older part of the Rapid Creek Primary School, including the covered way area, (b) paint, (c) replace furniture, and (d) repair gutters in the older part of the school, and (e) bituminize the school carpark?

Excursion Funds, Millner and Rapid Creek Schools

658 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How much did (a) Millner, and (b) Rapid Creek schools receive in excursion funds from the department in (i) 1979-80, (ii) 1980-81, and (iii) 1981-82?

Land Purchases, Northlakes and Brinkin

659 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has the government purchased, or does it itend to purchase, blocks of land at the Northlakes Country Club Estate and at Brinkin?
2. If so, for what purpose has the government made or intend to make these purchases?

Recreation Lake, Alice Springs

661 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I draw his attention to the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority report tabled in the Assembly on 11 March 1982 in which, in relation to Welatje Terre, the proposed site for the recreation lake, it was stated that it was hoped that alternative locations for the proposed development may be identified in the near future, and ask:

1. Is he able to advise of any such alternative sites?
2. What is the relative feasibility of each site in comparison with Welatje Terre?
3. If no alternative sites have been identified, will the government proceed with construction of a recreation lake at Welatje Terre and, if so, when will the work commence and when is the project expected to be completed?

National Parks, MacDonnell Ranges

663 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to question No. 586 regarding the gazetting of a MacDonnell Range National Park and ask:

What other acquisition proposals are proceeding satisfactorily in the Central and East MacDonnells', and for what purposes is the Conservation Commission seeking to acquire such land?

Flagpoles, NT Buildings

664 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to question No. 587 and ask:

What is the cost of the supply of flagpoles for erection at all Northern Territory buildings?

Sales of Housing Commission Units

665 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many people in (a) Alice Springs, (b) Darwin, (c) Tennant Creek, and (d) Katherine have purchased housing units of various types since the government announced its home purchase scheme in October 1981?
2. How many units of various types have been released for sale in (a) Alice Springs, (b) Darwin, (c) Tennant Creek, and (d) Katherine since the scheme was announced?
3. How many people in (a) Alice Springs, (b) Darwin, (c) Tennant Creek, and (d) Katherine have listed their names with the Tenancy Section of the Housing Commission expressing interest in purchasing units of various types?

Accommodation for Single-parent Families

666 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Does the Housing Commission require evidence of custody of children from single-parent families who apply for rental accommodation?

Drilling and Exploration, Magellan Petroleum

667 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What are the details of the current drilling program being pursued by Magellan Petroleum in central Australia?
2. What is the (a) registration number of, and (b) nature of exploration on each E.L. held by the company?
3. What funding has been committed to the exploration program either (a) in general, or (b) for each E.L.?

Medical Evacuations

668 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many medical evacuations for interstate specialist attention were recommended by (a) private GPs, and (b) government hospital doctors in the Territory from August 1980 to August 1981?
2. How many medical evacuations for interstate specialist attention were recommended by (a) private GPs, and (b) government hospital doctors from 1 September 1981 to 31 March 1982?

Education Staff, Banka Banka

670 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many staff positions does his department fund at Banka Banka?
2. Of these, (a) how many are members of the community, and (b) how many were recruited from outside the community?

School, Ayers Rock

671 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many school-age children are currently living at Ayers Rock?
2. When will his department provide a school for these children?

Community Adviser, Ayers Rock

672 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Will his department fund the position of community adviser at Ayers Rock?
2. If not, why not?

Relocation of Pintubi

673 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When does he expect the findings on the review of the relocation of the Pintubi at Kintore and elsewhere to be made known to the Kintore community and relevant government departments?

Petrol Sniffing Workshop

674 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What action has resulted from an interdepartmental workshop on petrol sniffing held at Papunya on 24 February 1982?

Blasting, Sadadeen Hills

675 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What consultation took place, if any, with Aboriginal traditional owners and other citizens before officers of his department commenced blasting a section of the Sadadeen hills to enable erection of a water tank?

Beef Trade with South-east Asia

676 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does he realise that the attitude of NT meat processors towards our northern neighbours Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines directly affects the BTB eradication campaign and the development of the beef industry in the NT?
2. If so, will he review the licences of abattoirs that do not accept the NT policy of seeking trade with South-east Asia?

Beef for South-east Asia

677 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In view of the crisis situation which exists in the NT beef industry, will he take urgent steps to contact Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines to determine if beef killed to Australian domestic standards is acceptable and if they require quotes and proposals to supply?

Award Wages, Katherine Meatworks

679 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does the government realise that its efforts to develop the beef industry in the Top End are being hampered by the Katherine Meatworks

making over-award sweetheart agreements with AMIEU members?

2. Will the government ensure that this meatworks operates under the AMIEU award or on contract kill as do other meatworks in the Territory?

Shop Leases, Jabiru

681 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many of the 7 speciality shops available for lease in Jabiru have been leased?
2. To whom have they been leased?
3. What is the period of each lease?
4. What are the terms and conditions of each lease?

Supermarket Lease, Jabiru

682 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Which company has been given the lease of the supermarket at Jabiru?
2. What is the period of the lease?
3. What are the terms and conditions of the lease?

Development Costs, Jabiru

683 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has a formal cost sharing arrangement on the funding of the development of Jabiru between the JTDA and the mining companies been signed?
2. If yes, what are the details of this cost sharing agreement?

Operational Funding, Jabiru

684 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has an agreement been reached between the JTDA and mining companies over the funding of the operational costs of the town?
2. If yes, what are the details of this agreement?

Rating System, Jabiru

685 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Was a rating system for Jabiru introduced on 1 July 1981 as indicated in page 22 of the JTDA Annual Report?
2. If yes, what are the details of this rating system?

Administration Staff, Jabiru

686 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

How many people are (a) employed, and (b) at what levels, in the town administrator's office in Jabiru?

Aboriginal Education Allocations

687 Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What financial allocations were received from the Commonwealth government for Aboriginal education in 1980-81 and 1981-82?

2. Did Dhupuma College (a) ever receive a specific allocation of Commonwealth funding and, if so, (b) when, (c) how much, and (d) for what purpose?

Salt and Lime Supplies

688 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

What action is being taken to supply NT needs for salt and lime?

Encouragement of Horticulturists

690 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What practical encouragement is being given to horticulturists in the Katherine district to grow vegetables and fruit in competition with growers 2,000 miles away?

Cost of Transfer, Regional Office

691 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What were the removal and re-establishment costs involved in the transfer of the Northern Region office from the old Darwin hospital to Casuarina?

From 1 June 1982

Firearms, Security Guards

692 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What, in general terms, are the regulations governing the use of firearms by private security guards, and what type of training and level of competence in the use of firearms by private security guards is required in the Northern Territory?

Life Sentences

693 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In relation to life sentences imposed in the Territory, (a) how many persons are presently serving life sentences, (b) what is the average length of the actual sentence served, (c) are there any administrative procedures for the review of life sentences, and (d), if so, what are they?

Golden Perch

694 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Has the Department of Primary Production thoroughly examined the possible impact of the introduction of golden perch into Top End streams?
2. If so, is he confident that there will not be any harmful effects of such an action?
3. Will he make available to the Assembly the report of his department on the possible impact of the introduction of these fish when it is complete?

From 3 June 1982

Sealing, Bees Creek Road

695 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

A great number of residents of my electorate are forced to use Bees Creek road as an access road to the Stuart Highway, sometimes several times each day. Could he advise if and when the government intends to upgrade and seal this badly corrugated dirt road?

Boundaries, Koolpinyah Station

696 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

On 9 March 1982 he advised the Assembly that the matter of redrawing the boundaries of Koolpinyah Station was under consideration. Is he yet in a position to provide further information on this matter?

Mt Wells Battery

697 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is the area of the Mt Wells Battery still part of the Ban Ban pastoral lease?
2. If so, is this the reason for the delay in full payment by Singellic Minerals to the government for the Mt Wells Battery and associated leases?
3. If so, when will this be resolved?

Student Assistance

201 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students in the Northern Territory are, (a) receiving assistance under the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme, and (b) how many are in receipt of the full allowance?

ANSWER

The Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme (TEAS) is a scheme administered by the Commonwealth Department of Education whose Darwin office supplied the following information:

(a) As at June 1980 - 100
As at June 1981 - 120 (preliminary figure only).

(b) As at June 1980 - 77
As at June 1981 - Not known.

St Vidgeon Station and Eva Valley Station

346 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What is the future of St Vidgeon Station where Aboriginals are building stock yards, etc.?
2. What is the future of Eva Valley Station?

ANSWER

The future of St Vidgeon and Eva Valley Stations depends on the mortgagees involved exercising their rights.

Interpreter Service for Aborigines

469 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What action does the government intend taking in response to the working party's report on the need for Aboriginal interpreter services in the NT?
2. If such services are to be established, what will be (a) their nature, (b) their funding, and (c) anticipated commencement date?

ANSWER

1. The working party recommended the establishment of an Aboriginal interpreting service through the combined resources of Aboriginal organisations and the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments.

   Consultation on this matter has already taken place with the Institute for Aboriginal Development and the School of Australian Linguistics which are presently offering training programs for interpreters. Correspondence has been forwarded to the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs seeking his views on the report's recommendations, and the likelihood of Commonwealth funding being made available for this service. To date no response has been received from the minister.

2. If a service is established, it is proposed that Aboriginal organisations will train interpreters and operate a service. The interpreting service would be initially funded by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments as a pilot project with an anticipated commencement date during 1982-83.

   The interpreting service would be co-ordinated by the NT government, which at the commencement would also develop the service in the Top End

pending the availability of Aboriginal organisations to do so. It is intended that from the commencement the service in the centre would be developed by an Aboriginal organisation.

Department of Community Development - Counselling

475 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many officers are involved in counselling in the Department of Community Development?

2. What are the qualifications of the officers?

3. What is (a) the average caseload, and (b) the average number of clients seen per week by each counsellor?

4. What percentage of the clients are Aboriginal?

ANSWER

1. There are 14 officers involved in counselling in Correctional Services Division and 29 in Community Welfare Division.

2. The qualifications of these officers vary but include degrees in social work, degrees in behavioural and social sciences, other tertiary qualifications including Associate Diplomas in Welfare Work and some are qualified by experience and on-the-job training.

3.(a) The average caseload in Correctional Services Division is 40 per officer.

The workload of Community Welfare workers is varied and includes many single contacts as well as ongoing cases, so it is not realistic to talk in terms of caseloads.

(b) Average number of clients seen per week is 11 for Correctional Services officers and 18 for Community Welfare workers. These figures were obtained from a recent sample of case contact statistics kept by the department.

4. According to a survey of cases conducted by Correctional Services Division in November 1981, 51% were identified as Aboriginal.

An analysis of Community Welfare case contact statistics covering the period September 1980 to September 1981 showed that 40% of clients were Aboriginal.

Prawning Licences

493 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many prawning licences were granted by the Department of Primary Production in 1979-80 and 1980-81?

2. How many prawning licences were in existence as at 30 June (a) 1978, (b) 1979, (c) 1980, and (d) 1981?

ANSWER

Throughout Australia licences in the fishing industry are renewed on a calendar year basis. This is also the case for relicensing in the northern prawn fishery.

Vessels authorised to fish in the northern prawn fishery (strictly the Declared Management Zone) are required to hold a Commonwealth licence for proclaimed waters and a Queensland or Northern Territory licence when they enter the territorial waters administered by either of these governments. However, it has been agreed administratively that all vessels authorised

for the northern prawn fishery should hold the 3 licences.

The following table details the numbers of licences issued over the last 4 years:

Year	Commonwealth Licence	Northern Territory Licence
1978	286	173
1979	291	207
1980	292	256
1981	292	280

NTDC Loans

494 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many applications for Northern Territory Development Corporation loans were received from the agricultural and horticultual industries in (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
2. How many applications were successful and for what activities were loans granted?
3. What was the average repayment period associated with loans granted?
4. Were any interest or repayment holidays granted on any loans to the rural sector?

ANSWER

1. (a) Applications received in 1979-80 were 6.
   (b) Applications received in 1980-81 were 15.
2. Thirteen applications were successful for the following activities:
   - cropping development - purchase of seed and machinery;
   - turf farming;
   - banana plantation; and
   - debt reconstruction) rural adjustment scheme.
     farm irrgation)
3. The average repayment period associated with loans granted was for 8.5 years.
4. The maximum repayment holiday granted on loans to the rural sector was 12 months.

Detoxification Centres

499 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Does the government support the establishment of detoxification centres, pick-up services and halfway houses for the Northern Territory?
2. What is the government's attitude to the introduction of a concessional differential on low alcohol beer?

ANSWER

1. A range of facilities for people experiencing problems with alcohol and other drugs is currently provided by the Northern Territory government and by community organisations supported financially by the government.
2. The Northern Territory government supports the concept of a price differential for low alcohol beer. The difficulty arises, however, in that liquor licence fees, which are under the control of the Northern Territory government, account for only a small portion of

the retail price of beer. Even completely abolishing liquor licence fees on low alcohol beer would result in a reduction of no more than 3 or 4 cents per can. This differential would be insufficient to effect a change in beer consumption patterns.

The Commonwealth government collects excise duty of 52 cents on each litre of beer. We have asked the Commonwealth to consider adjusting excise to establish a price differential on low alcohol beer, as recommended by the Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare, however, the Commonwealth government has consistently refused to do so.

Darwin Central Community Health Centre

503 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the government considering relocating the Darwin Central Community Health Centre and, if so, where is it to be located and for what reasons?

ANSWER

The Darwin Central Community Health Centre has been relocated to the ground floor, MLC Building, Smith Street.

Health facilities at the old Darwin hospital site have been relocated because of the disproportionate expense of maintaining the site and the MLC Building site is a more centrally located one.

Chest X-rays - *National Tuberculosis Act* 1948

504 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Since the introduction of the 'user pays' medical and health charges on 1 September 1981, (a) what arrangements have been made by his department under the *National Tuberculosis Act* 1948 for the general public to have chest X-rays at no charge at general hospitals throughout the NT, and (b) if arrangements have been made will they be advertised in the media throughout the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

No special arrangements exist under the *Natioanl Tuberculosis Act* 1948 between the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory. Prior to 1 September all patients seeking x-ray diagnosis at a hospital received this treatment free. As from 1 September persons suspected of suffering from tuberculosis have been treated the same as other patients. If they are 'disadvantaged' persons all treatment is free. Persons in receipt of a pension under the Tuberculosis Act receive free treatment.

It is the policy of the Northern Territory government to encourage all people in the Northern Territory to either seek a Department of Social Security health care card or, if not eligible, to seek coverage under health insurance. This policy has been extensively advertised in the media.

Attendance Figures at Outpatients

505 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. From 1 September to 31 October 1981, how many people (a) who attended outpatients departments in NT hospitals, and (b) who were hospitalised, were (i) insured, (ii) uninsured, or (iii) held disadvantaged and PHB cards?

2. How do those figures compare with those for the same period during 1980?

3. What was the percentage of Aboriginals in each of those categories?

ANSWER

1. Between 1 September and 30 October, 29,109 people visited outpatients. Statistics on the number of insured and uninsured are not available. Those people exempted from charges under the Commonwealth disadvantaged classifications totalled 5,969.

2. Statistics of insured, uninsured and disadvantaged were not kept last year.

3. Aboriginals represent 9% of total outpatients. Within this group, exemptions (including those awaiting confirmation) are 91%. Aboriginals represent 44% of total inpatient bed days. Within this group, exemptions (including those awaiting confirmation) are 95%.

Non-urgent Outpatient Treatment

506 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people wanting non-urgent treatment at outpatients departments in NT hospitals have not been seen because they have not had the necessary fee since 1 September 1981?

ANSWER

No such figures are kept.

Anti-depressant Medication

507 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Are patients in NT hospitals who are not suffering from a psychosis prescribed anti-depressant medication without their knowledge and consent? If so, under what conditions?

2. How many (a) inpatients, and (b) outpatients were prescribed anti-depressant medication during 1980-81?

ANSWER

1. I am advised that all patients who receive anti-depressant or other medication are given explanation of their treatment so as to ensure informed consent to treatment.

2. There is no accurate way of assessing the number of inpatients and outpatients prescribed anti-depressant medication in 1980-81 without examining all individual medical records for these patients.

Allocations to Community Health Centres

508 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is he allocating from the Commonwealth's general revenue fund of $20.6 million to community health centres, hospitals and school dental services for each hospital, and community health centre?

2. How much is the NT government allocating to these areas in 1981-82, for each community health centre, hospital and school dental service?

3. What was expended under these headings in 1980-81?

ANSWER

1. The $20.6 million is treated as general revenue and is not specifically broken up between individual hospitals, health centres, etc. Commonwealth funding covers only a portion of the total expenditure by the NT government on these services.

2. Allocations for NT hospitals in 1981-82 are as follows:

	$ million
Casuarina	30.481
East Arm	1.078
Katherine	3.597
Tennant Creek	2.456
Alice Springs	14.253
Gove District	3.665
Jabiru	0.218
Total Allocation to Hospitals	55.748

Budgets are not allocated to individual health centres and school dental units as these are incorporated in the operation costs of the department's 3 regions and central office. The allocations for health services expenditure in 1981-82 are as follows:

	$ million
Darwin and Katherine Region	10.047
Alice Springs and Barkly Region	5.962
East Arnhem Region	2.856
Central Office	8.897
Total Health Services Allocation	27.762

3. Expenditure in 1980-81 on hospitals and health services was as follows:

	$ million
(a) Hospitals	
Casuarina	27.933
East Arm	0.977
Katherine	3.184
Tennant Creek	2.055
Alice Springs	12.222
Gove District	3.244
Total Hospitals Expenditure	49.615

	$ million
(b) Health Services	
Darwin and Katherine Region	9.135
Alice Springs and Barkly Region	5.501
East Arnhem Region	2.618
Central Office	7.873
Total Health Services Expenditure	25.127

Drug Education Program in NT

509 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What are the drug education programs to be conducted in the Northern Territory during 1981-82?

ANSWER

The following drug education programs will be conducted in the Northern Territory in 1981-82:

- Drugs as a Social Issue - To be presented to primary, secondary and community college students, as well as community groups.
- Everyday Drugs - This program is particularly aimed at women.
- Parents and Drugs - To be presented to parents and teachers.

- Risks, Dares and Challenges - This program is aimed particularly at primary school students in years 6 to 7, and parents.
- Healthy Lifestyle - A public information display emphasising proper exercise, diet control and leisure activities.
- How Much Is Too Much - An information program on alcohol aimed at community groups.

Commonwealth Health Grants

510 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has the Commonwealth provided $9 million for health planning and research in the form of grants to the states and the Northern Territory (on a $1 for $1 basis) and to institutions and persons?
2. If so, (a) how much has been allocated to the Northern Territory, and (b) for what purposes?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth has provided for a total of $400,000 to be paid to the states and the Northern Territory for health planning and research during 1981-82.

The grants are available on a dollar for dollar basis to encourage the development of states and Territory health planning units.

For 1981-82 the Northern Territory has been allocated $10,000, and it is proposed to utilise these funds in the compilation of a computerised bank of Aboriginal health statistics.

Guidelines for Grants-in-Aid

511 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What action has been taken to correct the following unsatisfactory controls relating to grants-in-aid commented upon by the Auditor-General in 1978-79 and found to be still unsatisfactory in 1980:

(a) inadequacies in the promulgated conditions for grants;
(b) the absence of reference to formal acceptance of the conditions and purpose of grants;
(c) the legal entity of grantees;
(d) the withholding of moneys for non-compliance with grant conditions;
(e) the lack of current formalized departmental procedures and guidelines covering functional responsibilities and criteria for the evaluation of grant applications and the monitoring of performance of grantees; and
(f) the apparent absence of follow-up action by his department in certain instances where it is not evident that grantees had complied with the conditions of grants?

ANSWER

(a) Various inadequacies in the promulgation of the 'Conditions of Grants' booklet were adjusted in the first amendment to the conditions during October 1980.

(b) Recipients to formally accept conditions. Under section 6.5 of the conditions, recipients are required to formally accept the conditions outlined in the booklet. Forms are forwarded to the recipients who are required to sign and return the forms to regional offices.

(c) Legal entity of grantees. Under section 4.6 of the conditions, recipients are required to provide evidence of their registration

under the Northern Territory Associations Incorporation Act. At present the evidence required is a certificate of registration under the Act.

(d) Withholding of moneys. No funds are released until the organisation adheres to all the preliminary conditions, i.e., acceptance of conditions, receipt of registration certificate, details of insurance coverage and names of office bearers.

(e) Formal departmental procedures and guidelines to assess applications for grants-in-aid were issued on 15 December 1980.

(f) Generally no funds are released to grantees until the preliminary conditions are adhered to. Once payments are released the grantees are monitored on a regional and head office to ensure compliance with the conditions.

Expenditure on Aids to Disabled People

516 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he ascertain and advise how the funds were spent in 1980-81 which the Commonwealth provided for aids to disabled people who were not eligible under Commonwealth-state programs?

ANSWER

There was no expenditure under the program of aids for disabled people in the Northern Territory during 1980-81.

Funds were received from the Commonwealth on 19 June 1981, and have been carried forward to be spent during 1981-82.

Applications to Health Department for Grants-in-Aid

519 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many (a) applications for grants-in-aid were lodged for 1981-82, and (b) which organisations were unsuccessful?

ANSWER

1. There were 66 applications for grants-in-aid for 1981-82
2. The Darwin Women's Centre and the Katherine Women's Shelter were unsuccessful.

Variations between Bed Cost in NT Hospitals

520 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why do the bed costs in NT hospitals vary between $78 and $254, and where does this variation occur?

ANSWER

The variation in bed-day costs between the hospitals is a function of various factors including the degree of specialist treatment provided, age and design of the hospital, and the cost disabilities of different locations.

Staff Reductions at Darwin Hospital

523 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Which staff organisations at the Darwin Hospital have agreed to staff reductions affecting their memberships?

2. In which areas have staff reductions already been effected?

3. How many people have been affected to date?

ANSWER

1. All staff organisations at the Darwin Hospital have agreed to staff reductions affecting their membership.

2. All categories of staff have been reduced.

3. Apart from non re-engagement of limited tenure employees, reductions have been achieved by selective non-replacement of staff who voluntarily resigned. To date the staff establishment has been reduced by 65 positions.

Separate Facilities at Darwin Hospital

529 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has he rejected his working party recommendations to erect separate facilities at Darwin Hospital for psychiatric, the handicapped and geriatric patients?

2. If so, why?

3. If not, has any money been allocated for their establishment in 1981-82, and when does he expect such facilities to be operational?

ANSWER

The government has approved in principle the erection of appropriate facilities for mentally handicapped and geriatric patients.

No funds have been provided for the establishment of new facilities in 1981-82.

It is essential that maximum utilisation of Darwin Hospital facilities be made before further capital expenditure is considered.

Nursing Home Care

530 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many elderly patients does he anticipate are in need of nursing home care?

2. How many are Aborigines?

3. Are there any plans to establish separate facilities for the elderly Aborigines?

ANSWER

1. It is anticipated that there are 70 elderly people in need of nursing home beds in Darwin, 10-20 in Katherine and Tennant Creek and 80 in Alice Springs.

2. The actual number of Aborigines in need of nursing home care is not known. What appears to be consistent in most Aboriginal communities is that there is a reluctance to send aged relatives away to be cared for in town. There are however exceptions to this view as the relatives of aged persons from Papunya and Yuendumu prefer their elderly to be cared for at Hetti Perkins Nursing Home.

3. There are no plans to establish separate facilities for elderly Aborigines, i.e., separate nursing homes. Methods of care for elderly Aborigines should be culturally relevant, and if possible provision

made to maintain people in their own community.

Disadvantaged Cards

532 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people does he estimate could be classified as disadvantaged who have not yet received a disadvantaged card and what percentage of these are Aborigines?

ANSWER

The responsibility for determining disadvantaged status rests with the Commonwealth Department of Social Security.

There are no statistics available to me which would enable the estimate requested by the honourable Member to be made.

My department believes from observations made by staff in the field that a large number of Aborigines are not yet covered.

Psychiatric Services

533 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the overall strategy of the government to improve psychiatric services?

2. What are seen as the main priorities?

ANSWER

1. The strategy of the government is to provide the most efficient high quality care for psychiatric patients of the Northern Territory. To this end, psychiatric patients have been transferred from the Darwin annex to the main Darwin Hospital at Casuarina. As well, the arrangement with South Australia whereby some long term patients are accommodated in South Australian institutions is being formalised.

2. The main priorities are:

   (a) the improvement in the quality of psychiatric care;
   (b) the examination of the various options for improved facilities in the Northern Territory; and
   (c) negotiations with South Australia on the formal agreement.

Health Funding

535 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When does he expect to re-examine the Territory's revenue raising capacity with the Commonwealth Minister for Health?

2. Is he compiling the necessary statistics previously not available, to strengthen our case for additional Commonwealth funding? If so, what do these statistics comprise?

ANSWER

1. The Commonwealth has indicated that it is prepared to re-examine the revenue raising capacity of the States and the Northern Territory. To date 2 submissions have been made to the Commonwealth, the most recent using data to the end of January 1982. These submissions are currently under consideration by the Commonwealth.

2. Yes, all necessary statistics are being compiled as from 1 September 1981. The statistics will indicate the number of patients who are

disadvantaged and those who are chargeable. The categories are further broken down into Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

Staffing Levels in NT Hospitals

541 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Where does he expect staffing levels in Territory hospitals to be reduced and by how many and when?

ANSWER

Reductions have been achieved at all NT hospitals by natural attrition in all areas. The hospital staffing levels are kept under constant review and raised or lowered as appropriate.

Aboriginal Teaching Assistants

546 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many Aboriginal teaching assistants are expected to be employed in 1981-82 and at which homeland centres?

ANSWER

47 Aboriginal teaching assistants are presently employed in 38 outstations. Applications are being processed as they arrive and another 10 are expected to be employed by the end of semester 1.

Locations and present approvals are indicated below in regions with applications now being received and or processed noted in brackets alongside.

EAST ARNHEM

Ramininginning	Balinjora	1
	Mulnanganuk	1
	Gadgi	(1)
Milingimbi	Dipirri	1
	Gumugumuk	1
	Langarra	2
	Bala Atjuwa	1
Angurugu	Bickerton Island	1
	Yambaugwa	1
Yirrkala	Baniyala	1 + Ab. NTTS Member
	Gurrumurru	2 *
	Wandawuy	3 *
	Gagan	2 *
	Dhalinbuy	1
	Bawaka	1 *
Numbulwar	Walker River	1

DARWIN NORTH

Maningrida	Jimardi	2
	Kopanga	1
	Gamedi	1
	Gorang Gorang	1
	Boldjan	1
	Kubumi	1
	Margabdan	1

DARWIN SOUTH			
Oenpelli	Manmoyi	2	
	Gumarirnbang	1	
	Mikinj Valley	1	
	Gumborlomborlom		(1)
	Mamadawerre	1	
	Gurrhgurrh	1	
	Nabarlek	2	
KATHERINE			
Bamyili	Eva Valley	1	
Roper Valley	Mainoru	1	
	Badawarrka	1	
Ngukurr	Nalawan	1	
	Castello	1	
	Namilwerre		(1)
	Bawanda		(1)
Borroloola	Robinson River		(1)
	Yamirri		(1)
	Wadadagla		(1)
ALICE SPRINGS			
Papunya	Central Camps	1	(1)
	Kintore	2	
Utopia	Kurrajong	1	(1)
	Ammaroo	1	(1)

NOTES:

The figures are current for Friday 5 March, but fluctuate greatly as do nominated 'teachers' employed in the communities.

Positions are generally part-time, or shared between 2 persons, by agreement and have in the past been resourced from each central school's pool of assistant teachers. Some additional employment was arranged through the composite use of assistance to isolated children funds at locations where no assistant teacher was employed. Each one is indicated by an asterisk. Prior to 1982 DAA funded several positions through the local councils.

The increase in 1982 is through an arrangement with the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs and is seen as a temporary measure to be negotiated further with the Commonwealth if we are to assume their responsibilities on a more permanent basis.

In addition approximately 15 teachers are fully occupied in outstation visiting programs. In addition the production of and local modification of school of the bush and tracks materials requires considerable involvement of teachers and literacy production resources in each central community.

Hospital Treatment of Cases of Domestic Violence

549 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR HEALTH

1. When a woman presents to a NT hospital with injuries or illness which she identifies as being caused by domestic violence, what procedures does the hospital follow?

2. What mechanism does the hospital have to ensure the victim is referred to other assistance she may require?

3. In the past 12 months, what number and percentage of (a) outpatients attendances, and (b) inpatient stays were related to domestic violence?

ANSWER

1. When a woman presents to a Northern Territory hospital with injuries or illness and admits or volunteers that they are the result of domestic violence, she is encouraged to discuss her domestic situation with a social worker. If the woman agrees, the police are informed and attend the patient in the hospital.

2. Social workers who see victims of domestic violence make them aware of all avenues of support and assistance available to them. If legal, financial or accommodation assistance is required, arrangements are made.

3. No statistics are kept.

Child Protection Consultative Committee

550 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. Has the Child Protection Consultative Committee yet been established?

2. If so, has it begun collecting statistics on the incidence of domestic violence?

3. Is any other agency collecting similar data relating to domestic violence affecting adults?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory Child Protection Education and Policy Committee was established in Darwin in October 1978. A branch of the committee was later established in Alice Springs in July last year.

   The committee is composed of representatives from the Departments of Health, Education, Law, Community Development and the Police Force, the agencies most involved in child protection issues. Its main role is the promotion of community awareness and education, the co-ordination of community support services, consultation regarding policy matters as well as research in the area of child abuse.

2. The committee's mandate is specifically in the area of child abuse which is only one form of domestic violence.

   The committee has not been in a position to engage in any extensive research into the incidence of child abuse. There is no full-time member of the committee and all the members are fully committed to their respective professions and such research would necessarily be time-consuming.

   Nevertheless, in 1980 the committee conducted a survey in all the primary schools in the Darwin area into the incidence of child abuse among primary school children. Unfortunately the response was not sufficient for the committee to make other than the general conclusion that child abuse does exist at a very real level and that there is a need for community education.

   The Community Welfare Division of the Department of Community Development keeps statistics on all cases of suspected child abuse reported to them. However, until mandatory reporting is introduced, the true incidence of child abuse is difficult to determine.

During 1981 there were 130 reports of suspected child abuse made to the Department of Community Development, of which 72 were substantiated.

3. The Northern Territory Police do not collect any data relating to domestic violence affecting adults.

Douglas-Daly and Upper Adelaide River Experimental Stations

553 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What hectarage of Douglas-Daly Experimental Station and Upper Adelaide River Experimental Station have been transferred from the Department of Primary Production to the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority?

ANSWER

The Douglas-Daly Regional Farm was previously a sub-lease from Douglas Station, but was included in the land purchased from Douglas by ADMA to provide security of tenure to the department. Therefore, there was no transfer of DPP lands to the authority.

No area of land has been transferred from the Upper Adelaide River Experimental Station to the authority. However, the authority is currently occupying an area of land that was previously part of the UARES that is now incorporated within the Finniss River Aboriginal Land Claim.

A 'Memorandum of Understanding' exists between the department and the authority on the use of this area.

Bilingual Education Programs

576 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will staff numbers in bilingual education programs in schools in the southern directorate be maintained next year?

ANSWER

Staffing levels for all government functions and programs are subject to evaluations of performance and priorities and to budgetary considerations.

Molyhill Mine in Central Australia

592 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Have officers from the inspection and safety section visited the Molyhill mine in central Australia recently?

2. If so, what were their comments and recommendations regarding dust suppression and the use of cyanide?

3. Were copies of the officers' report made available to Molyhill employees and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Yes. The dates and visits are as follows:

7 April 1981 - electrical inspector; 28 May 1981 - electrical inspector; 24 June 1981 - inspector of machinery, safety promotion officer, chief occupational hygienist; 30 June 1981 - electrical inspector; 3 July 1981 - district inspector of mines, Director Industrial Safety, machinery inspector; 12 August 1981 - electrical inspectors; 4 September 1981 - machinery inspector; 3 November 1981 - inspector of mines; 24 November 1981 - inspector of mines, electrical inspector, chief metallurgist; 16 December 1981 - inspector of mines, machinery inspector, lease draftsman; 27 January 1982 - electrical inspector.

2. The district inspector's report in the record book does not take up the question of dust or cyanide.

   A possible dust problem was recognised earlier in the year in one of the machines and this had been referred to the chief occupational hygienist for investigation which he undertook in June. He would evaluate whether there was a problem.

   He reported that:

   'On 24 June a visit was carried out by the Department's Senior Chemist, Safety Promotions Officer and Chief Occupational Hygienist, when a general lecture was given on occupational hygiene. The mine was working at the time and dust samples were taken. However, it was learned that night that the mine was to cease operations the next day and so the samples were never processed. No entry was made in the Mine Record Book as these officers were not inspectors and had no statutory right or obligation to make such entries. The matter was discussed with the District Inspector on return to Alice Springs.'.

   The district inspector of mines, after his July visit, brought the situation to the attention of Mr M. Uhlman, the manager, when he telephoned him on 28 and 29 July. An investigation was to be made into whether there was provision for dust suppression in the original design of the impactor. Information was sought from the New Zealand manufacturer, but in the meantime the plant was closed down.

   The manager called at the district office on 4 August and at that time indicated that he would be laying off 14 men about 24 August. This was later followed by a letter confirming the transfer of the plant to a care and maintenance basis from 1 October.

   Cyanide had been taken to the plant for investigation work to be conducted by the company's metallurgist. A little was used but extensive tests did not eventuate and the drums were stored in a locked enclosure. There was no need for comment as the storage was adequate, being kept in a locked cage in the open and provisions are made in the Mine Safety Control Act for the handling of cyanide.

   Employment at Molyhill from district inspector's records;

   30 June 1981 - 41; 31 July 1981 - 34; 31 August 1981 - 18;
   30 September 1981 - 17; 31 October 1981 - 7; 30 November 1981 - 5;
   31 December 1981 - 4.

   From the information gathered:

   Production from the pit stopped on 24 August. Cleaning up continued until 1 October. Care and maintenance continued until November. Drilling crews only were on site in November-December.

3. The district inspector's reports are written in the mine record book during each visit. Omissions in the record book relating to weekly reports by the mine manager were pointed out by the inspector on his visit on 20 July and recorded in the record book.

   It is the responsibility of the manager to make available mine record book entries to any person on the mine site and there is no indication that the manager withheld information of record book entries. However, as mentioned there was nothing in the content of any of the entries which referred to dust or cyanide.

Aboriginal Health Workers

593 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does his department have a policy of employing Aboriginal health workers on mobile rural health teams and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

The Department of Health has a policy of using Aboriginal health workers wherever possible in rural areas. In situations where mobile health teams visit outstations from such communities as Yuendumu and Warrabri, Aboriginal health workers are an integral part of the teams.

However, where teams travel to locations where health workers are stationed a health worker may not be included in their entourage in order not to offend many of the tribal and clan differences.

Superannuation Salary Deductions for NT Public Servants

601 Mr SMITH to TREASURER

1. What amount has been deducted from the salaries of NT government employees for superannuation purposes since 1 July 1978?
2. What amount has been forwarded by the NT government to the Commonwealth Superannuation Fund Investment Trust Account since 1 July 1978?
3. How much of the total amount deducted from employees' salaries for superannuation in the NT since 1 July 1978, has (a) been kept in the NT, (b) to what purpose has it been put, and (c) what rates of interest has been earned on this money?

ANSWER

1. Since 1 July 1978, the total amount deducted from the salaries of NT government employees for superannuation purposes has been approximately $28 million.
2. All of the amounts deducted have been forwarded to the Commonwealth Superannuation Fund Investment Trust Account, as required under the Commonwealth Superannuation Act 1976.
3. (a) None of the amounts deducted have been kept in the NT.

   (b) Amounts deducted from NT employees' salaries have been invested by the Investment Trust along with all other money received. As part of its investment program, the trust has made direct investments in the Northern Territory totalling some $8.54 million since 1 July 1978. This amount includes the purchase of Custom Credit House, Minerals House and Construction House and a mortgage loan of $1.5 million to a Darwin based company.

   In addition, some of the trust's investments in Commonwealth bonds, Telecom inscribed stock and shares and debentures in companies that undertake part of their operations in the Northern Territory could be considered as indirect investment by the trust in the Northern Territory.

   (c) The most recent figures available on the Investment Trust's earning rate relate to the financial year 1979-80. The annual earning rate of the fund for 1979-80 was 9.637%. This figure takes account of windfall income, income transfers, etc., and represents the average earning rate on contributors' equity.

   Because of the possibility of unavoidable delays in the prescription of the annual earning rate the regulations provide for

the prescription of an 'exit' rate to apply during the period following the year for which an annual rate has been prescribed. The current 'exit' rate for the period from 1 July 1980 is 11.5%, and this rate is used in the calculation of benefits payable to persons who leave the fund before the annual rate for 1980-81 is prescribed.

Housing Commission Rental Increases

604 Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the recent Housing Commission rental increases, will he advise the Housing Commission rent review formula for both public service and general public housing, the annual rent review documentation including the source and effect of the resulting calculations - in other words how this formula was arrived at - and a comparison between NT rents and appropriate southern rents?

ANSWER

Annual rent reviews in respect of general housing are carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Housing Act. Although not specifically covered in the Housing Act the annual review of public service rents is conducted along similar lines. The formula is detailed in the Act which requires that the following components be used: principal and interest; maintenance; rates and taxes; insurance; vacancies and defaults; administration.

The totals of these components estimated for 1981-82 were: general public $2,431 and staff $3,745. It must be stressed that these figures are the average over all types of dwelling per scheme. These amounts are then apportioned according to dwelling type and location. The Public Service Commissioner determines the rent to be charged for public service housing. In determining this rent the Public Service Commissioner has regard to the economic rent required by the Housing Commission to meet component costs and the general levels of rental paid by members of the general public to the Housing Commission. Any deficit is made up by Treasury.

It is difficult to compare Northern Territory rents with rents in southern states due to differing circumstances and the wide variety of rents charged in various locations. Some indication can, however, be given by the table below:

	3-Bedroom House		
Darwin NTPS	$ 60.00	** Sydney	$ 90-160
Darwin GP	$ 57.50	** Melbourne	$ 75-130
* Darwin Private	$140.00	** Perth	$ 50-75
** Brisbane	$ 65-80	** Canberra	$ 65-85

* Valuer-General's Report, May 1981.
** Real Estate Institute of Australia, November 1981.

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign

607 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What action will his department take to provide grids on public roads to assist control of cattle during the TB and brucellosis eradication campaign?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Production is surveying the need for cattle grids throughout the Territory. It has 4 main areas of concern which are:

1. Which roads require cattle grids.
2. Where existing fences cross existing roads or new roads, does responsibility for the grid lie with the Department of Transport and Works?
3. Where new fences are erected which cross public roads the responsibility appears to lie with the owner.
4. Where new fences are required to be erected for the purposes of brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication, responsibility lies with the owner as things now stand.

This question of responsibility for the grid is under consideration by the department at the moment as part of the general review of the needs of industry to comply with eradication requirements.

Electricity Supply Around Katherine

609 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What progress is being made towards providing electricity to (a) Katherine Gorge, (b) the 15-mile Farm (KREC), and (c) the low-level area and rural development?

ANSWER

Katherine Gorge

The design and specification for the Katherine Gorge feeder has been completed and is being checked.

Considerable technical input was required for this particular line as wooden cross-arms and flying fox protection caps are to be used to improve reliability of this proposed feeder.

The project will be released for tender by late March.

Katherine Rural Education College

A general route for the power line has been established and negotiations are being held with the Department of Education regarding funding of the line.

Low Level Area and Rural Development

NTEC is in consultation with the Department of Transport and Works regarding the provision of electricity supply to lots 1 to 6 along the low level road.

Fire Fighting Equipment in Elsey Electorate

621 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What fire fighting equipment is available at (a) Mataranka, (b) Beswick, (c) Bamyili, (d) Numbulwar, and (e) Ngukurr?
2. Are residents in these centres recruited to form volunteer fire brigades?

ANSWER

Mataranka is supplied with adequate fire fighting equipment by both the NT Fire Service and the Public Works Division of my department. The NTFS also provides training and servicing of its equipment.

Beswick, Bamyili, Numbulwar and Ngukurr all have the appropriate hand-held extinguishers or hoses installed in power houses, Department of Education, health buildings and police stations. This equipment is supplied and serviced by my department. An itemised list of equipment appears at the

end of this answer.

Should residents in these areas wish to form their own volunteer brigade the NTFS would be happy to provide training assistance as it does in other areas of the Territory.

Equipment supplied and serviced by Public Works Department:

Key: S.A. - soda ash; W.S.P. - water stored pressure; B.C.F - powder; F.H.R. - fire hose reel; CO_2 - gas; D.C.P. - dry chemical powder; Hyds. - hydrants.

NUMBULWAR

School	- 3 x 9 l S.A., 1 x 9 l W.S.P., 6 x 1.5 kg B.C.F., 3 x 3 kg B.C.F., and 2 F.H.R.
Power house	- 3 x 7½ lb CO_2.
Education houses	- 5 x 1.5 B.C.F., 1 x 7½ lb CO_2, 1 x S.A., 1 x 5 lb D.C.P., 4 x 9 l foam, 3 x 9 l W.S.P., and 6 Hyds.

BAMYILI

School	- 20 x W.S.P., 2 x A.F.F.F., 2 x 5.4 kg B.C.F., 20 x 1.4 kg B.C.F., and 4 Hyds. and hose.
Police	- 9 x 1.4 kg B.C.F., and 5 x W.S.P.

NGUKURR

Power house	- 2 x 9 kg C.D.P.
Education	- 12 x W.S.P., and 12 x 1.4 kg B.C.F.
Health	- 4 x 1.4 kg B.C.F., and 4 Hyds. and hoses.

MATARANKA

Police	- 2 x W.S.P., 2 x 1.3 B.C.F., 4 x 3 B.C.F., 2 x 27 B.C.F., 1 x .9 B.C.F., and 2 Hyds. and hose.
Health	- 6 x 1.3 B.C.F., and 1 x .9 B.C.F.
Education	- 1 water gas, 1 x 4.5 D.C.P., 1 x 1.3 B.C.F., 1 x .9 B.C.F., and 2 Hyds. and 1 hose.
Transport & Works	- 4.5 D.C.P., and 1 x W.S.P.

BESWICK - FIRE EQUIPMENT

Community Development	- 6 x 9 l W.S.P., 2 x 1.3 kg B.C.F., and 1 x 3 kg B.C.F.
Kitchen	- 1 x 1.3 kg B.C.F.
Workshop	- 3 x Aquis Film Foaming Foam and 1 x 5.4 kg B.C.F.
Residences	- 2 x 9 l water (gas expelled), 2 x 1.3 B.C.F., and 1 x 2.2 B.C.F.
Health	- 1 x 9 l W.S.P., 1 x 2.2 kg D.C.P., and 1 x 1.3 kg B.C.F.
Accommodation	- 1 x 9 l W.S.P., 1 x .9 kg B.C.F., and 2 x 1.3 kg B.C.F.
School	- 7 x 9 l W.S.P., 4 x 1.3 B.C.F., and 1 x 2.2 B.C.F.
Accommodation	- 3 x 1.3 B.C.F., and 1 x 9 l W.S.P.
Power house	- 2 x 22 kg D.C.P., 2 x 5.4 kg B.C.F., 2 x 30 m F.H.R., and 3 fire hydrants + hose.

Equipment supplied and serviced by Northern Territory Fire Service.

MATARANKA - 3 x 30 m x 38 mm delivery hose, 1 only "J" adaptor, 1 only branchpipe and nozzle, 1 only hydrant key, 8 fire hydrants, and 1 booster pump fitted to water supply.

Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust Account

627 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that Aborigines on Groote Eylandt have a trust account of $4m yielding more than $400,000 per annum interest?
2. Are these Territorians subject to a means test for social service benefits?

ANSWER

1. The Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust has over a period of 15 years built up capital of approximately $4.8m from mining rents and royalties in order to provide for the future of its people when mining is finished. Income on investments for the year 1980-81 totalled $430,828.
2. Aboriginal people are subject to means testing for social service benefits as are other Territorians. Possession of assets by individuals is not necessarily a disqualifying factor except where those assets are earning an income. The Department of Social Security applies the income test equally to all people. The bulk of the trust's income for the year 1980-81 was devoted to community purposes.

Payments under the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Act

629 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

In 1981, (a) how many payments, and (b) in what amounts, were made under the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Act?

ANSWER

Payments made by the Territory under the provisions of the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Act in 1981 totalled $10,261. There were payments of the following amounts:

	Compensation	Costs	Total
20 January	3,960	301	4,261
27 March	4,000	-	4,000
28 August	2,000	-	2,000
TOTAL	9,960	301	10,261

Department of Health Debt Collectors

630 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has the Department of Health arranged contracts with debt collectors?
2. If so, which debt collecting firms have been contracted to serve each hospital or departmental administrative area?
3. In the case of each of the Territory's 5 hospitals, (a) what is the designation of the officer who makes the decision to use the debt collecting service to obtain payment of outstanding accounts, (b) in how many cases of failure to pay has the debt collection service been used to recover funds, and (c) how much money has been so recovered?

ANSWER

1. Yes, an agreement of 6 months duration was entered into on 20 October 1981.

2. Daytona Services, Darwin, have been engaged to serve all of the Health Department establishments throughout the Territory.

3.(a) Specific guidelines for scheduling unpaid accounts to the debt collector are laid down in a departmental charging manual. Debtors who have not responded to requests for payment are passed to the debt collector after 14 days.

Officers in each establishment are required to follow those guidelines.

(b) 2,485 cases.

(c) $3,590. In addition Daytona Services have established a number of debtors who have obtained health care cards since treatment and are subsequently exempt from payment.

Hospital Payments by Instalments Scheme

631 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many patients who have received treatment at a Territory hospital or community health centre have elected to pay through an instalments scheme?

2. Are departmental staff instructed to offer a payment by instalments scheme to patients who cannot settle their accounts in a lump sum?

ANSWER

1. 293 patients.

2. Yes. Departmental policy provides for payment by instalments where a debt cannot be paid in cash or assigned to the department. All staff involved in patient charging have been issued with this instruction in the form of a departmental charging manual.

Staffing in Territory Hospitals

632 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many extra staff have been employed at (i) Darwin Hospital, (ii) Alice Springs Hospital, (iii) Katherine Hospital, (iv) Tennant Creek Hospital, and (v) Gove District Hospital to perform extra clerical and cashier duties associated with the new funding arrangements?

ANSWER

Additional staff have been employed at the following hospitals to perform extra clerical and cashier duties associated with the new funding arrangements:

Darwin Hospital 3; Alice Springs Hospital 3; Tennant Creek Hospital 1 (part-time); Gove Hospital Nil; and Katherine Hospital 1.

Psychiatric Inpatients

633 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the rate of readmission of psychiatric inpatients (a) voluntarily, and (b) involuntarily under the Mental Health Act?

2. What is the average length of stay in hospital for (a) voluntary, and

(b) involuntary patients?

3. Are persons who are involuntarily detained required to pay hospital fees?

4. How many patients are currently involuntarily detained?

ANSWER

1. Statistics on the rate of readmission of psychiatric inpatients are not kept.

2. (a) The average length of stay for voluntary inpatients for the year ended 30 June 1981 was 23.8 days.

   (b) The average length of stay for involuntarily detained inpatients for the year ended 30 June 1981 was 12.3 days. Of the 34 patients involuntarily detained during this period 21 patients transferred to voluntary status and 4 patients were transferred interstate. The figure of 12.3 days does not include those patients detained in interstate institutions.

   The abovementioned statistics were obtained from the Northern Territory Department of Health Annual Report 1980-81.

3. Persons detained in hospital under a court order issued under the Mental Health Act are exempt from payment of hospital fees.

4. Sixteen patients are currently (5 May 1982) detained involuntarily. They are all located interstate.

Public Servants

635 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

How many (a) Commonwealth, and (b) NT public servants were employed in the NT on 31 January 1982?

ANSWER

(a) Commonwealth - 1,832.

(b) Total number of NT public servants employed as at 31 January 1982, 11,008 (this includes 844 staff employed outside the Public Service Act, and 161 employees on leave without pay).

In addition, there are a further 3,205 staff employed in various NT government authorities which are outside the Public Service Act, as follows:

1,857 in NT Teaching Service;
940 in Electricity Commission;
330 in Darwin Community College;
12 in Jabiru Town Development Authority;
12 in Palmerston Development Authority;
14 in Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority;
7 in Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority; and
33 in Community College of Central Australia (teaching staff).

Beef Tenderising Techniques

637 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is he or his department promoting tenderising techniques such as tender stretch and electrical rectal stimulation to make Territory beef acceptable to Darwin housewives?

ANSWER

The government has for some time promoted the home sales of Territory beef and the Chief Minister recently directed the department to step up the campaign and to examine ways and means of making a wider selection of Territory produced quality cuts available to the Northern Territory housewife.

Such developments will cover beef sales production, presentation, packaging and promotion together with the investigation of aids to achieve quality production including tenderising techniques, etc.

Quite recently the department has had a request from a Darwin abattoir for help in developing the usage of such aids and the department is doing everything it can to help.

Hospital Costs, Katherine

638 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. During (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81, (i) what did it cost to operate Katherine Hospital, and (ii) what was the bed occupancy rate?
2. What is the estimated cost of operating Katherine Hospital for 12 months with a bed occupancy rate of 85%?

ANSWER

1. (a) 1979-80 - (i) $3,113,418; (ii) 78.2%; and
   (b) 1980-81 - (i) $3,615,284; (ii) 89.8%.
2. Because of the changes proposed within the Katherine Hospital, which have yet to be finalised, no budget has yet been settled.

Motor Vehicle Accidents

639 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the NT Police Force keep separate figures on motor vehicle accidents involving (a) Territory residents, (b) tourists, (c) Aboriginal Territory residents, and (d) non-Aboriginal Territory residents?

ANSWER

No. The only split up of motor vehicle accidents is in relation to fatalities. These are recorded under Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal only.

Pine Creek Hall

642 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How much money (a) has been allocated for the Pine Creek Hall, (b) how much was actually spent, and (c) what happened to any moneys left over during the financial years (i) 1974-75, (ii) 1975-76, (iii) 1976-77, (iv) 1977-78, (v) 1978-79, (vi) 1979-80, and (vii) 1980-81?
2. Has there ever been an audit of the Pine Creek Hall trust account? If so, where can a copy be procured?
3. If the answer to 2. is no, why has not there been an audit?
4. Who were the trustees of the hall as at 16 December 1981?

ANSWER

1.

	Year	(a) Money Allocated	(b) Expenditure
(i)	1974-75	*	*
(ii)	1975-76	*	*
(iii)	1976-77	2,440	2,462
(iv)	1977-78	5,736	5,499
		NT Self-government	
(v)	1978-79	4,500	2,430
(vi)	1979-80	4,000	3,400
(vii)	1980-81	3,000	2,324

(c) Moneys left over have formed a surplus in the bank account of the trustees of the reserve. An extensive program will be embarked upon shortly which will effectively use all surplus funds.

* NOTE: A diligent search of the Commonwealth files relating to this matter has failed to find copies of the financial returns prior to 1976-77 financial year.

2. Regulation 7(2) of the Crown Lands (Recreation Reserve) Regulations requires that the financial statement of reserves of this nature be audited. An audit has been performed for each of the financial years listed above, and copies of the auditors' reports may be obtained from the Chairman of Trustees.

3. Not applicable.

4. The trustees for the Playford (Pine Creek) Recreation Reserve, Reserve No. 979, as at 16 December 1981 were: Mr J. Ah Toy, Mr E. Ah Toy, Mrs J. Arnold, Miss M. Liddy, Mrs K. Frazer, Mr B. McPhee, and Mrs M. Moar.

NTEC Employees - Remuneration and Benefits

643 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Which NTEC employees are (a) paid remuneration and or salaries other than at NTEC award rates, (b) what are the salaries paid in these cases, and (c) what other benefits do these people receive by way of, (i) exclusive use of high standard motor vehicles, (ii) credit cards, and (iii) expense accounts?

ANSWER

(a) Assistant General Manager (Commercial).
Assistant General Manager (Planning).
Assistant General Manager (Engineering).
Assistant General Manager (Manpower).
Secretary.
Chief Accountant.

(b) Salaries paid are as follows:

	Salary	Territory Allowance
AGM (Commercial)	$ 34,804	$ 1,966
AGM (Planning)	$ 33,304	$ 1,966
AGM (Engineering)	$ 35,804	$ 1,966
AGM (Manpower)	$ 33,304	$ 1,966
Secretary	$ 34,780	$ 1,966
Chief Accountant	$ 33,304	$ 1,966

(c) (i) Vehicles are not used exclusively by the officers concerned.

Each is permitted home garaging of a vehicle, usually a Mazda 626 or Datsun Bluebird.

(ii) The group of officers referred to have a credit card to use for travel and accommodation.

(iii) With the approval of the Board, reimbursement is made of expenditure incurred during the course of their duties.

NTEC Employees - Award Negotiations

644 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. Were negotiations for a new NTEC employees award conducted on 30 November 1981, 1 December 1981 and 2 December 1981 at the Travelodge and other places?

2. If so, (a) during the course of these negotiations was a food and drink bill for entertainment on the evening of 30 November 1981 signed in the name of an Assistant General Manager, who was not present, by another person, and (b) what was the amount of the bill?

3. What are (a) the details of all interstate trips made by the Assistant General Manager (Industrial) of NTEC during 1981, (b) the reasons that made each trip necessary, and (c) were any of the trips made for the purpose only of picking up consent judgments of an industrial tribunal?

ANSWER

1. Yes, at the Travelodge conference room.

2.(a) Yes. The bar had closed and NTEC management had left. Subsequently, the Manager of Travelodge accompanied by the bar waitress requested Mr J. Lawson of the Electrical Trades Union to sign the docket for $53 as acknowledgement of the expenditure. Arrangements had been previously made for all expenses to be paid in one account at the end of the 3-day conference, therefore a separate account for the $53 was not expected on that evening. Mr Lawson phoned the next day to advise he had signed on NTEC's behalf.

(b) $53.

3.(a) Details of the interstate trips made by the Manager (Industrial) during 1981 are as follows:

11. 1.81	Melbourne	ACTU conference - shorter working week
11. 2.81	Melbourne	ACTU conference - shorter working week excluding APEA, ACOA
2. 4.81	Melbourne	Full Bench hearing - ACTU meeting
14. 4.81	Adelaide	HEC Tasmania, NSW, WA - conference on shorter working week
6. 5.81	Melbourne	Full Bench hearing - shorter working week
20. 5.81	Melbourne	Full Bench hearing
10. 6.81	Sydney	Federal union conference chaired by ACTU re NTEC log of claims
12. 7.81	Melbourne	Claims by ACOA, APSA, ETU heard before Commissioner Brown
30. 8.81	Sydney	Demarcation dispute hearing (SHPS) before Commissioner Brown

20. 9.81	Melbourne	SEC (Victoria) ETSA, HEC Tasmania - discussions re wage and condition demands
1.10.81	Brisbane	Commissioner Brown - APEA hearing re new award interventions of POA, ADSTE
12.10.81	Sydney/Cooma	Chairman and Manager Industrial attended conference on disputes SMHEA
10.11.81	Melbourne	Commissioner Brown - hearing re NTEC log of claims - APEA, ADSTE, APSA
30.11.81	Sydney	Commissioner Brown - hearing with federal unions re variations to NTEC award
8.12.81	Melbourne	Consent variations to award - APSA, ACTU conference before Commissioner Brown and subsequent hearing on Darwin negotiations 30 November 1981 to 4 December 1981.

(b) The reasons for each trip are included above.

(c) No - but the NTEC (Employees) Award 1980 is a consent award and all variations are discussed with Commissioner Brown prior to the official hearing and consent matters are included.

Grants-in-Aid 1980-81

646 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

1. In 1980-81, under the Grants-in-Aid scheme to voluntary community organisations working in the youth, sport and recreation field, how much money was given to these organisations for (a) administration, (b) equipment, (c) facilities, (d) salary subsidies, (e) special projects, (f) training-coaching, and (g) travel subsidies?

2. How much money under the Grants-in-Aid scheme was given to community service organisations in 1980-81?

ANSWER

1. In 1980-81 youth, sport and recreation grants were made to community organisations as follows:

Administration	$	29,295.00
Equipment	$	28,788.00
Facilities	$	774,729.00
Salary subsidies	$	175,513.16
Special projects	$	120,916.80
Training/coaching	$	33,238.45
Travel subsidies	$	83,551.95
TOTAL	$	1,246,032.36

2. A total of $1,799,154.27 was given to community service organisations in 1980-81. This amount includes those listed above, as well as the following:

Aboriginal recreation program	$ 452,490.81
Vacation care	$ 80,631.10
Life. Be in it	$ 20,000.00

Mung Beans, ADMA Markets

647 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Has ADMA yet established firm export markets for mung beans to be

purchased by the authority this season?

2. If so, where are these markets?

3. What progress is being made with the ADMA market strategy generally?

ANSWER

1. The ADMA estimates that approximately 100 tonnes of mung beans will be produced this season and as this crop shows significant potential, in the order of 40 tonnes will be retained for seed supplies for the 1983 crop.

   The remaining 60 tonnes will be offered to buyers both within Australia and in Singapore, when graded samples are available. The authority announced an indicative price of $350 per tonne for mung beans, but as world price is above that, it feels confident that returns to growers will be most attractive.

2. The Chairman of the authority has made contact with importers in Singapore and, in addition, importers in the United States and Hong Kong have also advised the authority of their interest.

3. The authority has now established a detailed program for handling both grain crops and horticultural crops. The 4 principal crops to be handled through the authority's grain receival depot are sorghum, maize, mung beans and peanuts. Details for delivery to the depot have been made available to farmers and it is anticipated that receivals will commence in mid-April.

   Growers delivering to the depot will be paid the following first advances:

   Sorghum - $91 per tonne; maize - $126 per tonne; mung beans - $266 per tonne; peanuts - $245 per tonne.

   These prices are significantly higher than prices ruling on the east coast of Australia. For example, the first payment for sorghum in Queensland is $70 per tonne.

   All likely users of feed grains in the NT have been contacted by the authority and they have shown substantial support for having one body organise their supplies of grain.

   The authority is also handling horticultural produce on an agency basis, and in a few months time will resume the marketing of rockmelons both interstate and overseas.

Access Road, Bynoe Harbour

652 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What (a) type of development is envisaged that would justify the building of the Bynoe Harbour access road currently being constructed parallel to the old Mandorah Road, (b) what parts of Cox Peninsula will the road reach, (c) where will it end, and (d) what is the estimated total cost of the planned work?

ANSWER

(a) The development of the community at Belyuen generates traffic volumes warranting upgrading the road to the standard presently being constructed. In addition, increasing development in the pastoral, fishing, mining and recreational industries necessitates an upgraded level of service.

(b) & (c) The current 5-year forward program includes proposals to join

the seal between the Blackmore River and Pioneer Creek and to commence some realignment through Bulldog Pass. Further work beyond Bulldog Pass has not been assessed or programmed.

(d) Bridge and roadworks completed to date have cost $1.1m. Bridgeworks to be completed this year are valued at $0.6m. Expected cost of the future works on the current forward program is in the vicinity of 2.3m.

Excursion Funds, Millner and Rapid Creek Schools

658 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How much did (a) Millner, and (b) Rapid Creek schools receive in excursion funds from the department in (i) 1979-80, (ii) 1980-81, and (iii) 1981-82?

ANSWER

The notional excursion allocations under school based funding are as follows:

Millner:	1979-80 - $ 700;	1980-81 - $ 650;	1981-82 - $ 811.
Rapid Creek:	1979-80 - $ 700;	1980-81 - $ 600;	1981-82 - $ 728.

Electricity, Daly Waters

660 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

Under the memorandum of understanding, provision of electricity to all gazetted townships is guaranteed. Is Daly Waters a gazetted town, and if so, why is there no town supply?

ANSWER

There is no guarantee under the Inter-governmental Memorandum of Financial Understanding that a gazetted town will be supplied with electricity by the Northern Territory Electricity Commission.

Daly Waters is a gazetted town under the Crown Lands Act.

All towns in which NTEC now operates are gazetted towns. NTEC does not operate in all gazetted towns but in 18 out of a total of 29. Any decision of NTEC to operate in any gazetted town where it does not now operate would involve considerations of the impact on the cost of NTEC operations as the costs would exceed the tariff revenue.

Police Planning Group

662 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to comments by a spokesman for the NT Police in the NT News on 22 February 1982?
2. If so, which officers comprise the 'planning group' which has developed 'a major crime plan to ensure the efficiency of investigation of serious crimes in remote localities'?
3. What aspects of the use of batons has been under review by the planning group?
4. What new procedures for investigation developed by the planning group have been implemented?

ANSWER

1. Yes. However, the article in the NT News of 22 February 1982 creates a false impression. The police denial in relation to the issue of

bush batons related to a denial that batons would be issued for specific use against Aboriginal people.

2. The 'planning group' referred to in the newspaper article has been involved in a study of batons and not the investigation of serious crime in remote localities.

3. The planning group has considered the lack of a more efficient means of defence between the extremes of use of a short rubber truncheon and a firearm in certain situations.

4. The new procedures of investigation refer to a major crime plan, the implementation of which is under the control of a chief superintendent, recently bolstered by a superintendent, both of whom are independent from the 2 major geographic commands, viz. Northern Command (Darwin based) and Southern Command (Alice Springs based).

Health Clinic, Napperby

669 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has agreement been reached on a suitable site for the proposed health clinic at Napperby Station and, if so, when will the clinic be erected?

ANSWER

A site has been agreed to by the owner of the station and the Laramba Community.

An amount of $6,000 has been approved under the grants-in-aid scheme to assist the Laramba Community in erecting the prefabricated clinic.

Erection work will be undertaken by skilled labour from the Laramba Community and is expected to commence by the end of May 1982. The clinic is expected to be operational by the end of June 1982.

Foreign Owned Pastoral Leases

678 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many pastoral leases in the Northern Territory are held by foreign interests?

2. Will he provide a list of these stations and details of their ownership?

ANSWER

1. At present, out of a total of 238 pastoral leases in the Northern Territory, 35 are held by foreign interests.

2. Ownership details are publicly available from the Registrar-General's office.

Excise Duty, Fortified Wines

680 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the need to discourage consumption of fortified wines by Aborigines, will he recommend that Commonweatlh excise duty be charged so that the basic unit price will be more competitive with other kinds of liquors?

ANSWER

There is at present no Commonwealth excise duty on Australian wines and to impose a duty for the purpose suggested by the honourable member would be a penalty on all consumers. The federal government has consistently

resisted imposing such a duty. In any case a duty would not necessarily achieve the aim of discouraging consumption of fortified wine.

The Northern Territory Liquor Commission, in cooperation with other agencies, is taking definite steps to alleviate drinking problems among Aboriginals. Among other action, fortified wine sales have been restricted and some 'dry' areas are dry to any liquor except beer. I have asked the Liquor Commission to keep the option recommended by the honourable member under review with the object of recommending excise duty if such a course becomes necessary.

Petrol Bowser, Mataranka

689 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Was the Shell petrol bowser at Mataranka found to be inaccurate in 1981, and threatened with closure in March 1982?
2. If so, has the fault been rectified?

ANSWER

1. Both Shell petrol bowsers (driveway flowmeters) situated at the Mataranka Hotel were found to be correct in October 1981, and again in March 1982. However, both distillate flowmeters, owned by Shell, are of the bulk delivery type and not suitable nor of a design approved by the National Standards Commission for the use to which they have been put. (Accurate delivery at low flow-rates and volumes of less than 90 litres not being guaranteed). In October 1981 a new proprietor had taken over the Mataranka Hotel and was unaware of the situation in relation to the distillate flowmeters so temporary permission was granted for continued use of the flowmeters and a letter was sent to Shell on 4 November 1981 requiring the matter to be rectified. In March 1982 the matter had not been rectified. Consequently a Verification Certificate was not issued and the flowmeters could not be used pursuant to the Weights and Measures Act.
2. This situation has now been resolved. Shell have purchased an NSC approved bowser for the sale of distillate and are in the process of installing the same at the Mataranka Hotel.

Arthurell and Buckley Case

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

There has been much comment on the recent indictment for murder in the Supreme Court in Alice Springs against Arthurell and Buckley being changed to one of manslaughter. As Attorney-General, have you any comment?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not propose to comment on the actions of the Crown Prosecutor in Alice Springs. There are internal arrangements in the Department of Law whereby law officers of the Crown delegate their authority for the presentation of the indictments on behalf of the Crown and indeed in the case of filing a nolle prosequi I might say that I reserve the latter to myself except when I am absent from the Territory and the Solicitor-General has the authority and the power to file a nolle prosequi. Whatever the internal arrangements are within the Department of Law, in the final analysis, I do recognise that the decision in any particular case where it is difficult or impossible to refer to superiors does lie with the prosecutor. In view of the controversy that surrounded this particular matter, I sought, through the Solicitor-General, a report or explanation from Mr Norman, the Assistant Crown Solicitor in Alice Springs, of the reasons for his taking the action that he did. The report is marked confidential. However, I have pointed out to the Solicitor-General that I would perhaps be called upon to use this in the Assembly at this sittings and I do not regard the report as confidential. I did not seek it on that basis; I sought it as the man's political superior. I also propose to table with the report from the Assistant Crown Solicitor a copy of the transcript of proceedings before His Honour Mr Justice Kearney of Alice Springs on Wednesday 21 May 1982 at 2.05 pm which proceedings relate to the sentencing of the 2 people referred to by the honourable member for Alice Springs. Mr Speaker, I seek the leave of the Assembly to table these 2 documents.

Leave granted.

Use of Firearms by Security Guards

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What in general terms are the regulations governing the use of firearms by private security guards and what type of training and what level of competence in the use of these firearms by private security guards are required in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I am unable to give a detailed answer to the Leader of the Opposition. Nevertheless, I understand the Registrar of Firearms has fairly stringent conditions for the issuing of any firearm licence as prescribed and laid down within the act. I can certainly provide full details to the Leader of the Opposition, probably before the conclusion of the sittings and certainly if he would like to put it on notice.

Sports Insurance

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for YOUTH SPORT and RECREATION

Last year the Northern Territory government initiated moves to have the issue of sports insurance fully investigated. What has been the result of this Northern Territory government initiative?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in 1980 there was a very serious injury to one of our Territory sportsmen, Stem Edwards. He was a rugby player. There was strong public feeling that the Northern Territory government should investigate the setting up of

some kind of sporting insurance. After representations from sporting organisations, the Chief Minister sent out 122 letters to the various sporting organisations in the Northern Territory of which he only received 14 replies. Consequently, 10 of those replies led to discussions with the Territory Insurance Office regarding sporting insurance.

Recently, another Territory sportsman, a motor cyclist named Clive Baxter, received a very serious injury whilst competing. The call for sports insurance was made again. I am quite happy to tell members of the Assembly that sports insurance does exist. It exists through 3 venues: the Casplan which is part of the Confederation of Australian Sports Industry; the Aussieplan which is made up by a group of insurance companies; and the TIO.

The TIO has a policy for a premium of about $46 made up from 2 parts. For a $25 premium, compensation of up to $50,000 can be paid for very serious injuries or death. The payment for the loss of a finger is 30% of that $50,000. A player can pay a further $21 per season to be eligible for medical benefits of up to $500 plus about $200 a week for up to a year. For $46 a year, a rugby player can insure himself for $50,000 and also for payment of up to $200 a week. The rugby league season works out to about 24 games including the finals. For about $2 a game, a player can cover himself through the Territory Insurance Office. In contrast, a netball player can insure herself or himself for $5 per season receiving the same benefits of up to $50,000 or payments of $150 a week while the injury remains. There is certainly an avenue for Territory sportsmen to insure themselves. The Territory Insurance Office is also open for Aussieplan which covers sports such as motor cycling, car racing and stock car racing. Because of the nature of injuries that can be sustained in those particular sports, the TIO has sought the agency from Aussieplan to implement premiums on its behalf in the Northern Territory. Through this, even in those dangerous sports, insurance is available. I have asked the TIO to advertise the fact that it has sports insurance and I believe that those advertisements will appear in the local newspapers in the next couple of weeks. Also, this week, I will be sending a letter to every Territory sporting organisation relating to particular plans and schedules that are available through TIO. In answer to the honourable member's question, we have been working very hard towards providing cover and I thank TIO and the Treasurer for implementing such a scheme.

Failure to Fluoridate Water Supply

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why were the people of Darwin not informed that fluoride was not being added to the water supply for nearly 12 months? Will he give an undertaking to the Assembly that if this situation recurs in the future people will be informed promptly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would point out to the honourable member for Fannie Bay that the control and admission of fluoride to the Darwin water supply is properly the responsibility of the Minister of Transport and Works. The government fully supports the admission of fluoride to water supplies in the Northern Territory as a part of the caries prevention program in dental care. However, while the Department of Health is the sponsoring department for the program, it does not have the operational control over it. The honourable member's question is really: 'Why weren't the people advised?'. I can only say that I did not advise anybody because I did not know. The moment that it was brought to our attention, the matter was rectified and the people were advised. I believe that, even during this period, there were members of the dental profession in Darwin who were aware that there was no fluoride in the water and were recommending to their clients that they take fluoride tablets of their own volition.

Under those circumstances, I think it would not have been unreasonable for those members of the dental profession to bring it to the attention of authorities. I can give the member an assurance that we too are concerned at the lapse and that every effort will be made to see that it does not happen again. If it does happen again, we will undertake to contact the member and her constituents and everybody else in the Northern Territory to tell them what care they should take.

Jabiru Town Advisory Council

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he give me details of the proposed initial operation of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council so that a streamlined operation can ensue after the recent elections?

ANSWER

The Jabiru Town Advisory Council elections were held on Saturday 22 May 1982 and the results as declared by Mr A.T. Hangan, the returning officer, on 24 May 1982 are as follows: Atkinson 127, Bartlett 39, Court 102, Crone 92, Danielson 145, Green 109, Hobby 30, Main 138, McLaren 87, Nitschke 60, Smith 60, Tenthy 97, Urquhart 64 and Ward 74. Mr Hangan declared that Kaye Teresa Danielson, Eric Macdonald Main, David Neil Atkinson, David G. Green and Gilmore Alexander Court were duly elected as members of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to announce that the 3 nominated representatives will be Mr Geoff Stolz, the Chairman of the Jabiru Town Development Authority, Mr Ray McHenry, the Co-ordinator General, and Mr Allan MacIntosh, the senior staff member of Energy Resources of Australia, a man who has been resident of Jabiru for many years. By many people, he is regarded as the pioneer of Jabiru.

Mr Speaker, officers of the JTDA will be meeting with the elected representatives on Wednesday evening, on an informal basis, to discuss some preliminary matters which we hope will lead to an early first meeting of the council. Certainly, I would like to bring before this sittings of the Assembly an amendment to the Jabiru Town Development Act which will enable the formal constitution of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council. The election is the most significant milestone in the life of this new town. I look forward with keen interest to the progressive establishment of the town advisory body and I hope to be able to attend the first formal meeting of that body myself.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Course Commencement

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action has he taken to expedite the commencement of the BA degree course at the Darwin Community College?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have noted the honourable member's interest in this matter over the last few days. It is a shame that he cannot get his facts right occasionally.

There are 3 elements involved in the commencement of the Bachelor of Arts course or any new degree course at the Darwin Community College or anywhere else in this country. Of course, the first one is accreditation. If it is conducted in a university then that is assumed. The second is the Tertiary Education Commission's approval for that course to commence. The third is for the Commonwealth government to ensure recurrent funding for the course.

Since the commencement of the Commonwealth Act, responsibility for advanced education in this country lies solely with the Commonwealth in respect of any advanced or degree course. An agreement was entered into at the last Perth conference of the Australian Education Council that no state would commence an advanced level course without the clearance of the Tertiary Education Commission and without direct funding by the Comonwealth. While, of course, that suited the states and the Commonwealth to prevent the massive duplication that was occurring in many areas of advanced education throughout the Commonwealth, we could not see then the disadvantage at which we would be placed as a result of that decision.

Mr Speaker, the position at the moment is that the course is accredited, subject to the employment of additional staff which requires additional Commonwealth money, additional library resources in particular and resources generally. The Tertiary Education Commission has repeatedly indicated, through its various reports, that it is opposed to the establishment of an internally-conducted Bachelor of Arts course at the Darwin Community College, a view which is wholly rejected by the government and, I dare say, by every member of the Assembly. Nonetheless, in its last letter to the Post School Advisory Council at the end of January this year, the TEC indicated that it recognises there has been a very strong desire for a Bachelor of Arts course to be commenced here. It must be very astute indeed; its powers of observation stagger me. It has pointed out that that being the case, while it still objects to the launching of such a course, there are certain conditions upon which it would agree to it.

Its acknowledgement of its willingness to agree to it is contained in a most extraordinary letter of 29 January. It says, on the one hand, and I will read from it: 'In its report on the proposal to establish a University of the Northern Territory, the commission indicated that it would consider proposals for the introduction of new UG3 level courses' - that is, associated diploma level courses - 'at the Darwin Community College within the level of funding available for the 1982-83 triennial. It did not however support the diversion of resources' - and that word is very important later on - 'to provide courses such as the proposed Bachelor of Arts by internal mode'. Mr Speaker, it favours the Northern Territory being tied to some other university elsewhere and doing it through a new school of external studies which is recommended for establishment by the TEC. It goes on to say that the TEC maintains this view but, 'in light of the apparent strong support for the course in the Northern Territory, it would not object to the introduction provided it can be assured that the course can be offered within the already legislative resources and without prejudicing the provision of existing courses in either the advanced or TAFE areas of the college'. It then goes on to say: 'In relation to the request for additional funds, I have to advise that, as funding for the triennium is fixed, there is no possibility that funds allocated to the Darwin Community College can be increased for the 1982-83 period'. That is funds overall not just the proposed Bachelor of Arts course for which it has quite consciously said no additional funds will be available. 'Furthermore, it cannot be assumed that the commission would be prepared to recommend a level of funding for the next triennium, 1984-87, specifically to accommodate the course'. That is the Bachelor of Arts course.

On the one hand, we have the Tertiary Education Commission saying to us that it would not object to the course commencing provided it would not in any way affect the existing courses or indeed the UG3 courses which it has subsequently approved. The funding shall be within the allocation already made for 1982-84 and there will be no additional funds for 1984-87 and beyond to accommodate the course. We are in a total catch-22, and the Tertiary Education Commission and the Commonwealth know this. We cannot commence the course without additional resources being made available and without adversely affect-

ing those courses which are already running - that is, by way of having to impose quotas. The moment you impose quotas, the normal usage of the English language says it would affect the course. Worse still, if within the funding made available in this triennium the Darwin Community College was to wind down at least on growth if not on existing quotas and student numbers for existing courses, what would happen to us in the next triennium if, as the TEC has made clear, there is no guarantee of additional Commonwealth funding? As the course grows in student numbers and in the required number of lecturers under the report of the accreditation panel, the net result would obviously and of necessity be a significant reduction in the level of existing courses. This flies entirely in the face of what the TEC itself has said about its being essential that these things do not happen. Coupled with that, there is no guarantee of Commonwealth funding to cover the course. The Commonwealth has made it clear that, if any state were to go into the provision of advanced courses outside of the TEC's funding and recommendations, then the Commonwealth would seriously consider reducing that state's general subventions by the equivalent amount of the cost of mounting that course.

The TEC has indeed placed us in an absolutely impossible position with this letter. I have had a series of drafts from the Darwin Community College which went as far as suggesting that perhaps the TEC would accept quotas being imposed on existing courses. The letter before me clearly outrules that as a possibility. Further, we cannot have a situation where we have no guarantee of funding for the next triennium. The result would be catastrophic for existing courses.

As the honourable member is aware, there is to be another meeting of the Australian Education Council in Alice Springs in July and, no doubt, the Acting Chairman of the Tertiary Education Commission will be attending. Certainly, the federal minister will be attending. I intend to point out as forcefully as I can the dilemma in which this letter and the present Commonwealth attitude places the Northern Territory. For a number of reasons, not least of which is to form the basis of a secondary teacher education program, we require a Bachelor of Arts course. Given the present attitude of the TEC and the Commonwealth it is absolutely impossible. I intend, as forcefully as I possibly can, to point out to the Commonwealth minister the impossible position in which they have placed the college and the Northern Territory in its aspirations. I hope the matter can be resolved but the only way it can be resolved is a guarantee of funding by the Commonwealth for this course.

Emily Gap Farm Area

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of the concern expressed by residents in the Emily Gap farm area who are not connected to the sewerage system? Can he advise when those residents might reasonably expect to be connected to the sewerage system in central Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would hope that the department will be in a position to call tenders for that work in about 2 weeks' time.

Bridge Across Rapid Creek Mouth

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

At what stage are the investigations into the possibility of a bridge across the mouth of Rapid Creek? Will he make available at this sittings details of traffic flows expected to be generated from such a bridge?

ANSWER

There is no plan at this stage to bridge the Rapid Creek mouth.

Sadadeen East Industrial Subdivision

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the Gazette of 14 May in which there is a note that a contract has been arranged with Willing and Partners of Darwin for a headworks storm-water drainage study of the Sadadeen East industrial subdivision. Does the government intend to proceed with the development of the Sadadeen East industrial subdivision regardless of the outcome of his series of talks with the Mbantuarinya Council in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has not changed its plans in relation to this subdivision. I have been holding a number of talks with Aboriginal groups in Alice Springs over the last several weeks and it is quite obvious that there is a great deal of disagreement even among Aboriginals themselves in Alice Springs as to what is or is not regarded as a sacred site. There is considerable disagreement amongst some Aboriginals as to the traditional hierarchy of the ownership of the Alice Springs area. There is also a lot of dissatisfaction about some of the organisations which purport to speak on behalf of all Aboriginals. Unfortunately, there has been a tendency for Europeans to regard Aboriginals in too broad a classification. It would be much the same as looking at the white population of Australia as all being Europeans without having regard to the various cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

There is considerable disagreement between the Aboriginal groups on various issues. Whilst I am continuing my investigations into this matter in Alice Springs, and have arranged for other people to make further inquiries on my behalf to try and get a satisfactory resolution, the government's plans have not changed.

Sadadeen East Industrial Subdivision

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Which people has he directed to make inquiries on his behalf in regard to the Sadadeen East industrial subdivision?

ANSWER

I think it is inappropriate for me to announce to this Assembly the names of all of those persons who work for me or for the government and what their relative tasks are. I feel that a minister has the ability to direct people as he sees fit within his powers to undertake inquiries and investigations. I do not see why I should disclose any further information on this subject.

Local Government Funding from Commonwealth Tax-Sharing Arrangements

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

An alderman recently informed me that the Darwin City Council was only receiving 1.75% of personal income tax under the Commonwealth tax-sharing arrangements. The agreed amount is 2%. Is he able to inform me if the Darwin City Council is receiving the 2% agreed to under the Commonwealth tax-sharing arrangements.

ANSWER

It would be a matter in which the Northern Territory government would have no say. It is part of the Commonwealth's revenue distribution from tax revenues. The figure, as I understand it, is 2%. Any funds sent to the Northern Territory under that 2% arrangement would have to be by way of tied grants. We would be obliged to hand that on to local government at the rate of 2%. Quite clearly, that alderman is in error.

School Councils

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will he introduce the legislation necessary to enable school councils to be incorporated under the Education Act?

ANSWER

I hope that I am not on the pension before it happens. I would like to inform honourable members as to the difficulties in this proposal. The Council of Government Schools Organisations put to me its request for legislation to allow for automatic incorporation of school councils under the Education Act. That request came in the form of 1 sentence. We must examine just what that entails. I have a very detailed submission before Cabinet at present which I am quite happy to inform the Assembly was deferred at the last Cabinet meeting for further legal consideration.

What we are really attempting to do by way of amendment to the Education Act is to provide a mechanism covered substantially by the Associations Incorporation Act. All honourable members know the complexity of that act. All of the powers and privileges which go with incorporation and perpetual seal are, as a matter of law, required to be parallel to those contained in the act that I have just mentioned. It is not a matter of a simple amendment schedule. What we are trying to do is incorporate in 1 piece of legislation the protection, powers and privileges contained in a complete act of this parliament. It has resulted in an extremely difficult legal dilemma. I have referred the matter back to the Department of Law for further consideration. The Department of Law quite rightly has grave reservations about this Assembly embarking upon that particular course of action. I am aware that a number of school councils, in frustration, are thinking of incorporating under the Associations Incorporation Act. I would very much like to discourage that. I am hoping it can be resolved under the act which relates to education and that they do not consider sending their statutory returns and so on to the Registrar-General who surely has enough to do without having to worry about multiple school councils being registered under the Associations Incorporation Act. Nonetheless, any proposal to legislate for automatic incorporation with a seal carrying perpetual succession and judicial notice must of necessity be an extremely complex legal exercise.

Pet Meat Regulations

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he tell me if pet meat regulations will demand that pet meat be died with methyl violet, brilliant blue or some other aniline dye?

ANSWER

Regulation 46 of the regulations under the Abattoirs and Slaughtering Act currently provides that pet meat must be identified by dusting all surfaces with powdered charcoal or by spraying them with a prescribed dye, namely methyl violet or tartrazine. In fact, only tartrazine has been used by pet met operators. Sometimes, this dye is not easily seen with the naked eye, particularly when the meat is minced. The meat substitution fraud highlighted the need for pet meat to be more easily identified. The eastern states have agreed to adopt brilliant blue dye to identify meat. I am preparing the addition of brilliant blue to the list of prescribed dyes in regulation 46(3) of the Abattoirs and Slaughtering Act. This will ensure that Northern Territory pet meat can continue to be sold in eastern Australia. Any pet meat that enters the eastern states that is not stained with brilliant blue dye will be destroyed. Meat stained with tartrazine can continue to be sold in the Northern Territory and in South Australia. Pet meat in Western Australia has to be strip branded with blue dye.

Temporary Fire Station at 14-Mile

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Following a commitment by the minister on talkback radio last week that the temporary fire station at the 14-mile will be manned throughout the dry season, why was the station closed yesterday which was a very high fire risk day? Is it still his intention to honour the assurance he gave last week?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, because the station was not open yesterday, I have asked for a full report from the fire brigade. When I have it, I will pass that information to the member for Nhulunbuy. I might add that I was disappointed to hear that the station was not manned yesterday, particularly as it was a very high fire risk day.

Fog Bay Prawn Fishery

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has he received a reply to the telex he sent to the Northern Fisheries Committee asking for their support for the Territory's proposals for the forthcoming meeting to discuss possible protection of Fog Bay?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, a reply has been received from the federal minister in which he says that, in view of the information available to him through the various committees that service the government, he is not prepared to reconvene the Australian Fisheries Council at this particular time. Instead, he has suggested that the Northern Fisheries Committee provide a wider basis for the submission to go through the standing committee which will meet in August for further consideration by fisheries' ministers in October at the Australian Fisheries Council.

Pet Meat Regulations

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

If it is to be mandatory to dye pet meat purple or blue, can he tell me what regard he has paid to the pet meat industry or the views of pet owners?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, on 21 December 1981, a public meeting was convened to enable all persons concerned with the pet food industry to discuss this particular question and the provisions of the new legislation. This meeting was advertised in the local press and people were invited to submit objections, recommendations and so on. The situation is that any pet meat which in future enters the eastern states and is not dyed with brilliant blue will be destroyed. Consequently, if the Northern Territory pet meat operators wish to market in those states, they will be required to conform with those requirements. Obviously, the people involved in the meat substitution business have created a lot of stress for themselves and others by not having requirements like this. Pet meat stained with tartrazine can continue to be sold in the Northern Territory and South Australia so that options remain for Northern Territory pet meat operators.

Commonwealth Houses

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HOUSING

What progress has been made in arranging for the transfer of 24 Commonwealth houses to the Northern Territory government where the occupants have accepted voluntary transfers to the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the details of this matter. If the honourable member cares to place a question on notice or write to me, I can certainly give him the information.

Mr Smith: I have already written.

Free Trade Zone in the NT

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

How would a free trade zone aid the Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question is certainly a very general one and would probably be much better answered by me in an adjournment speech. In fact, I have said much on the subject already in public forums and in this Assembly. I have absolutely no doubt that a free trade zone located adjacent to Darwin would be a tremendous boom to the Territory economy especially if it were related to the completion of construction of the railway from Alice Springs to Darwin. My Office of Policy and Planning is presently working on a detailed submission to put to the federal government for the establishment of a free trade zone within the next 12 months or so. You would appreciate that such a submission must be in considerable detail and we will certainly be up against considerable opposition. I would like to say that I have already had indications of support from ministers in the Queensland government. It appears that we may be able to get some support from some of our colleagues elsewhere in Australia for this most important breakthrough in the interests of northern development.

Bynoe Harbour Road

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

During the last sittings, I asked the minister what development is envisaged that would justify the building of the Bynoe Harbour access road constructed parallel to the old Mandorah Road, what parts of the Cox Peninsula will the road reach and where will it end. The minister asked me to place this question on notice and I wonder if he could give me an answer at this sittings.

ANSWER

The honourable member did not place the question on notice. However, I will obtain that information and provide it to him later in the sittings.

Cane Toads

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

The cane toad poses a very real threat to the environment of the Northern Territory. What steps has the government taken to ensure that the cane toad is kept out of the Territory?

ANSWER

I know that the Conservation Commission and the Department of Primary Production are both extremely concerned at the propsect of the cane toad, that presently seems to be based mainly in Queensland, moving eventually into the Northern Territory. I do not want to say that such an event is inevitable because I hope that it is not but I understand that cane toads are now prevalent in the gulf area in Queensland. It would seem that, unless we can erect something in the nature of a cane toad fence rather like the rabbit fence that they used to have between the states of Queensland and New South Wales from memory, it seems that the canetoad may eventually at least move into the gulf

area of the Northern Territory. This is a shame. I do not really think that cane toads have any evil effect on the environment. The problem is that they are most offensive and obnoxious. The Conservation Commission will be doing everything it possibly can, in cooperation with its fraternal bodies in Queensland especially, to ensure that toads do not get into the Northern Territory.

Since a recent incident which occurred on an aircraft coming to Darwin from Cairns when some very misguided practical joker apparently let loose some cane toads on the plane, letters have been written to TAA, Qantas, Ansett and Airlines of Western Australia asking them to attempt to step up inspection procedures of people boarding planes. Letters will also be written to departments in Queensland asking them if they can assist and cooperate in this way. Mr Speaker, every practical step will be taken to try to keep cane toads out of the Northern Territory but it is a rather difficult task when you have almost insane people moving around the country who are prepared to play practical jokes of that type.

Grumman Trackers

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Following the representations both he and I and other people have made to the Minister for Defence, has he received any assurance that the Grumman Trackers which were to have been mothballed will be redeployed in northern Australia for northern surveillance and defence?

ANSWER

I wrote to the then Minister for Defence at the time when I understood that the Grumman Tracker aircraft would be coming off HMAS Melbourne. I suggested that they should be based in Darwin so that the crews could continue to obtain good operational experience. To the best of my knowledge, I have received no response to that letter at this stage. I am grateful to the honourable member for Nightcliff for reminding me of the matter because apparently my office has not operated on that one. Certainly, I will follow it up with the new Minister for Defence, the Honourable Ian Sinclair. I am not certain whether he will be attending the federal Cabinet meeting to be held in Darwin in the course of the next several weeks. If he is, I will raise it with him there but I will certainly be writing to him again seeking some positive response from him.

Emily Gap Farm Area

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer him to a previous question and answer on the connection of sewerage services at the Emily Gap farm area and to the fact that I have received representations on that matter, and ask why he did not respond to my communications to his office on this matter?

ANSWER

I did receive the telex from the honourable member early last week. Consequently, I only found out myself last Thursday that I was able to proceed with the full program of providing sewerage services in Emily Gap. I returned to Darwin from a Cabinet meeting at Cobourg Peninsula last Friday and have been so busy that I just forgot to tell him that I had finally obtained Cabinet approval to proceed with the full development in that area.

Mudginberri and Munmarlary Pastoral Leases

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the current position and standing of the Mudginberri and Munmarlary pastoral leases?

ANSWER

The former Mudginberri and Munmarlary pastoral leases are in fact now owned by the Commonwealth under a freehold title.

Mundginberri Export Abattoir

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the current position of the Mudginberri export abattoir?

ANSWER

I understand that a group headed by Mr J. Pendavis is attempting, in co-operation with the Northern Land Council, to reopen and recommence operation of the Mudginberri abattoir. I am sure that you, Mr Speaker, and all honourable members will be extremely pleased to hear this. Mr Pendavis has told me that he has a contract with a German concern worth $5m over the next 12 months for the supply of buffalo game meat to the German market. This can only be of great value to the Northern Territory economy. I think it is most important that we attempt to retain these markets and avoid situations caused when abattoirs close for a year and then reopen only to find that they have lost what are pretty tight markets. The problem is that the titles to Mudginberri and Munmarlary are presently freehold in the Commonwealth. It is very difficult to assist Mr Pendavis by way of finance. The NLC, not being yet title holder, is unable to grant him anything other than an indication that it will give him a lease for a term of years. I believe that security was to have been taken over certain chattels, the plant of the abattoirs, for quite a substantial loan. You will appreciate, Mr Speaker, that I do not want to go into full details of all the financial arrangements here simply because Mr Pendavis is entitled to some confidentiality. He has applied to the NTDC for a very substantial amount of money. Security is the problem. The government does want to see the project go ahead. It realises its worth to the Northern Territory. I should perhaps mention that I was informed late yesterday that the Gagudju Association appears now to have bought in to the transaction and it seems to be claiming ownership of the chattels. This issue too will have to be cleared up and that can only further complicate the matter. Late last night, I spoke to the Co-ordinator General and asked him and Mr Pendavis to try to bring all the parties together around a table with a view to resolving the whole situation as quickly as possible to try to have the abattoir opened in May. I think the situation could be resolved if the NLC were prepared to guarantee to the NTDC the performance by Mr Pendavis of the terms of the security to repay the substantial loan of money.

'Boozers are Losers' Campaign

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

The cost of the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign against alcohol abuse was some $175,000. Will he make public the evaluation of that 'Boozers are Losers' campaign which was carried out by the Health Department?

ANSWER

I ask the member to put the question on notice. I will obtain the details and advise her.

Private Doctor a Nhulunbuy Community Health Centre

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has there been any agreement reached between a private doctor and the Department of Health regarding office space in the Nhulunbuy Community Health Centre? If such an agreement has been reached, what are its terms?

ANSWER

I ask the member to put his question on notice.

Register of Members' Interests Bill

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

When does the government intend to proceed with the Register of Members' Interests Bill which has been on the Notice Paper since 1980?

ANSWER

At this stage, I am not sure that the government intends to proceed with this particular piece of legislation. I seem to recall a second-reading debate where there was a deal of acrimony about the terms of the bill. It seems to have stayed on the Notice Paper ever since. The Assembly was very much divided over the provisions of that particular bill and it may well be that it will have to lapse from the Notice Paper and a further piece of legislation introduced. Frankly, I have not given it a great deal of attention over the past year or so.

Housing for Aboriginal Health Workers

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer him to an undertaking he gave in October last year in regard to housing for Aboriginal health workers on Aboriginal communities. Has his department contacted these health workers in all regions to establish their housing requirements and has he advised the Housing Commission of those requirements?

ANSWER

For the benefit of the honourable member, I point out that housing for public servants is really the prerogative of the Chief Minister. However, I would just make the point that, so far as accommodation for health workers in remote areas is concerned, this contentious issue has been going on now for some time and with some difficulty. One of the answers to a question that I put to a meeting of health workers in Alice Springs and again in Darwin a year later was very simply this: would you please advise us what is the nature of the accommodation you want in your respective communities? That question was very deliberate because, in the past, we have been very good at building buildings in communities, particularly in remote areas, that were not accepted by the people concerned and, in some cases, were abandoned. While I am quite warm to the idea of providing accommodation for health workers - and this will become increasingly important as we Aboriginalise the Rural Health Service - there is a need for Aboriginal health workers to tell us what they perceive as their needs in terms of accommodation. From that point, we will have something from which to go forward. It would be unfortunate and unnecessary for the Northern Territory government to build 3 and 4-bedroom brick homes as the needs are perceived by our community and find out after some time that they were not what the Aboriginals wanted and that they would have been much happier with something else. Mr Speaker, the matter is not a dead issue by any means. It is one that still needs to be negotiated and I am more than happy to do my bit. I would emphasise again that the prerogative in this area lies purely with the Chief Minister.

Buffalo Shooting

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he tell me why the tenders called for the shooting and taking of buffaloes in the Mudginberri, Munmarlary, Cairncurry Plain and Cannon Hill areas have been withdrawn?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am advised that these buffalo tenders were withdrawn as a result of a negotiated agreement between the Commonwealth, the Northern Territory and the proposed operator of an abattoir in the area. These areas are under Commonwealth control. It is clear that, as part of the arrangements with the Chief Minister that were mentioned earlier in answer to another question, the Commonwealth did not want the Northern Territory to let tenders for the collection of buffalo from these areas because it obviously has other plans in mind.

Budget Reduction for Gove District Hospital

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Could he confirm or deny that in excess of $140,000 will be slashed from the budget of the Gove District Hospital?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask him to place his question on notice.

Use of Tourists to Eradicate Feral Animals

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for TOURISM

Has he considered using tourists, particularly international tourists interested in hunting, to eradicate feral animals such as buffalo and pigs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, eradication of feral animals has been addressed in many ways over the last few years. I believe that a couple of years ago we were paid a visit by a distinguished army gentlemen from Canberra who had similar thoughts in mind. He came in response to an inquiry made of him by the then head of the department. As far as the tourists are concerned, there is a very small market for trophy animals which is currently serviced by 2 safari operators in the Top End. They operate to a very strict code of ethics. I do not believe that the plan suggested by the honourable member would be viable but I thank him very much for his question.

Housing for Aboriginal Health Workers

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer to the previous question on housing for Aboriginal health workers and his answer to that question. Is he saying that his department is awaiting advice from Aboriginal health workers as to their housing needs?

ANSWER

Most certainly I am waiting for advice from the conference of Aboriginal health workers in both the northern and southern divisions that I have addressed in the past 2 years on this particular matter. I do not recollect receiving a communication from these groups in relation to the discussions we have had on their perceived accommodation needs. If any such information has been submitted, it has not been brought to my attention.

Redistribution of Electoral Boundaries

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the intention of the government to call for a redistribution of electoral boundaries in the Northern Territory in 1982? If not, when is it the intention of the government to have such a redistribution?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have not yet studied the census results for the Northern Territory closely but I think it is fairly obvious to most people in the community that a redistribution of seats in this Assembly will become necessary as a result of the provisions of the self-government act which relates to the tolerances that must exist between seats representing areas of the Northern Territory. Therefore, it will become necessary, if my presumptions are correct, for a redistribution to take place.

The government has not considered this formally at this stage and no steps have been taken as yet to organise a redistribution. There are still at least 2 years of the government's term to run and, technically speaking at least, it may not expire until August 1984. There is more than adequate time for a redistribution to take place. If a redistribution were to take place too early, I believe that it would lead to confusion amongst the people that we are supposed to be representing. Whilst this is something that I do bear in mind, it is not something that I have on the urgent list at this stage. It is possible that we could do something before the year is out. Now that the Opposition Leader has raised it, I will look at it more closely within the next month or 6 weeks and decide, in consultation with my Cabinet colleagues, what steps should be taken. At present, the government has not decided on any steps to be taken in relation to a redistribution.

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In the interests of brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication in the Northern Territory, what will happen to the buffalo in the Mudginberri, Munmarlary, Cairncurry Plain and Cannon Hill areas in view of the fact that the tenders for the removal of buffalo in these areas has been withdrawn?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, Cannon Hill and the Cairncurry Plain are no longer viable tender areas for buffalo harvesting. The Cannon Hill tender area is currently being amalgamated into Mudginberri, and Cairncurry Plain into Munmarlary tenders. Consequently, 2 tenders will operate now instead of 40. The government has withdrawn its tenders and new tenders will now be issued and operated by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. The national parks involvement arises from an agreement with the Aborigines on the operation of the Mudginberri abattoir. These areas of private property are owned by Aborigines and, if local pet meaters want to operate on them outside of the tender arrangements, they will have to negotiate directly with the Aborigines. With regard to the tuberculosis and brucellosis eradication program and buffalo on Commonwealth land, from now until 1984, as many buffalo as possible will be cleaned out of all Crown-owned land, including the Commonwealth land, through the tender system. In 1984 destocking will commence. The government has a proposal about to go before the Cabinet which provides for marshalling yards to be established in the general region of Annaburroo. A plan has been devised to accept female buffalo which will not be allowed to go to slaughter this year. Females under 3 years will have to go through a domestication process either on a government-controlled establishment or on a private property which has an approved domestication program. The government will purchase those females from the catchers and will allocate them after one satisfactory TB test that

has been undertaken. As I indicated, these plans are preliminary. They are before the government and we will announce this proposal in the weeks ahead.

Aboriginal Health Worker Training Scheme

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Have discussions taken place with the Aboriginal communities concerned about the proposed reorganisation of the Aboriginal Health Worker Training Scheme in the East Arnhem and northern regions? When will those concerned be advised of the government's intentions in this matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, some time ago Dr John Hargrave was appointed as Assistant Secretary of Health within the Department of Health in the Northern Territory. Since his appointment, he has embarked on a review, with the departmental people concerned, on the future of Aboriginal Health Worker Training Service, as we now know it, and the training systems and methods that we should adopt in the future, where we should situate the training centre and how it should be run. I can advise the honourable member that there has been a great deal of consultation at just about every level of the department, from Dr Hargrave through to the health workers in the field.

The current thinking of the department, as I am aware of it, is that the health training centres for Aboriginal workers, as we know them in Darwin and Gove, will cease to operate. Katherine will be the administrative centre for the Aboriginal health worker training program. In fact, the training program will be run by an institute of which most of the management members will be Aboriginals or people very heavily involved in the Aboriginal Health Worker Training Scheme. I do not know the exact structure of this part of the department but, if the honourable member is interested, I will be more than happy to provide it for her.

Mr Speaker, let me also say that there are strong demands coming from within the department at the moment at all levels for the training of Aboriginal health workers to be more formally recognised, and that they have a greater level of training so that they can progress in a very orderly and recognised manner. I can only say that the process of evaluation that is going on at the moment is really one of evolution rather than revolution. As the program firms up, probably before the end of this year, I will be in a position to advise on the specific details. If the member for Fannie Bay so desires, I will make a statement in the Assembly next week.

Public Service Housing Sales Scheme

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Are any changes to the public service housing sales scheme under consideration in respect of officers who are purchasing their houses in Darwin under the scheme and are subsequently transferred to remote localities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, you and all honourable members would be aware of the public service home sales scheme. It is a scheme that is strongly supported by the government because we do want our public servants to put down roots in the Northern Territory. Therefore, we have made the terms of the scheme as favourable as we possibly can. Bearing in mind the fact that people out in the cold grey world at present are in fact paying up to 22% to obtain money to buy themselves a roof over their head, you will be pleased to hear that employees in the public service under certain levels can purchase their houses at an interest rate commencing at 8½%. You would appreciate that this scheme has been put forward by the government with the genuine desire that public servants avail

themselves of it and become permanent residents of the Northern Territory. We believe in that because we believe it gives us a more stable public service. Certainly, houses are readily saleable but, when one buys a house, it has a greater psychological effect on one than when one is just renting. It increases one's commitment to the place where one is living.

Mr Speaker, the government has been disappointed over the past few years at the rate at which public servants have actually taken up what we consider to be an extremely generous offer to purchase. We have been examining ways as to how we can increase the acceptability of the scheme to public servants. From time to time, suggestions have come forward to Cabinet. Obviously, a gradual upward movement in public service rents must make the public service home sales scheme much more acceptable to public servants, especially when one bears in mind that, at present, public service rents would run at approximately 33.33% of rents payable outside the public rental through the Housing Commission. It is not that I believe that we should want the general rates of rental to be high - we certainly do not - but it is a question of supply and demand. Most of the schemes which seem to come forward from time to time to build substantial amounts of rental accommodation seem to run into problems with planning objections and things like that. Obviously, the supply has to go through the gauntlet of many obstacles to attempt to keep up with the demand.

Mr Speaker, I am sure that the honourable member for Sanderson would only ask this question on the basis of an informed source. Perhaps I did not catch the innuendo. I am not aware of any particular differentiation that would exist between public servants in remote localities and public servants in urban areas. The position is that, in remote localities, many public servants are unable to purchase their homes for various reasons. Most of us know the reasons for that in Gove. I think the same reason operates in Alyangula. In most Aboriginal communities, if not all, purchase is impossible. We are attempting to enable public servants in Jabiru to buy their houses. Certainly we are working on that. It is a very complex situation, perhaps even more complex than the situation in Gove. There the land is owned by the Aboriginal people. The company holds a lease over the town. The only sort of security that can be given is a sublease for a term of years. I think the mining company's lease in Gove expires in about 32 years. Therefore a judgment must be made as to whether one wants to buy something that has a very finite life. I am sure that when most of us consider buying a property in the normal situation we think of it as being there forever. In Gove, people have to balance the various pros and cons and decide whether to purchase if and when the opportunity arises. I think it will arise shortly as a result of amendments that were passed for Housing Commission tenants and public servants to buy their houses. They will have to make what is a difficult decision in those circumstances.

If I have misunderstood the question asked by the honourable member for Sanderson, I would be happy to discuss the matter with her later or perhaps she would like to give me notice. Quite frankly, the question she asked did not ring any particular bell with me.

Old Darwin Hospital Area

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Future use of the old Darwin hospital area has been a concern to many of my constituents. Have any further proposals for the use of that land been considered or put forward and, if so, is he able to inform me what those proposals are?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I advised the honourable member at the last sittings that a proposal had been received which was unacceptable to the Department of Health. At that time, I was taking the matter to Cabinet. At this stage, I can only

advise the honourable member that we have not been able to identify people who see the use of that hospital for a private hospital as a viable proposition. That does not mean that there is not someone out in the world who could operate it as a private hospital. We just have not found anyone. At this stage, I can advise the honourable member that the Health Department has wound down its activities on the site. We have transferred the accommodation to the Public Service Commissioner's Office for its control. The maintenance and control of the buildings now lie with the Department of Transport and Works. If any proposal of interest should come before us before the government has done something with the buildings in the years to come, I will advise the honourable member. Certainly, there has not been anybody who is prepared to take it on.

Gunn Point

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to public access for recreational purposes to the Gunn Point area. In December, during the sittings of this Assembly, the Chief Minister advised that a second draft plan of management was being prepared by the Conservation Commission. Has such a plan been received and will he release it for public scrutiny and comment?

ANSWER

To the best of my knowledge, no such plan has been received from the Conservation Commission. Certainly, I do not recall reading one and I think I would have. Therefore, all I can do at this stage to satisfy the honourable member for Nightcliff is to say that I will have inquiries made of the Conservation Commission as to the status of that proposed recreational area plan. I know that various other matters have come before Cabinet or my ministerial colleagues have discussed them with me. I believe that steps are in hand to upgrade the road into Gunn Point. I know that the Forestry Unit of the Conservation Commission, at my direction, relinquished its tenure on certain land and buildings at Gunn Point and has handed this over to the Department of Community Development with a view to the Gunn Point Prison reserve being stabilised and the rest of the area being made available for public recreation. These things have been happening. This is a matter actually dear to the hearts of a couple of people in Cabinet so it comes up from time to time. I suppose that I had better pull my weight and try to get this recreation plan out of the Conservation Commission as soon as I reasonably can. I have every intention of producing the completed document for the edification of all honourable members. As you would appreciate, Mr Speaker, ministers take an interest in their portfolios although we probably do not always succeed to the satisfaction of everyone in this room. If we do read such documents, we occasionally send them back in the hope that, at least in our opinion, they will be improved. That is what has happened in this case.

Airlines of Northern Australia

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he been officially notified by Airlines of Northern Australia that it intends to cut back its operations to 5 services per week to Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs? Is he aware that the services may be cut to 3 per week, and will he assure the Assembly that any such moves will be resisted by his government?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have received a proposal from Airlines of Northern Australia. I actually received it about a fortnight ago. In that proposal it requested the government to consider reducing the frequency of services to the centres mentioned by honourable member. Its proposal was for a 5-day-a-week jet service,

Monday through Friday, and presumably some kind of commuter service on either Saturday or Sunday. Over the past 12 months, Airlines of Northern Australia lost nearly $1m and asked the Northern Territory government if it would review its proposal because it did not want to lose any more money. I discussed the proposal with my Cabinet colleagues and we have taken the view that, until such time as full consultation takes place with the Tennant Creek council and the Katherine council, we will not consider it further. I have asked Airlines of Northern Australia to go down with officers of the Department of Transport and Works to talk to the people in Tennant Creek and Katherine. Once we have received advice from those places, we will be able to consider the proposal.

I might add that, over the last 12 months, Airlines of Northern Australia has provided what I consider to be a good and efficient service to the Centre, particularly in light of the fact that, after the collapse of Northern Airlines, there was a loss of confidence in those areas for people using air services. I think it has taken Airlines of Northern Australia at least 12 months to regain that confidence. In its proposal, it states it does not intend to tamper with other services such as the Alice Springs-Ayers Rock run. That will continue twice a day, 7 days a week. The government has an agreement with Airlines of Northern Australia that, if there are only 2 or 3 passengers going to Ayers Rock on any one day, a smaller aircraft may be used.

The subject of the use of smaller aircraft on Saturday or Sunday will be considered when talks are arranged with the operators when we receive advice from the officers after discussions with the council. We shall try to arrange for flights on Saturdays and Sundays between Tennant Creek and Alice Springs and Katherine and Darwin. However, it is a matter of economics. At the moment, there are only about a half dozen passengers who travel from Alice Springs to Tennant Creek, Tennant Creek to Katherine and then on to Darwin. I have been told that sometimes the aircraft has between 15 and 30 passengers. That is misleading because many of those weekend passengers are not charged in full. They are charged $5 or $10. For example, I believe that Airlines of Northern Australia moved a group of boy scouts around one weekend and only charged them $5 in order to give them a ride to another centre.

There is not a lot of traffic on the weekend. I think we have to be sensible about this. We want this service and I believe that frequency of services has been provided in the past 12 months. Now there is a departure from that but I believe that a jet service that can operate 5 days a week will engender more traffic between those centres. The agreement we had with Airlines of Northern Australia through Ansett Transport Industries was that it would provide a jet service within 2 years. I believe that it would like to start this service early in August.

TEC Letter on BA Degree Course

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

This follows on an answer he gave me yesterday in connection with the BA degree course at the Darwin Community College. Would he advise the Assembly whether the letter he received in January from the TEC has been made available to anyone in the relevant faculty at the Darwin Community College and would he be prepared to supply me with a copy of that letter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, most certainly I would make a copy of that letter available to the honourable Leader of the Opposition. As to the first part of the question, the draft suggested replies were provided to me by the Darwin Community College on the basis of that letter. I assume from that that the college must have a copy of it.

Installation Cost to Tap Water Supply on Arnhem Highway

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it true that, if landholders down the Arnhem Highway wish to tap into the mains taking water to the proposed Humpty Doo village centre, it will cost $5000 for each installation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member forewarned me of this question. It is important to distinguish between fees levied by my department for tapping and meter installation and those incurred by each landholder for the installation of a pressure-reducing valve and delivery pipeline. Tapping fees range from $30 for a 50mm main to $80 for a 150mm main. Similarly, the cost of meter installation varies from $30 to $50 depending on the width of the main. Installation of a pressure-reducing valve and delivery pipeline is undertaken as a private arrangement and is not the responsibility of my department. The cost involved could vary considerably depending on the size and service, the length of pipeline and the type of the terrain involved.

Aerial Medical Base for Arnhem Region

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the base for aerial medical operations for the Arnhem region to be moved from Nhulunbuy to Katherine?

ANSWER

Could I advise the honourable member that, at this stage, there is no proposal to move the aerial medical base from Nhulunbuy to anywhere else. I would also advise the honourable member that, as stated in the press, there is a review going on at the moment within the department on the future of the aerial medical and aerial support operations. That is for both the northern and southern regions. If the member has any particular point that he would like to be considered by the internal inquiry, I would be more than happy to see that it finds its way to the department.

Rehabilitation Facility for Alice Springs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer him to a report in the NT News of 14 May in which he suggested that evidence of the effectiveness of the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign is that there was an increased number of people attending rehabilitation facilities in Darwin, particularly at Amity House. When will he ensure a similar cost effectiveness assessment will be possible in Alice Springs by assisting the establishment of a similar rehabilitation facility in that town?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, let me say to the honourable member that I am very conscious of the fact that not only in Alice Springs but in Tennant Creek, Katherine and Nhulunbuy we have yet to establish satisfactory rehabilitation units. I might point out to the honourable member that the slowness in establishing these units is not the want of money or the lack of will but the wherewithal in terms of manpower and facilities to provide the sorts of services that we need. I believe that one of my challenges for this 12 months is to see that, in each centre, we have rehabilitation units established for the care of people who have severe alcohol or drug problems. If the member has any suggestions, I would be only too pleased to listen to them. In fact, at this stage, I would advise the honourable member that I have gone to the trouble of writing to a wide range of groups including religious orders to ask them whether they would be prepared to assist in the field that we are about to

enter because the work is very onerous. It needs people with a great deal of personal commitment to the work. Providing all the services through the department is not the answer.

South-east Asian Beef Markets

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he assure Territory cattlemen that the government is making every effort to gain greater access to the South-east Asian beef markets?

ANSWER

It is true that the Northern Territory government, since 1 July 1978 and even before that, has made strenuous attempts to achieve greater marketing capacity, in particular to diversify away from the American market which has had a stranglehold on the marketing regime for Northern Territory cattle, particularly the Top End, since about 1959. In following those strenuous efforts, Mr Speaker, you yourself led a delegation in April 1978. Delegations again went overseas to South-east Asia in 1978, in September 1980, in October 1981, in January 1982, in February 1982 and in February-March 1982. I think the government has been very active in this area. In addition to that, a proposal to market domestic standard beef has been submitted to the Australian government. The Chairman of the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation is not particularly impressed with this proposal. However, we have also contacted the overseas trading countries that may wish to adopt this proposal and we believe that it is a realistic one. Obviously, our efforts have not resulted in any major successes except that we have established firm friendship over the years. If we keep on with our marketing impetus, in the long haul we will be successful.

Fire Station at 14-Mile

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that there is no water available at the fire station at the 14-mile in the Darwin rural area and that there has not been for some time. In fact, the fire tender has to go into the Darwin Rural Caravan Park to fill up? Is he also aware that the telephone that is connected to this waterless fire station is also non-functional? It does not matter if people cannot ring up because the fire brigade cannot put the fire out anyway.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that what the Leader of the Opposition has said is true. Apparently, somebody has got into the 14-mile station and has taken a few of the facilities away. This has stopped the men from manning it. I understand that someone has stolen the toilet, disrupted the electricity supply, diverted the water supply and this had made the station uninhabitable. I believe it will be operational by tomorrow.

Fred's Pass Police Office

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What will be the future of the Fred's Pass Police Office when Palmerston becomes habitable?

ANSWER

I think that the future of the Fred's Pass Police Office is brighter than the 14-mile fire station. If any of the inhabitants of the rural area see fit to steal the toilet from the Fred's Pass Police Office, they will be in big trouble. I think what the member for Tiwi is referring to is the future of Fred's Pass Police Office after the establishment of a police facility at Palmerston. I believe that the Fred's Pass Police Office will remain open

after the Palmerston Police Station is established. Work should soon start on the new police headquarters at Berrimah. After that has been completed, all police patrols or at least those out of normal business hours will be made from that headquarters.

Bees Creek Road

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

There are a great number of residents in my electorate who are forced to use Bees Creek Road as an access road onto the Stuart Highway, sometimes several times a day. Could he advise if and when his government intends to upgrade and seal this badly corrugated dirt road?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place his question on notice.

Santa Teresa Police Station

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of the request for the permanent staffing of the police station at Santa Teresa preferably by a policeman who is a family man and, if so, has he made any decision in this regard?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not sure that the permanent staffing of Santa Teresa police station by a police officer who is a family man would be in the best interests at all times of his family. In any event, we have a policy in the police unit these days that these remote areas stations, wherever possible, be staffed by 2 policemen and preferably 3 policemen. You must have 3 policemen to ensure that 2 are always on the job. In these remote area stations, the police spend half their time more or less keeping themselves operational. They have their generators and vehicles to maintain before they can even start their police work. I do remember a request coming in from Santa Teresa for a full-time police officer to be based there. The story is that there is a police facility there that they man at weekends. They man it at weekends because that is when things become pretty horrid from time to time at Santa Teresa. The reason they become horrid is that some people at Santa Teresa - and I am not slurring the community at all; I know them well - imbibe too freely of spirits and other liquors. This changes their personalities considerably and they become aggressive and nasty whereas most times they are happy, gentle and generous. The solution is not to have 1 policeman at Santa Teresa. At times when you have these problems, you need a platoon of policemen and it would be unfair on a policeman to base him there alone. It is a community problem and the community has to face it. When I am going around Aboriginal communities, many say there are considerable police facilities in Aboriginal communities. Almost every Aboriginal community wants a policeman in the belief that it will stop the grog problem there. One cannot just agree to it because it will not stop the grog problem, as experience has shown, and it will make life very hard for 1 poor policeman and intolerable, in many cases, for his family.

I think the answer that has been given to the Santa Teresa community is that we are sorry but we will not base a policeman permanently at Santa Teresa. Santa Teresa has been put on the list of places that will be given consideration for the establishment in due course of a full-time police facility. For the information of members, to establish a police station these days in a remote area costs $1m for the police station and houses. From the latest budget estimates, it can be seen that it is not a cheap thing to do and therefore it has to be worth while.

The present Commissioner of Police, in whom I have complete faith and confidence, has said that the police should be mobile. They should not be tied down to look after generator sets and things like that where it can be avoided. They should get around and do their police work. His view is that, whilst a police presence in strategic areas is necessary, it is more necessary to get the police moving around amongst the community where they can be seen. In simplistic terms, for instance, he would prefer that a police car be pulled up on Bagot Road talking to 1 offender, with its blue lights flashing, than there be 3 motor cycle policemen roaming up and down Bagot Road attracting little attention. He feels that police should be very visible.

I hope I have not disgressed too much from the point. It is a very complex situation. Police are sent to Santa Teresa at weekends. We sympathise with the plight of the community but essentially it is a community problem. Communities have been put on the list and none of them will be missed. It will take time, Mr Speaker.

Red Cross Facility at Darwin Hospital

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is there a proposal for the Red Cross to relinquish its facility at Darwin Hospital in Casuarina and for it to be taken over by a private pharmacy?

ANSWER

I have absolutely no knowledge of the honourable member's proposition, Mr Speaker.

Liquor Commission Employee

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why was a member of his personal staff on the interviewing panel to select an employee for the Liquor Commission which was, of course, an appointment within the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have anything to do with the appointment of people to interview panels or boards of appeal or anything within the public service. From time to time, the Public Service Commissioner's Office contacts my office to see whether certain people are available to sit on a board or an interview or what have you. I do not influence this nor have anything to say about it. It is a public service matter and I leave it in that area.

Medical Condition of Donald Tait

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the medical condition of Donald Tait, a prisoner at Darwin Prison who, it is alleged, has been fasting for in excess of 80 days?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in partial answer to the question, the motion for which notice was given yesterday by the honourable Leader of the Opposition will be debated today. Let us face reality. The Irish record has been broken well and truly. It is absolutely impossible that the gentleman is not eating. The last medical report I had a couple of days ago indicated that Mr Tait's general health - particularly his blood pressure - was greatly enhanced. In fact, it has been brought back to normal without medication. The gentleman is in no danger whatsoever. Quite clearly, of course, if anyone continues not to eat properly for a very lengthy period of time, that person will end up in trouble. There is no problem at the moment.

Police Station for Palmerston

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What sort of police station will operate at Palmerston, with what facilities, how many staff and how many working hours per day?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, a nice question. There will be a shop-front police station built at Palmerston eventually. It will be staffed according to the demand and will remain open for up to 16 hours a day. For the first period, demountable facilities, which I understand are at Jabiru, will be placed at Palmerston to cover the patrol of construction sites and provide other police facilities. As I said earlier, when the new Berrimah police complex is completed, located as it will be in a very central situation, all mobile patrols, at least after business hours, will generate from Berrimah.

Cost of Display at Royal Easter Show in Sydney

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What was the approximate cost of the Northern Territory display mounted at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney last month?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, my understanding of the Northern Territory involvement at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney was the use of the audio visual program mounted in the amphitheatre which has been used for that purpose over many years. That particular exercise was very successful. Some 17,500 people actually sat down and watched that audio visual program. I attended there for 1½ days and worked on the stand myself. It was a very successful exercise, far better than any we have done before. I do not have the actual cost but it involved the wages and salaries of several people from our tourist bureaux and the rent of space at the Royal Sydney Showground.

Basketball Courts at Darwin Community College

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I understand that the government has received a request to provide $3000 to resurface basketball courts at the Darwin Community College to enable the under-16 national netball titles to be held in Darwin. Does the government intend to meet this request?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the reason for the request was to enable the 2 parts of this sporting carnival to be held in proximity to each other. It would be obvious to all members that that is not a function of the Department of Education. On the other hand, clearly there was no other avenue of government funding which would be directly responsible or in a position to be held responsible for such a grant. I believe it to be a particularly worthwhile exercise and additionally it will upgrade the Darwin Community College courts. I was quite happy to approve the grant.

Blood Tests for Drugs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware of the existence of practical tests to detect drugs, other than alcohol, in blood? What is the cost and reliability of such tests and how simple are they to administer?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the short answer is that I am not aware of any tests that are available. If it would be of any help to the honourable member, I will ask the department to pursue the matter and to investigate whether such tests are available.

Fire Prevention Services for Winnellie Area

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that the principal fire prevention vehicle for the Winnellie area is 1 Bedford truck carrying a 1000 gallon tank? Is it intended that the facilities be upgraded considering that this fire station services a heavy industrial area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, my understanding of the fire service at Winnellie is that it provides a service to the industrial area and some infrastructure to the rural area. The Darwin and the Casuarina stations cover areas which they can reach in about 4 or 5 minutes. I understand that the equipment at Winnellie may be old but it is adequate. At the same time, there are proposals to upgrade certain pieces of equipment in the next financial year.

Boundaries of Darwin City Council

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has an official approach been made by the Darwin City Council to extend its boundaries?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, the answer is no.

Winter Uniforms for Southern Region Police

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Chief Minister indicate whether or not winter uniforms will be made available for police in the southern region this year?

ANSWER

I cannot answer this question specifically. I would be surprised if winter uniforms would be withheld from police serving in the southern region this year if it has been the practice to issue them in previous years. I think the police have certain clothing entitlements. I am quite certain that the Police Commissioner will ensure that those entitlements, which are contained in the police award, are met.

Koolpinyah Station Boundaries

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

On 9 March during the last sittings, the minister advised that the matter of redrawing the boundaries of Koolpinyah Station was under discussion by the government. Is he yet in a position to advise anything further regarding such discussions?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place his question on notice.

Wells Building

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he yet advise the date of the proposed demolition of the Wells Building?

ANSWER

I cannot give the honourable member the exact date. However, I can tell her that tenders will be called shortly for the demolition of the Wells Building.

Land Grants to Old Timers' Group

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he tell me what criteria are adopted when considering a grant of land to an old timers' group?

ANSWER

The government does not discriminate against old timers' groups at all. The criteria used for assessing applications for land for an old timers' group are much the same as that for other community and sporting-based groups. Checks are made firstly on the bona fides of the group concerned. From time to time, we have applications from people who, though perhaps genuine in intent, are not quite aware of the requirement of owning land and the expense involved. The selected area is examined for its availability or not. The resources of the group are examined. Many community-based groups would be making applications to the government for assistance to develop land which the government grants them. Checks are made as to whether there is a likelihood that the group's application would be supported by the relevant arm of government. In regard to an application for land in rural Darwin which has been received from a rural group representing old timers, I can advise the honourable member that the application is being processed at present.

Federal Subsidy for Electricity Costs

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Has the government received an assurance that the federal government will extend the subsidy on the fuel used in the generation of electricity as well as a guarantee of capital funds for the construction of the new power-station? What approximately will be the level of the subsidy for the financial year 1982-83 and what is the level of the contribution of the Commonwealth government to the construction of the Channel Island power-station?

ANSWER

This matter has taken up considerable time of myself and the Chief Minister over the last several months in a continuous series of meetings with federal ministers and the Prime Minister. There have been other meetings with federal officers by officers of our Treasury Department, NTEC, the Northern Territory energy consultant and others. The matter has been referred a couple of times to federal Cabinet and has gone a number of times to the Territory Cabinet. At this stage, it has not been completely resolved. There are still negotiations about ongoing operational subsidies for the Northern Territory as well as assistance by the federal government for the Territory to obtain additional generating capacity for the longer term as mentioned in the Memorandum of Understanding. Honourable members will be aware that the subsidy from the federal government which has existed since self-government for the generation and indeed capital expansion of the electricity system in the Northern Territory has been very substantial. It has represented some 50% of the cost of running the Northern Territory electricity supply and has in effect meant that all Northern Territory electricity consumers have been paying bills which represent about 50% of the actual cost of generating and distributing that electricity.

The matter of further subsidy is certainly very important to the Territory because enormous sums are involved. The annual subsidy at present is in the vicinity of $50m. We have been negotiating with the Commonwealth on what basis this arrangement will continue. As soon as some definite position is resolved with the Commonwealth, we will certainly be informing the people of the Northern Territory.

Sacred Sites

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What constructive consideration is he giving to the involvement of considerations of sacred sites in the planning processes of his department in Alice Springs and other centres in the Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the planning process and the land development process in the Northern Territory have existed for some time and are fairly clear. There is a series of public measures involved to elicit comment from the community, be they Aboriginals or others, as to how they see the development of our towns and suburbs. There are opportunities for them to object and suggest alternatives. Various arms of government regularly consult with Aboriginal organisations on particular projects which are planned for the Northern Territory. In addition, there are procedures under the Sacred Sites Authority in the Northern Territory whereby Aboriginal sacred sites or alleged sacred sites can be put forward for registration and, more importantly, declaration. That in turn provides a measure of protection for Aboriginal groups which have sacred sites declared as sacred sites.

Advertising of Frozen Fish

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Most people are aware of the dangers of refreezing food products. In that context, is it an offence to advertise fish as fresh when they have been frozen?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will refer the question to the legal people.

Letting of Contract to Brisbane Firm

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Is it a fact that a contract was granted to a Brisbane firm Retrographics for $0.25m giving that company a 5% margin on the basis that it was a local industry? Is it true that the contract was granted on 31 March, the same day that this company applied to have its business name registered in the Territory, thus making it ineligible for such a 5% allocation? What action has the Treasurer taken on this matter?

ANSWER

I am unaware of the matters the honourable member raises but I will certainly institute immediate inquiries and report to the Assembly on the next sitting day.

Yulara Tourist Village

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns recent criticism of the proposed Yulara Tourist Village. Can he reply to the criticism concerning the type of accommodation which is presently under consideration?

ANSWER

Yesterday, I tabled various documents relating to the Yulara Tourist Village project and I notice that, in the last few days, the Chairman of the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association, who incidentally is one of the operators of a motel at Ayers Rock which is due to be closed down in approximately 1984 pursuant to various arrangements made many years ago when the motels were first leased, has criticised the nature of the accommodation proposed to be established at the Yulara Tourist Village. The burden of his complaint has been that there is no middle range or low-cost accommodation for tourists such as that available at Ayers Rock at present where the motels are of a relatively low standard and, in some cases, of rudimentary construction. Obviously, the amount being charged to persons using the motels, particularly package deal tourists, is relatively low. Most of the tourists who use the motels at Ayers Rock also use the motels at Alice Springs where they pay a rate which is certainly higher than they pay at Ayers Rock at present. The best answer to the question might well be for honourable members to look at the various proposals contained in the documents that I tabled yesterday. I will also read a couple of letters, one written by myself to Mr Bucholtz and a second more recent letter written by the Director of the Conservation Commission to Mr Bucholtz. The first is dated 1 April and is from myself to Mr Bucholtz:

> *Thank you for your letter of 16 February on the above which I regret I have not answered earlier. The answers to your questions are as follows. Firstly, the figures quoted by White Industries Limited are estimated tariffs used for the purpose of establishing viability of the hotel operations and the resort generally. They are not necessarily the tariffs to be applied to the hotels. These tariffs will be a matter for the hotel operators themselves and there is no suggestion that they have to adhere to those quoted in the development documents. The tariffs of over $100 per room per night, to which you referred, are those tariffs used above after allowing for inflation in later years for the purposes of the analysis. They are not necessarily those which will apply to the resorts. Tariffs of $80 and $60 per room per night for the 5-star and 4-star accommodation respectively will mean that tour operators will be offering room rates of $40 and $30 per head respectively for accommodation and I am advised that these rates are not substantially higher than that currently applicable on a per head basis.*

It is the government's intention that the opening of new facilities will be phased in with the termination of the existing leases.

Mr Speaker, I think that is what is continuing to generate a great deal of heat and light. The village is planned to be operational towards the end of 1984.

As to the progress of the project, the necessary legal agreements and documentation between the government and White Industries are in the final stages of preparation and site works are expected to commence in the very near future. The development of one 250-room hotel instead of 2 hotels, one of 200 rooms and one of 100 rooms, was an option considered by White Industries with a view to minimising capital costs. The option was, for various reasons, rejected and the development is proceeding as originally conceived; that is, with the 2 hotels initially.

Completion of the facilities will proceed in the following order: firstly, camp grounds, bunkhouses and associated facilities; secondly, resort No 1, 100 rooms; thirdly, resort No 2, 200 rooms, hotel, retail complex and other buildings and facilities; fourthly, in December, discussions had not then been held with the various Aboriginal groups in the area on housing accommodation. These discussions are currently in progress to determine their requirements and the appropriate solutions. Please accept my assurances that the government has been involving the tourist industry in the Yulara Village Project to keep it informed on development. However, you will also appreciate our desire to ensure that information about the project is factual and not taken out of context. To achieve this, we will be endeavouring to improve public knowledge and awareness of all aspects of the project as soon as the current negotiations are finalised.

There is considerable correspondence from the Director of the Conservation Commission in between, but I think this is the last letter to Mr Bucholtz from Dr Letts. It is dated 25 May;

I refer to your letter dated 21 May, detailing a request from your association for an alteration in the standards of accommodation to be provided at the proposed Yulara Tourist Village resort. In your letter to the Chairman of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission, dated 27 April 1982, you detailed the results of the survey conducted by your association amongst major tour operators to determine what the tourist industry will require by way of accommodation at Yulara.

As you know, this information has been tabulated so that it may be checked against the market analysis for the Yulara resort prepared by Peat, Marwick and Mitchell. At our meeting on 17 May 1982 with the Chairman of the Tourist Commission, you explained the views of industry representatives about the range and adequacy of accommodation to be built at Yulara and it was noted that these were somewhat different from the views expressed by organisations contacted by the consultants. In some instances, different people in the same organisations expressed different views.

Overlooking that point, I outline the full range of accommodation which was envisaged and, relating this to the tabulated summary of your survey, it appeared there was not nearly as much difference between the market and the current plans as has been contended. I do agree, however, that previous publicity and briefings have tended to centre on the poor facilities and there is a need for further communication between the commission and the industry to present a full picture of the total range of accommodation options.

At our meeting on 17 May you agreed to extend your survey further and provide additional information and I understand this will now be available by Wednesday 27 May.

In fact, as I understand it from Dr Letts and Mr Poole, the Tourist Commission Chairman, on the understanding that additional information would be provided at a further meeting, there was an agreement that, in the meantime, there would be no communication between the parties via the media. In breach of his undertaking to the 2 government officials, Mr Bucholtz straight away issued a press statement to the media and to date, as far as I am aware, has not provided the additional information that he undertook to provide.

Whilst the agreed scheme for the Yulara tourist resort includes the construction of one 3-4 star hotel of 100 rooms and one 4-5 star hotel of 200 rooms, it should be stressed that detail of design has only just commenced and matters of interior finish and standards are yet to be determined. The information being provided by your association will be taken into account when this is done. Negotiations will also commence in the near future with potential end users and the final standards and design detail will need to ensure that these facilities are sold to meet the existing market at economic rates. The design of the camping area facilities will be flexible enough to cope with the increased domestic market expected following the sealing of both the Peterman Road and most of the Stuart Highway. The camp grounds will also include bunkhouses to cater for 126 persons in the lower tariff range.

The construction program is being developed to cater for projected increases in demand on accommodation at Ayers Rock and takes into account the capacity of the building industry and the desirability of establishing a cash flow. The program will not damage the tourist industry but will enhance the facilities available to visitors to Ayers Rock.

As negotiations with end operators proceed, the course of action to be taken with respect to booking requests for the 1984 tourist season will be determined. Leases on existing motels extend to the end of 1984 and it is anticipated that these facilities will accept bookings until that time. I look forward to receiving the additional survey information to be provided by you.

Mr Speaker, it is unfortunate that this controversy has blown up publicly. It is unfortunate in many ways that the existing motels have to close but that decision was taken quite a long time ago by the Reserves Board or the Park and Wildlife Commission or the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service even before this government came on the scene. I do believe that it is a decision we must adhere to because the motels are, generally speaking, not of a very good standard and, futhermore, they are located very close to the rock within the national park. We are trying to make this a model concept for tourist development by harmonising with the environment, a concept that should be capable of being followed successfully in other areas of Australia. The tourist facilities will be all concentrated at the Yulara Tourist Village area. I can certainly understand Mr Bucholtz's personal feelings about having to close his motel in a foreseeable time. Nonetheless, there are opportunities for people presently at Ayers Rock in the village if they choose to avail themselves of them. I understand that at least 2 other motel operators at Ayers Rock have made application to be involved in the village project and I know of 1 other motel operator who is seeking to involve himself elsewhere in the tourist industry in central Australia. To the best of my knowledge, Mr Bucholtz has not taken any such step as this.

Mr Speaker, the position is that we will do everything we possibly can to cooperate with existing operators. We will do all we can to meet the requirements of the industry and, indeed, it is to meet the requirements of the industry that the Yulara Tourist Village project is going forward. It is supported by detailed feasibility studies and I have no doubt that when it is completed it will meet the requirements of the industry.

Removal of Motels in Ayers Rock Vicinity

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that the Chairman of the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association has repeatedly asserted over the last few days the preparedness of motel operators to remove their motels from the vicinity of Ayers Rock, and that he bitterly resents the accusations of self-interest made by the Chief Minister?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I received a telex from the Chairman of the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association only yesterday or the day before. Quite frankly, it was an abusive telex and it made no mention of such preparedness to remove his operations adjacent to Ayers Rock.

Barramundi Management Plan

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

A barramundi management plan was introduced in January of this year. Is he able to inform me what progress has been made with the management plan for the barramundi fishery?

ANSWER

The major objective of the plan was to reduce the potential fishing effort within the barramundi fishery that was becoming an increasing threat to the livelihood of barramundi fishermen and the barramundi resource. I am pleased to say that to date the plan has been extremely effective in reducing the potential fishing effort. Figures to hand show that the number of barramundi licences issued in 1981 was 111. To date this year, 87 licences have been issued, 10 whole licences have been surrendered and 79 net units have been bought back under the net buy-back system. This represents an expenditure of $79,000. In total, 134 net units have been removed from the fishery under this plan. This includes units redeemed by the reduction in net length. These figures represent to date a percentage reduction in potential fishing effort on 1981 which equals 36.3%. Mr Speaker, continuing consultations are taking place with the industry as to the future management of the barramundi fishery. To date, no firm decisions have been taken about other modifications to the management regime.

Royal Commission into the Australian Meat Industry

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Does he intend to take any action following the statements made by Mr Lawrence Ah Toy to the Royal Commission into the Australian Meat Industry? Mr Ah Toy stated that a well-known problem in the meat industry in the Northern Territory was alcoholism and corruption among DPP inspectors. I for one would like those statements either substantiated or laid to rest?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the matter has not been put finally to rest. In fact, I have been asked to give evidence at the Royal Commission in Melbourne. I was unable to do so in Darwin because of other pressures. I think it was a very unfortunate reference in that it undermines the quality and the operation of those dedicated people of the Northern Territory meat inspection service. We will address this matter in due course.

Air Fare Concessions for Old-age Pensioners

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will details be available regarding air fare concessions to old-age pensioners?

ANSWER

As honourable members would be aware, it is proposed by the government to introduce the scheme on 1 July. I am currently putting a submission to Cabinet as to the exact method of operation of the scheme. The dilemma with this sort of matter is the rate of the protection the government provides against abuse of the taxpayers' money and the administrative cost in providing that protection. If watertight systems are introduced, the genuine recipients of such schemes are put to a great deal of frustration.

There are a number of different options available. There could be a system of warrants by the government for one way of a return trip. One would assume the safest way to do that would be for the warrant to cover the return trip so that in fact the government is not paying for a person to export himself from the Northern Territory. Nonetheless, from the airlines' point of view and from the pensioner's point of view, there is quite a lot of rigmarole involved in such a system.

Another way would be for the department to issue a warrant to the pensioner for the full value of the return air trip upon the payment of half in cash or by cheque to the department. By far the simplest way would be for the department to give the cash to the pensioner or eligible person to half the value of the nominated trip. Obviously, that would be the most simple way but it would also be the method most open to abuse. I suppose the department could require the pensioner to retain his ticket for 6 months after the trip is made. If abuse of the system is suspected, the department could ask for the ticket. Then we have the problem of a pensioner undertaking the trip and genuinely losing his ticket. Where does that leave us?

It is not an easy problem. The convenience of the airlines involved has to be considered. They staff their establishments to the business of running an airline and not to complex government systems. On the other hand, this has to be offset against the protection of the public interest in that it is the taxpayers' money that is involved. All of these options will be considered by Cabinet, hopefully, on Friday. I may be able to give some information to the Assembly during the course of the sittings next week.

Farmers Co-operative at Adelaide River

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is it a fact that the farmers cooperative at Adelaide River is to be closed down? Has this pressure been applied by the Chairman of ADMA and does this leave ADMA in a total monopoly position regarding the purchase and sale of feed grains in terms of local production in the NT and the Kimberleys?

ANSWER

As with all Northern Territory Development Corporation loans the details of the clients' affairs are confidential. The co-operative represents the interests of a number of rural producers and, accordingly, I am prepared to give the honourable member some information. The co-operative has been in serious financial difficulty over an extended period and consultations have taken place between it and the NTDC. It has been decided that it would be in the best interests of all concerned for the cooperative to discontinue its activities. To precipitate such a winding down, the NTDC, in consultation with the co-operative, intends to call in outstanding loans.

I would like to place on record my comments that the Adelaide River co-operative has played an important role in the development of cropping in the Douglas-Daly area. It finds itself in difficulty due to the fact that volumes of grain from the northern region are still relatively low and substantial capital costs have been required for its operation. A course of action is now being determined by the NTDC in consultation with the co-operative to effect the co-operative's winding down.

Repairs to Assembly

Mrs LAWRIE to SPEAKER

Can he indicate to the Assembly the cost of the repairs which have just been carried out to this antiquated building to stop it falling down around our ears?

ANSWER

About $32,000.

Eye Specialist for Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise what the present situation is concerning the recruitment of an eye specialist for Alice Springs Hospital and also what is the general situation concerning the recruitment of specialists for Alice Springs?

ANSWER

I can advise him that, since early last year, we have had considerable difficulty recruiting eye specialists for Alice Springs. There are 2 specialist positions in the town and one became vacant last year as a result of a resignation and the other one became vacant by a promotion when Dr Mahmood was transferred to Darwin. The very short answer is that it is not a problem of money and it is not a problem of will or desire. There is a very great difficulty at the moment in attracting eye specialists to the Territory. In fact, the department will be advertising Australia-wide again in the next couple of weeks to try to attract people to the positons.

I am not hopeful at this stage that we will get a successful applicant but I can assure the honourable member that processes are being put in train to ensure that, by locum or some other system, we do have these services available to the people of Alice Springs until the positions are filled permanently. I might also advise that we have been looking for some time for a specialist anaethetist and there has been some difficulty also in recruiting someone to this position. Again, it is not a matter of the department's will or desire or a lack of money. It is simply the fact that we cannot get people to apply for the positions that we advertise.

Commencement of Mining Act

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

As there is some conflicting advice on this question, could he please inform me when it is expected that the Mining Act 1980 will be brought into operation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, off the top of my head, it is 1 or 2 July 1982, but I will obtain the information for the honourable member and confirm it in writing.

Minister for Health's Visit to Hermannsburg

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer to the press release he put out after a visit to Hermannsburg in which he referred to a putative invitation by a group of traditional owners, and to yesterday's copy of the Centralian Advocate in which was published a statement that the Hermannsburg Council President had refuted claims by the minister that he had been invited to visit the settlement. Did he receive such an invitation and from whom?

ANSWER

I did receive an invitation. While I would normally be happy to advise the honourable member whom it came from, I think there are times when it would be appropriate for me to say: 'Mind your own business'. On this particular occasion, I received representations from Alice Springs when the department and NTEC were negotiating with the traditional owners over the pipeline. The honourable member would be aware that we had some difficulty, in the early stages, over the Aboriginals' understanding of what the government was trying to do in acquiring and securing an easement for the pipeline from Palm Valley to Alice Springs. Very simply, as I understand it, the traditional owners affected by the Palm Valley pipeline project live in or around or are related to Hermannsburg in some way. I was asked to go and explain the government's position. They acceded to that and I was happy to go. I could not argue with the premise that I was not invited by the president of the Council. Certainly, he did not invite me and I never inferred at any stage that he did. But I did receive an invitation from constituents who also happen to be traditional owners in this matter. I went not to talk to traditional owners but to constituents.

From time to time, ministers of this government will be required to talk to people in the Northern Territory who have interests in land claims, leases, sacred sites and a whole range of other things with which the government deals. I do not wish at any stage to intrude on the activities of the land councils or to offend the principles of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act in negotiations. When a constituent asks me to come and talk to him, I feel that I am obliged to do that. On this particular occasion, I went to Hermannsburg at the request of constituents. I advised the Central Land Council that I was going. It sent a representative to the meeting and I had absolutely no difficulty with that person. I believe that the meeting was satisfactory. Points of concern were raised and discussed and the exercise was very productive and a fruitful one.

McMinns Lagoon Pumping Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the population in Darwin that can be served from the McMinns pumping station and what steps are being taken to increase its capacity and duplication?

ANSWER

A population of 90,000 people can be served from the present pumping station. At the moment, we are duplicating the Darwin River Dam to McMinns pumping station line.

Transfer of Particular Health Services to Private Enterprise

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Given that the Health Department is currently negotiating with various private firms to hand over drug and medical supply, radiology, pathology and pharmacy services - all traditionally supplied by the Health Department in the

Northern Territory - and given the concern of Health Department staff and members of the public about the implications of these proposals, when will the minister announce details of the government's intentions to hand over these services to private enterprise?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there is nothing the government can do to prevent private people coming to the Northern Territory to establish pharmacy, x-ray, pathology or any other health services. In fact, in the rest of Australia, this is quite a normal function. So far as the Health Department is concerned, and I have said this on several occasions, it is reviewing everything it is doing, particularly in relation to how private operators may enter the field in the Northern Territory. That is something we cannot stop even if we wanted to. People should be able to have the choice of doing one thing or the other. Could I assure the honourable member that, so far as consultation with the staff is concerned, that is going on continually. I believe that I have spoken to every section of the hospital administration at Darwin Hospital. My most recent discussions were with the people involved in pathology. We met for 2 hours one night to discuss the matters that were under consideration. I would emphasise the point that there are no big secrets and no devious schemes. There is nothing to hide. I am happy to tell other people anything that I know about it. When there is some definite proposal to put to people, I would be more than happy to discuss it with them if they feel there is a need.

Transfer of Particular Health Services to Private Enterprise

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of his intention to offer the people of the Northern Territory a choice in services, will he ensure that public services continue so that people will have a choice between public and private services?

ANSWER

I believe that there will always be a requirement for services within our health facilities. For instance, let me say there is no way that we could close the pathology section of Darwin Hospital. That is quite an unrealistic proposition. There will always be a need for us to provide a level of pathology service in the hospital. If a section of the population transfers its business to some other area, that is a matter for the people concerned. In any event, we will need to maintain x-ray, pathology and a whole range of other services in our hospitals to a satisfactory level.

Liquor Act and Summary Offences Act

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise when the recently passed amendments to the Liquor Act and Summary Offences Act will come into force?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Acting Chairman of the Liquor Commission has advised me that he is in close consultation with a range of parties, particularly councils and people like the Conservation Commission over the declaration of restricted areas. As soon as his negotiations and discussions with these people have been concluded, we will be in a position to proceed with the new laws. At this stage, we hope that the amendments become effective on 2 July, but there are things that might cause delay.

Airlines of Northern Australia

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that Airlines of Northern Australia was granted a 7% increase in fares on the Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs run in the last few days?

ANSWER

Yes, but I might add that the independent air fares inquiry approved that increase. We were notified of it and it was just a matter of rubber stamping that decision.

Cleaning up of Government Land

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In past years, money has been set aside by the government to clear properties controlled by the government of weeds and long grass. Has money been set aside for cleaning up purposes this year?

ANSWER

The answer is yes. The Department of Lands will continue to have a sum of money allocated for the maintenance of Crown land. It is quite impossible to keep all Crown land completely mowed and maintained in a satisfactory manner because it is extremely expensive once one gets out of the heart of town. Most honourable members who are concerned with the maintenance of Crown land are primarily concerned with Crown land in town. The conditions of various blocks of land can be brought to the attention of either my office or the Department of Lands with requests that they be maintained or rubbish removed. That is the function of the Department of Lands in this regard.

Free Trade Zone in NT

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns his statement that research has been carried out into a free trade zone in the Northern Territory. Would the Chief Minister be prepared to publish the results of this research in a Green Paper on the feasibility of establishing a free trade zone in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

It is my normal practice when I send a submission like this to the Commonwealth government to make it public and, in fact, to obtain as much publicity for it as I possibly can. Honourable members have been recipients from time to time of various submissions that I have made in respect of particular aspects of Territory economics or life. I will certainly be following my normal practice on this occasion. The submission that will be presented in due course to the federal government will be widely circulated not just to members of this Assembly but to governments, parliamentarians, unions and industry groups right around Australia with a view to gaining the maximum possible support. Unfortunately, in our present situation where we have limited federal representation - 2 senators and 1 member of the House of Representatives - we need to try to bring together a coalition of interests that support us and to lobby as strongly as we can in consultation with them.

The one big plus that I think became very much impressed on my mind during my recent visit to Alaska and Hawaii was the fact that those 2 states very much prized the fact that they have equal senate representation in the United States Senate with all other states. The former Governor of Alaska said to me: 'There are 40 million or more people in New York State and they have got 2 senators and we have 400,000 people and we have 2 senators'. They feel that puts them in a stronger position in the union. In Hawaii, it was the same story. Un-

believably the present Governor of Hawaii said to me. 'Well, California has 38 million people and we have 2 million people. But we have 2 senators and they have 2 senators and that is the thing, son, you had better press'.

The situation in Australia is that each state has 10 senators and, therefore, I feel that the influence of the Northern Territory in the Commonwealth of Australia would be much enhanced if we had an additional 8 senators. Then, it would not be half as necessary for ministers such as myself to lobby around Australia to pick up support for things that the Northern Territory badly needs.

Rationalisation of Rates in Berrimah Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will the landholders in the Berrimah area receive an answer to their frequent requests for rationalisation of their rates?

ANSWER

I assume from the honourable member's question that she refers to those landholders in the Darwin rates area who have their properties adjacent to other than sealed roads. There is a widely held misconception by people in the rural area that rating includes such matters as sewerage, water, electricity and so on. It does not. That is not what rating is tied to. It is tied to the normal municipal services provided by city and town councils.

The disparity as the people down there see it is that they are adjacent in many cases to very poor roads indeed. I am certain that, when the Valuer-General values the properties upon which the rates are levied, he would take into account quality of access. Nonetheless, many of these properties are adjacent to areas which are being used for commercial purposes such as quarrying, cement manufacturing and so on. The Valuer-General must have regard to properties adjacent to commercial properties. They would be properly zoned and therefore valued as if they could be used for that purpose. Therefore, many rural dwellers find themselves with very poor roads but fairly high unimproved capital values. If one applied the Darwin act to them, they feel, with some justification, that they would be considerably disadvantaged. Mr Speaker, the problem in trying to overcome it by way of a differential rating or rationalisation of rating, as the honourable member puts it, is difficult. The differential rating provisions which this Assembly recently saw fit to pass only apply to areas of land within municipalities, within town council boundaries. Of course, the other provision that this Assembly passed in relation to differential rating was that that land be used, either fully or substantially, for the purpose of income accruing to the ratepayer. Quite obviously neither of those provisions would apply to people in the area known as the Darwin rate area. Incidentally, there is no provision for the minister to declare different boundaries within that area. The act, quite specifically, prevents him from doing that. Therefore, the area to which the honourable member refers cannot be dealt with individually and a separate rate struck by the minister in respect of that area as opposed to the area immediately across the Stuart Highway which is also an area where full services are provided.

Mr Speaker, this is a matter of considerable concern, not only to myself but to my Cabinet colleagues. We have recently discussed this at length and certainly I am assuming that I have a charter from my Cabinet colleagues to have this matter sorted out. Last week, I had a meeting with a representative of the people affected in this way. I indicated to that representative that it was my determination to organise as quickly as possible the upgrading of facilities in that area, particularly the roads, which is the obvious solution to the problem. If, for cash flow reasons, that is quite impossible for the next several years - and for logistic reasons which I will mention in a minute - I am charged by my Cabinet colleagues to prepare amending legislation to over-

come what is quite clearly seen by many, and agreed to by this government, as being a position of disadvantage.

Mr Speaker, one reason why I say that it might not be possible to upgrade some of those roads is that, in the very near future, they will become major arterial roads and it would be a singular waste of the taxpayers' money to spend up to $1m in sealing those roads if in fact they have to be ripped up in 4 years' time for the dual highway to go through.

I have instructed my department to request meetings with the Department of Transport and Works to resolve the practicality of immediately upgrading the roads in the correct places. Certain people in the rural area believe that the program of upgrading roads, which we are commencing from the north and moving south, is going in the wrong direction. My department has instructions again to follow this matter up with the Department of Transport and Works. We will try and aim our capital works priorities in the right direction. If that cannot be done because of other planning matters, then I will come back here with amendments.

Buffalo from Beatrice Hill

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Could he advise how many staff are employed on the Beatrice Hill project and approximately how many buffalo have been prepared for export to Papua-New Guinea? Why was this project not carried out by private industry expertise in line with stated government policy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not too sure how many staff are at Beatrice Hill, but the proposal before the government and the department is to dispatch to Papua-New Guinea 200 disease-free buffalo. Beatrice Hill has been involved with testing those buffalo and getting them ready for shipment. I propose to approve the movement of those buffalo to Papua-New Guinea as soon as veterinarian documentation is available to us. I do not understand the honourable member's alarm about the project. It was a necessary project. We had to replace buffalo found to be diseased on arrival in Papua-New Guinea some years ago. We have been working to meet this requirement.

Low-cost Housing Designs at Karama

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the Northern Territory Housing Commission yet made a decision to adopt any of the designs currently on display at the low-cost housing village at Karama?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the low-cost housing village organised by industry and government and recently opened for public display is really an experiment to try to determine public attitudes towards the designs which could be brought forward by private enterprise in the low-cost housing area. Also, it is an experiment for the designers and builders themselves so that they can put forward their own ideas and seek information from other persons as to how the need could be met. I see this low-cost housing village as the first in a series of events to examine how governments get the cost of house-and-land packages down to within the vicinity of $50,000 or preferably below that.

I do not believe that the Housing Commission has specifically adopted any of the designs for construction. The village is open and manned by various personnel with a view to the builders concerned selling the houses which were constructed and taking orders from persons interested in building such houses on their own land. When the village has been displayed for some time, we will

assess public reaction to each home. I believe quite a number of contracts have been made to build houses from those designs on privately owned land, and I am very pleased by that. It will help us to assess the success of the project when we examine public reaction and to determine where we should go from there.

To answer the honourable member's question in simple terms, I believe the Housing Commission has not specifically adopted any one of those designs with a view to constructing them on any scale.

Staff at Alice Springs High School

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that the shortcomings in the recruitment of teaching staff in the Northern Territory has resulted in the re-employment at Alice Springs High School in 1982 of a teacher who resigned in mid-1981, disrupting a matriculation class at that school, and is he aware of the effect that it is having on the morale of parents, teachers and children at that school?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the particular case to which the honourable member refers although I would not be surprised if such a thing was found to be necessary. Certainly, I agree with him that, while it may have been deemed to have been necessary, it may not be wholly desirable for that sort of thing to take place. Mr Speaker, I have great fears in the secondary education area for the Territory in future years. I do not want to sound an alarmist, but I honestly believe that the Tertiary Education Commission will over-react in terms of the present apparent glut of teachers, particularly secondary teachers, and wind down on training through colleges of advanced education. The Northern Territory could then have difficulty recruiting teachers in future years.

I am reminded of the era of the 1960s when there was a shortage of practitioners in the legal and medical professions. An enormous number of people were put through university in Australia and we had a glut. There was an immediate reaction that too many had been trained and the program was discontinued. The legal profession now states that the chances of attracting to the Northern Territory a qualified solicitor with any sort of experience at all is extremely difficult. If a shortage of secondary teachers arises in Australia, the Northern Territory will be most adversely affected because it does not, at this stage, have its own training resources. At the present time, I have approved travel for teams to go interstate on a recruitment program. The Teaching Service Commission has conduct of that program. We are determined that we will do our recruiting as early as we possibly can this year in order to prevent these sorts of difficulties occurring next year. Nonetheless, as I have indicated 2 days ago, without home-grown Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science courses at the Darwin Community College so that people with those basic degrees can undertake a Diploma of Education and thereby provide at least to some extent a secondary teacher resource of our own, I think trouble is inevitable. I just wish the Tertiary Education Commission realised it.

Cropping Programs at Sunday Creek Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he give me the results of cropping programs at Sunday Creek Station?

ANSWER

Sunday Creek, which is a station down near Daly Waters in the Elsey electorate, last year sowed quite an extensive acreage of grains and peanuts. I am pleased to say that, with the good season that was recorded across that area, magnificent results have been recorded. I know it is against the rules to have lunch in the Assembly, Mr Speaker, but I thought for your edification,

Sir, that you would be pleased to know that the peanuts are of a very high quality, the yield is quite good and I am sure that all members would like to have some with their lunch a little bit later.

Future Management of East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will he announce a decision on the future management of East Point Reserve?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government will make an announcement as soon as it has made the decision on which body is to take over the management of East Point Reserve. I have various matters being drawn up for presentation to Cabinet in the near future relating to the foreshore management plan which has been on display by the government over the past few weeks. Considerable comments have been received from various parties. Included in that exercise, although not necessarily being decided at the same time, is the future body to take over control of East Point. The government also has to consider in some depth the proposed plans for the future of East Point which have been prepared by the East Point Trustees which will of course phase out when the government makes a decision as to which body is to actually run East Point. By the same token, you have to take in the government's wish to adopt a plan of management for East Point at the same time as deciding who is going to operate East Point in the future.

Housing Commission Sales in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Following the passage of amendments to the Tenancy Act, can he advise me when the Housing Commission houses in Nhulunbuy will be available for sale to interested tenants?

ANSWER

I do have some information on this but not immediately to hand. I will examine the matter more closely and provide an answer during the course of these sittings.

Health Clinic at Napperby Station

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise when the health clinic which is presently in kit form on Napperby Station - it has been there for several years - may be assembled and constructed?

ANSWER

I share his concern about the state of the Napperby health clinic. The only advice I can give him is that there have been some discussions about the site over quite a period of time between the Aboriginal group concerned and the management. There was a further complication relating to the provision of water. I am happy to say that I believe the site matter has been resolved between the Aboriginals and the station management. The department through its grants-in-aid has been able to provide $6000 to the community to pay for the erection of the centre. I believe that arrangements are under way through my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works, to provide water to the area for its future development. Given that our part of the agreement has been to provide the equipment and the money to get on with the job, I believe that it is now a matter for the locals to complete their arrangements.

Hard Labour in NT Prisons

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

One reads in various acts that there are penalites of so many years jail with hard labour. What is the nature of hard labour in the Northern Territory prisons and what is different about the labour carried out by prisoners not so sentenced?

ANSWER

This is more a question for the Solicitor-General. Off the top of my head, I think that, other than sentencing for debt, which is extremely rare, all sentencing in the Northern Territory carries the term 'hard labour'. Some would say regrettably the days of the rock pile have gone. I have mixed feelings on that myself. I do not mean that literally but I tend to wonder whether a commonly held image of our prisons is not a correct one. Nonetheless, there are significant amounts of works conducted in prisons. The honourable member would be aware of most of them. The general activities are consistent in all prisons around Australia where you have a range of prison farms and more secure establishment. They include such things as maintenance, gardening, trade training and whatever labour activities are involved. There is a mandatory requirement to work provided the person is fit. It used to be referred to, or still is at law, as hard labour. One could be justified for being somewhat cynical about accepting that usage of the English language at times.

Report on Dry Areas in Aboriginal Communities

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will the minister table at this sittings a report on the effectiveness of dry areas in Aboriginal communities prepared by the Liquor Commission and made available to the minister some time ago? I ask for the tabling of the document as one of its own recommendations is that its contents be made public.

ANSWER

The document to which he refers is to go before Cabinet very shortly. It really is a decision for Cabinet as to whether it is made public. If it is possible for it to be tabled in the next week, then that is good fortune and, if not, it will be in the following sittings.

Access to Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

There has been talk about another traffic corridor into Darwin using the old railway line area. Is the minister able to inform me if the proposal to use the old railway line area is being seriously considered?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not sure whether the Minister for Transport and Works could shed some more light on this matter. To my knowledge, there has over the past several years been examinations of various traffic flows around Darwin. One of the many options which have been considered from time to time by planners and engineers is the use of what was formerly a railway corridor from Salonika into Darwin. I have not seen any specific proposals in this regard. I would want to study them very carefully if they were put forward seriously because the area is in the centre of my electorate and indeed the electorate of the member for Port Darwin. Any such rerouting of highways into Darwin would have some fairly severe effects and no doubt some benefits as well. Mr Speaker, I am not aware that any such proposal has been floated for adoption at this stage.

Banks' Merger

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise the House if the relevant banks have responded to the Chief Minister's statements on the attitude of the government relating to legislation controlling the proposed merger of the banks?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. In fact, earlier this morning, I sent the Leader of the Opposition - and I do not know whether he has actually received them as yet - copies of telexes from the National Bank of Australasia Ltd and the Bank of New South Wales and also a telex from the Commercial Bank of Australia concerning, on its behalf, the response of the Bank of New South Wales.

In the last couple of days, the media seems to have seized on the Bank of New South Wales, for some reason, as the villain of the piece and all criticism seems to have been directed at that bank alone. This concerns me for more reasons than one. I have a big overdraft at that bank for a start. There are, of course, 4 banks involved in these mergers: the National Bank of Australasia is attempting to merge with the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, and the Bank of New South Wales is attempting to merge with the Commercial Bank of Australia Limited. I wrote to all 4 banks seeking assurances from them. I have now telexes from the National Bank of Australasia and the Bank of New South wales. The telex from the Bank of New South Wales is quite a substantial reply. I will not burden you, Mr Speaker, and honourable members of this Assembly by reading the whole of the telex. I will table it for the information of all honourable members should they wish to read it. I will read parts of it which I think I should do in fairness to the Bank of New South Wales since it has been copping it a bit over the last couple of days.

The bank states: 'Even if we were to accept the proposition that the Territory should be looked at in isolation, and that is from the point of view of deposits and loans, what do we see? In the year to March 1982, the Wales Trading Bank had loaned 79% of its weekly average deposits and the CBA 176%'. There must be some pretty heavy borrowers down at the CBA. The combined figure for the 2 banks was 94%. The telex says: 'Given that the Reserve Bank requires us to maintain 7% of deposits on a statutory reserve deposit and 18% in LGS assets' - they are government securities I think - 'it could be argued that we are over-lent in the Territory'.

It is not nearly as bright a picture in respect of the savings banks. One must realise that not too many people try to maintain very substantial trading bank accounts and many people are constantly in an overdraft situation. In the savings bank area, the Wales had housing lending equivalent to 20% of its deposits - not quite as we would like. The CBA's Territory housing loans were equivalent to 46% of its local savings bank deposits. The combined banks' Territory lending for housing was 24% of deposits. The telex says:

> *It is conceded that this is low by Australian standards and that the ratio has risen from 14% over the period since 1977-78. Added to this, there are loans to Territory local authorities equivalent to 18% of savings bank deposits. We are not advancing this brief view of the situation as a complete explanation nor do we plan to adjust our policies to correct the over-lent position in the trading bank. So far as the savings bank position is concerned, the bank will be pleased to conduct a full investigation into the level of demand for housing finance in the Territory and, should it be found that there is an unsatisfied demand from suitable borrowers, to investigate what remedial action can be taken within the guidelines set for us by the authorities.*

Mr Speaker I seek leave to table this copy of the telex.

Leave granted.

Mr EVERINGHAM: They do ask us to cooperate and pass the merger legislation at this sittings because they would otherwise have to do it a different way by various legal agreements and documentation. The non-passage of the legislation will do nothing to frustrate their merger other than give a lot more work to the legal profession and cause a considerable degree of inconvenience. The National Bank stated inter alia:

This bank values the strong effective working relationship it has with your government. It has worked assiduously on its corporate citizenship status in the Northern Territory. As demonstrated by the figures below, this bank has committed resources towards the creation and development of the Territory's infrastructure, commercial and housing, based well beyond its normal parameters. Moreover, as alluded to above, this bank ratio differs markedly from those of the banking industry in the Territory.

Trading Bank Ratios:

Advances bills to deposits - 122%.

Advances bills to deposits allowing for SRD ratios and LGS convention - 162%.

i.e. this bank's lending base in the Northern Territory is heavily susidised by the deposits raised in other states. In excess of 75% of Trading Bank lending is directed to flats and houses erection.

Saving Bank Ratios:

Loans: Territory issued assets to deposits - 63%.

Housing loans to deposits - 31%.

Territory and statutory authority loans to deposits - 25%.

Other loans - 7%.

N.B. This bank has been a calendar writer for Territory loan issues and has subscribed to loans. Because of the lower owner-occupied home ownership situation in the Northern Territory, savings bank housing loans are lower than is usual. Please see trading bank figures above.

Mr Speaker, I overlooked, when referring to the telex from the Wales, to mention that they did state that they have participated in the construction of the housing for the whole workforce at Nhulunbuy, and perhaps Jabiru also, by lending substantial sums of money to the mining companies in those towns for that purpose. I would also seek leave, Mr Speaker, to table this copy of the telex from the National Bank of Australasia.

Leave granted.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, I suggest that we accept the Bank of New South Wales' offer to conduct a review of its savings bank operations in the Northern Territory. I think that this would be a very significant step because there is no doubt that, after its merger with the Commercial Bank of Australia - which we will not stop - the Bank of New South Wales will be by far the largest banking concern in the Territory. I think it will be represented in every centre but Katherine. I was assured by the regional manager of the Bank of New South Wales that the bank is actively looking at having itself represented in Katherine and not just by an agent. It has an agency there at the present time, Cox's, and it is looking at an actual banking presence in the not too far distant future in the town of Katherine. I propose, with the assent, I hope, of members of the Assembly and with the support of my ministerial colleagues, to write to the Bank of New South Wales and accept its offer to conduct the review. I look forward to receiving the result of the review and perhaps will bring it to the notice of this Assembly. All in all, Mr Speaker, it would probably

look as though the Northern Territory was being a bit of a dog in the manger if it did not cooperate with these banks in passing the legislation at this sittings. I was assured yesterday that all other states will have the legislation passed within the requisite period of time.

Mosquito Eradication in Central Australia

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question concerns the mosquito eradication program in Central Australia. Following the advice that the minister has already received from the various departments involved in this project, would he also consider spraying the troubled Ilpapa Swamp area with an inflammable material, burning it off and then having the department instruct various companies involved in construction in Central Australia to backfill that swamp area with building rubble and other material?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable member for Stuart for his concern. It is true that the co-ordinated program has been attempted by the Health Department, the Conservation Commission and the Department of Transport and Works. At a recent meeting, they decided to burn off the grass on the bank as an eradication measure. I will take up the other point and seek some kind of rubble or backfill to be placed in the swamp at reasonable intervals to see if we can backfill it over a period of time.

Adulteration of Food at Darwin Prison

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

He will be aware that yesterday at Darwin Prison food, believed to have been deliberately adulterated with maggots, was served to prison officers and some prisoners. Would he make available to the Assembly later this sittings the results of the investigation now under way?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as is usual in these matters, I would like to look at the report before giving any such undertaking. I think the honourable member would be well aware that there are valid reasons for that, not the least of which, in a prison environment, is the need for security. If it is a document which I consider to be suitable to make available publicly, it most certainly will be. If it is not, I undertake to at least let the honourable member for Nightcliff have access to its contents.

Listings of Telephone Numbers of Opposition Members

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that some of the telephone numbers listed for the electorate offices of some of the Assembly members of the opposition are also listed as Australian Labor Party branch offices in the Telephone Directory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is with some surprise that this matter was drawn to my attention, especially in view of the attitude to probity of members of the Legislative Assembly that has always been adopted by the members opposite. In fact, when it was drawn to my attention, I had a look at the Northern Territory Telephone Directory. It appears that numbers listed under the heading 'Legislative Assembly' - which one assumes are members' electorate offices since that is the heading of the column under the Legislative Assembly general heading in the Northern Territory government section of the current directory - and under 'Australian Labor Party' in that directory are the same. The Casuarina Branch of the ALP has telephone number 279405 which corresponds with that of

the honourable member for Sanderson. The Nightcliff Branch of the ALP's telephone number 854666 corresponds with the telephone number of the former member for Millner. The Nhulunbuy Branch of the ALP's telephone number, 871802, corresponds with that of the honourable member for Nhulunbuy. The honourable member for Fannie Bay has a telephone number 814760, which is shown as being the Fannie Bay Branch telephone number, and the honourable member for MacDonnell has a telephone number 522612 which corresponds with the number of the ALP's Alice Springs office.

It does seem to me that, to say the least, this is playing a bit fast and loose with telephone services that are probably reluctantly provided - if any taxpayer was asked - for the use of members of this Assembly. It has been the policy of the Australian Labor Party in this parliament and elsewhere in Australia to lecture and hector government members on matters of its probity. Recently, we have seen a very strong campaign by members of the federal Australian Labor Party opposition on the question of tax evasion and tax avoidance. Of course, the argument is that people are not paying their taxes. Here, taxpayers' money is being put to a use which taxpayers certainly have not been asked about and about which they have had no chance of making any decision at all.

Mr Speaker, I appreciate that the matter is one which is probably at the discretion of yourself. At the request of the honourable member for Port Darwin, I simply bring this material to your attention. I seek leave to table pages 33 and 38 of the current Northern Territory Telephone Directory.

Leave granted.

Giles House Alice Springs

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the minister aware that child offenders in Giles House in Alice Springs automatically transfer to adult institutions upon attaining the age of 17 years? Will he have this policy reviewed so that children who have only a short period of their sentence to complete and otherwise are exhibiting no behavioural problems might complete their sentence in the more appropriate atmosphere of Giles House.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will have the matter examined.

Channel Island Causeway

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why cannot the consultant currently engaged to design the bridge to Channel Island be instructed to consider a proposal for a causeway and, from this, an ornamental lake to Palmerston?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the possibility of using a causeway was one of the options considered in the preliminary assessment for the power-station access. However, it was found to be impractical.

BA Degree Course at Darwin Community College

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise the Assembly of any communications that have taken place between himself and the federal Minister for Education on the commencement of the BA degree course at the Darwin Community College? Can he advise the Assembly of the federal government's attitude to the commencement of the degree?

ANSWER

On a number of occasions in this Assembly, last week being the most recent, I outlined what I perceived to be the federal government's attitude. I thought I outlined it quite clearly. On the other hand, I suppose that I am in no position to give an opinion on the opinion of another government. As I indicated again last week, I will be having discussions with the federal minister in the course of the federal Cabinet visit to the Northern Territory and shall probably follow the matter up further during the course of the Australian Education Council meeting in Alice Springs in July. Mr Speaker, if any futher progress is made in this matter as a result of discussions with Senator Baume during the course of his visit to the Northern Territory next week, I would certainly make any progress reports available to the public as soon as possible.

Telegraph Terrace in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Telegraph Terrace in Alice Springs was resealed by the Department of Transport and Works several weeks back. Within a few days, it was dug up again by a government contractor. Will he ensure that the department in central Australia liaises more closely before committing government taxpayers' dollars to roadworks?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in most cases departments try to co-ordinate the different services that are to go underground before roads are sealed. However, in this case the contractor arrived on the scene early and thought that the other contractor had completed his work, which he had not. The road was sealed and the first contractor returned about a week later and started to dig the road up. This particular exercise has not been a cost to the taxpayer. However, I will ensure that in future contractors report to the department before they start digging up roads.

Bridge at Mouth of Rapid Creek

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Last Tuesday, I asked him about the possibility of a bridge across the mouth of Rapid Creek. He replied that there was no plan at this stage to bridge the Rapid Creek causeway, which gave me great pleasure. I preface my question by referring to an article in Saturday's NT News which stated that political pressure was being applied and it was likely that such a bridge would be built. Is he preparing a submission to Cabinet to put a bridge across the mouth of Rapid Creek?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this question arose early this year when the Brinkin subdivision problems were raised by the community. Even I made the suggestion that one way of possibly alleviating traffic problems in that area would be to put a bridge across the mouth of Rapid Creek linking Brinkin and part of the northern suburbs with Rapid Creek Road, through to Chapman Road, and on through Dick Ward Drive into town. I floated this proposal to my colleagues. At this stage, they have asked me not to consider it or put it on any forward plans. I have adopted this policy. When the honourable member put this question last week, I was quite right in saying that there were no plans. There are no plans but I still feel that it may be achieved at some later date.

Solar Rebate Scheme

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the solar rebate scheme be carried on as part of the energy conservation scheme?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government certainly has no plans to cease or even restrict the scheme whereby the Northern Territory Electricity Commission provides rebates for those persons installing solar appliances in the domestic environment. Indeed, we would encourage people in the Territory to take every opportunity that they can to conserve electricity. It is a very expensive commodity and will become more so. At present, we certainly have no plans of winding any schemes back.

Experimental Electric Car

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In light of the interest of all members in alternative fuel sources, can he inform the Assembly what is to be the fate of the experiemtnal electric car purchased some time ago by the department at a cost of $16,000? In the light of recent statements that research has indicated the car was uneconomical, will he give details of the research that was carried out to reach this conclusion?

ANSWER

I will need to seek details to answer the second part of the question. The whole premise of buying and experimenting with the electric car in the first place was to ascertain for the population at large whether this proposal had any viability in the Northern Territory given our high fuel costs and the high cost of generating electricity. The Department of Mines and Energy has determined that the proposal to operate electric cars in the Northern Territory is not viable for a variety of reasons, particularly because the battery performance of the electric car is most unsatisfactory. It has not been developed to a stage in technological terms where it is likely to be a viable proposition in the Northern Territory to drive a car with a battery.

Mr Speaker, the honourable member is entitled to the details and I will get them for him after the sittings.

Yulara Tourist Village

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the Northern Territory government no longer intending to establish 4 or 5-star accommodation at the Yulara Tourist Village as a result of discussions held between the Conservation Commission, the Tourist Commission and the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Conservation Commission, through White Industries, will be establishing high-class hotel accommodation at the Yulara Tourist Village. A meeting was held yesterday between the Director of Conservation, the Chairman of the Tourist Commission and the Yulara Project Officer, Mr Graham Ryde. On this occasion, they requested the complete executive of the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association to be present at the meeting as well as the celebrated Mr Bucholtz. I have received a report on that meeting but I was given it on the basis that the parties at the meeting had agreed that any announcement was to be embargoed until 6 pm this evening. As much as I appreciate my duties to the Assembly, I am reluctant to pass on information which would not have been supplied to me if it was known that I would make a public announcement prior to the agreed time. If it simply involved government officials, that would not worry me but there is a question of faith and confidence with the complete executive of the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association. The question of faith is one that I have been fairly strong on in the last week or so in relation to this particular matter. I believe that

these people should be able to negotiate, conduct their meetings and get on with their business without major press sagas going on for years.

Mr Speaker, all I can say at this stage is that it is my belief that there are various levels of accommodation to be provided at Yulara Tourist Village as disclosed by those documents. At some stage in the last week or 2, I said that everything from luxury penthouse suites to family-room accommodation will be in the hotels at Yulara Tourist Village. I do believe that the 3-star hotel will be somewhat of the standard of the Oasis Motel at Alice Springs. I am unsure what a 4 to 5-star hotel is because I am not sure if it is a motor-bike or something like that. The Michelin guide only goes up to 4 stars and I doubt whether we in the Territory would hope to exceed the standard of the establishments that received that accolade from the Michelin guide. I would say that, at best, we are building a 4-star establishment which I understand will be of a similar standard to the Alice Springs Country Club Casino.

Yulara Tourist Village

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he then informing the Assembly that the government's position has not changed in relation to the quality or the standard of accommodation at Yulara Tourist Village as a result of a survey carried out by the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not think I said anything of the sort. The position is that the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association has put its views at this meeting and those views are being taken into account. I understand that it is putting views forward as to the nature of the finish and the style of the various rooms and buildings to be constructed. These buildings are still in the planning stages and there is room for input from that body. I have a press release that everyone at the meeting agreed to. It seems to me that full and complete accord was achieved at that meeting. I therefore suggest to the honourable member for MacDonnell that he is trying to fish in waters that are perhaps a bit out of his depth and that he should await the release by the meeting of its official agreement.

Foreshore Policy

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When does he intend to announce the government's final foreshore policy?

ANSWER

I had hoped to have the foreshore policy finalised and submitted to the Northern Territory Cabinet and then announced during the course of these sittings. As a result of other activities and the work of Cabinet, I have not been able to do that. However, I am anxious to have the matter resolved shortly. It will obviously be after the sittings. I can only undertake to honourable members that, as soon as a decision is made on the future of the foreshore plan as exhibited, I will announce it.

Turn-off of Land at Palmerston

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he assure me that the turn-off of land at Palmerston will in no way be detrimental to the private turn-off of land in the rural area, excluding the normal business competition?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not think that the potential subdividers in rural Darwin should consider that the advent of Palmerston and the sale of land in that satellite city would be detrimental to them. I see both areas as catering to different types of customers. As a general rule in the rural area of Darwin, subdivisions are certainly much larger than the ¼-acre or smaller block that Palmerston may be producing. I do not think people would find in Palmerston the sort of lifestyle for which they would move to rural Darwin. I am sure that people can put aside any fears that we are trying to pre-empt their private subdivisions.

Cape Don Lighthouse

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

The Conservation Commission has made an approach to the federal Department of Administrative Services for certain priorities regarding the use of buildings if the Cape Don lighthouse is decommissioned or demanned. Could he advise whether the Conservation Commission has received any assurance from the federal department as yet?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of any assurances to the Conservation Commission from the federal minister concerned. However, it is something that I can easily find out. I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

Farming Area near Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What progress, if any, has been made towards selecting and making available a suitable farming area near Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have always taken the view that there are suitable soils and good water in Central Australia for the establishment of market gardens and horticultural produce, particularly in view of the fact that most Northern Territory produce comesfrom South Australia. I think that some further work should be undertaken in due course by this government as to what areas could be made available for this purpose. I understand that quite large amounts of water are available in the Deep Well area and that soil surveys have been undertaken in that region. I think that our policy will gradually turn towards the establishment of farms in Central Australia in due course.

Medical Practitioner in Tennant Creek

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the decision of the private medical practitioner who established business in Tennant Creek recently to leave that town, will he ensure that a Health Department doctor is once again permanently located at Tennant Creek Hospital?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can assure the honourable member that I will have the situation under control.

Lands Department Leasing of Land in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the Lands Department yet succeeded in negotiating a sublease of serviced land or land suitable for servicing from the leaseholder of the Nhulunbuy township for further Housing Commission home development?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have specific details of the latest position. I will endeavour to obtain some additional information for the honourable member during the course of this sittings.

Territory Apicultural Industry

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Will he look to tightening the enforcement provisions under the Stock Diseases Act, which are currently not being implemented, to ensure that there is better control over the movement of bees into the Territory to prevent the introduction of unwanted diseases into the Territory's infant honey industry?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have had representation on this matter and I did tell the person who made the representation that we would look at the laws to see what legislation needed tightening up. As the Assembly will recall, bees are classified as stock for the purpose of movement into the Northern Territory. We will do all we can to ensure that diseases do not come into the Northern Territory.

Rural Subdivision

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he assure me that the moratorium placed on subdivision to 5 acres in the rural area outside Darwin imposed last August was in no way connected to the government's wish to sell land at Palmerston?

ANSWER

I can see that some people in rural Darwin are concerned that their interests may be adversely affected by the advent of Palmerston. I can assure the honourable member that I do not see the 2 areas as being in competition in any way whatsoever. The need for Palmerston was such that the government made a decision that Darwin should not continue in one massive urban sprawl ad infinitum, and that it was time to cut Darwin off at roughly the size that it is now and start again a little way down the track. This decision was taken after considerable studies had been made on the future of the city over the next several decades. That is why Palmerston was selected. We hope to have our first residents living in Palmerston in the latter part of this year.

As a completely separate exercise, the government became concerned at the housekeeping and maintenance of bores in the rural areas of Darwin where the water supply is not reticulated. To ensure that the situation does not get out of control, a study has been instigated into groundwater supplies in rural Darwin. For the course of that study, which will be completed in the latter part of this year, a moratorium has been placed on the subdivision of land below 20 acres in the rural area. This will continue until such time as the matter is completely resolved and government policy has been established to ensure that the existing and future residents of rural Darwin have access to a good water supply.

Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will community representatives from the Alice Springs, Barkly and Darwin regions be appointed to the NT Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to put the question on notice or write to me about it.

Public Expenditure

Mr LEO to TREASURER

Following the deficit in the public accounts made public last year, has there been any reorganisation of the policy and planning priorities to allow for a less eratic development of public expenditure?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I find the honourable member's question somewhat amazing. I did take the trouble to point out in a press release at the time of printing the quarterly statements that it was quite false for any person to draw conclusions from those statements and extrapolate them over a 12-month period. The fact is that government spending and government revenue varies throughout the year. The government has policies, as all governments do, to try to ensure a smooth outflow of government revenue during the course of the year so that the business community which, in fact, ends up with most of the government funds, receives as continuous a flow as possible. Statements for the third quarter, which were released by myself some weeks back, indicated that, at that time, the balancing of the government's books showed that we had a substantial deficit. I indicated then that, whilst a deficit was anticipated by the end of the financial year, it should be considerably less than those third-quarterly statements indicated. I understand, Mr Speaker, that that will be so. However, honourable members will have to wait until the figures for the last quarter of the year are put together.

I point out to the honourable member for Nhulunbuy that the quarterly statements are really a photographic picture of the government's accounts as at that day. It is quite true that governments at times run on overdraft and at other times on surplus, as businesses do. This depends entirely on the nature of government spending and the flow of revenue both from the Commonwealth government - in our case, we receive some 90% - and from local revenues as well.

Horticultural Industry in the Northern Territory

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In view of his recent statements that the Territory's horticultural industry will increase its input into the local market from 10% to 80% over the next 3 seasons, can he advise the Assembly whether the ADMA has underaken an integrated management program for servicing this horticultural industry in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the figure I gave recently is somewhat disputable. There are other opinions and it may be that that figure would not stand. Certainly, the ADMA organisation is very involved with its land development policy at the present time. In addition, it has recruited a new marketing person in the horticultural section, and further management of marketing produce is being developed.

Traeger Park Alice Springs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer the minister to the grant from his department of $200,000 for the provision of lighting and fencing for the exclusive use of baseball players and spectators at Traeger Park in Alice Springs. Bearing in the mind that this is an amount disproportionate to the interest and involvement in this sport in Central Australia, what steps is the minister taking to redress this balance?

ANSWER

The grant that was made to the Alice Springs Town Council for the benefit of the Northern Territory Baseball League was done in conjunction with the Darwin Baseball League which has executives on the Northern Territory Baseball League which has its headquarters in Alice Springs. That was a first process for the upgrading and developing of Traeger Park. Because the baseball organisation had made inroads into the national league competition and because the Claxton Shield competition will be ehld in Alice Springs in 1984, it was felt that the development procedures should start from that end of Traeger Park. In the last 6 to 12 months, discussions have taken place between myself, officers of the Department of Community Development and the Alice Springs Town Council's Recreation Committee on further upgrading of Traeger Park. In fact, another amount of $200,000 has been given to the Alice Springs Town Council for water reticulation from the bores to help ease the problem in the Todd basin. That water was drawn off for the purpose of providing water to recreational areas much as Traeger Park and others. If my memory serves me right, a further grant of some $15,000 to $20,000 has been given to the Alice Springs Tennis Club which is also associated with Traeger Park. This was on a dollar-for-dollar grant. They had raised about $15,000 or $20,000. The Northern Territory government, through its grants-in-aid program, provided the other $15,000 for them to finally complete that facility. I have a meeting scheduled with the Alice Springs Town Council next Monday for further discussions on the level of funding that can be expected for other upgrading in that area. I do not think that the honourable member is fully aware of the whole proposal regarding Traeger Park, Anzac Oval and the swimming pool. It is an overall concept. Before making that decision to establish the baseball park centre in Alice Springs, discussions were held with other members of the league. I am on public record as advising the Darwin Baseball League that it would not be receiving any significant funding from the Northern Territory government in the next couple of years. Baseball, as a sport, has received good financial support. The intention is to try to get sports groups into a position where they can develop further with very little government assistance. Some $380,000 has been given to the Darwin City Council for the development of Gardens Oval. That is primarily for the Northern Territory Football League. We are looking at it as an overview and trying to provide some good financial support to sporting organisations so that in the long term they will be able to look after themselves.

Farmland at Douglas-Daly and Mataranka

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he give details regarding the present turn-off of farmland in the Douglas-Daly area and at Mataranka?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the 3 new project farms are in progress at Ooloo Station and, as soon as those farms are running, the proposal in the short term is that no more farms will be established. Further examination and studies are being undertaken in the Fish River area as to land suitability on that station. At Mataranka, we hope to turn off 3 blocks by the end of this year.

Height Policy for Buildings in Alice Springs

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

When will the Department of Lands have a model of Alice Springs constructed, as requested, to help the Planning Authority formulate a height policy for the buildings in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am informed that the implications of allowing construction of buildings in Alice Springs greater than about 4 storeys will be very serious. The Planning Authority has power under its act to ask for a model to be made of Alice Springs to test various systems of high-rise in various areas around the town. It will gauge from that model the effect of various types of high-rise development on things like views, shade and so on. Alice Springs is a very important town which exists very largely because of its environment. I understand it is hoped that the model will be ready in about 2 months. Until such time as the model is received by the Planning Authority and it has had the opportunity to study it, applications for high-rise development in Alice Springs will be deferred by the authority for that period.

Geothermal Energy

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In this Assembly last November he advised that he expected to introduce the legislation to allow for the investigation of possible sources of geothermal energy in the Northern Territory. He expected to do that in March. Does he still intend to introduce that legislation and, if so, when?

ANSWER

It is still our intention to introduce legislation that will enable geothermal exploration to take place. There are some legal difficulties that are causing us to take longer with the concept than we had hoped. I plan to bring it forward this year.

Aboriginal Organisations in Alice Springs

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer him to a comment last week in which he put a figure of 30 on the number of Aboriginal organisations that are in Alice Springs. My question is: is that figure rubbery?

ANSWER

No answer given.

Contract to Brisbane Company

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Last week, I asked the Treasurer a question concerning a contract for $0.25m granted to a Brisbane company called Retrographics which received the 5% local firm allocation. The Treasurer responded by saying that he would give me an answer on that question on the next sitting day which was yesterday. Is he yet in a position to report to the Assembly on the matter?

ANSWER

I have done some fairly intensive background activity on this matter since the honourable member asked the question. Unfortunately, I am not yet in a position to give him a firm answer. I am having further meetings on the subject today. It is one of some complexity and I will give the honourable member an answer, hopefully, later today and, if not, tomorrow.

Electricity Charges

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

I note press reports that suggest power charges in Queensland will rise by up to 16% on 1 July and that the New South Wales Premier foresees increases in that state of up to 40%. Is the Treasurer able to give indications about future increases in electricity charges in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the best forecast I could give Territorians about electricity prices in the future is that there will be regular increases probably for years to come and some of those increases could be fairly substantial. The situation that is developing across the country and across the world is that energy prices are escalating dramatically. It is not just the cost of fuel supplies alone. Fortunately, on the world scene, oil prices have levelled out somewhat and there is an expectation that oil prices could stay at their present level for some years or with very small increases. Whilst the Northern Territory may be 100% oil-based at present for electricity, that is not so in the states. They also have very severe problems in their electricity supplies. It means that electricity will cost substantially more every year right across Australia.

Internal rates also bear on this question. Electricity systems require considerable capital outlay all the time and interest rates which, for governments, run at about 17% certainly put a great burden on electricity authorities, particularly when compared to a few years ago when most of the infrastructure that is being used today was built. In those days, interest rates were only one quarter of their present level. A lot of those loans are now coming up for roll-over renewal at a much higher interest rate. Of course, we are talking very substantial sums of money when you look at the infrastructure of electricity systems around Australia.

The Premier of New South Wales has forecast 40% increases in the cost of electricity for that state, at least for industry and commerce. That is an astronomical increase and no doubt will have a very severe effect on industry in New South Wales. Despite its forecast of very steep increases in electricity, New South Wales has been saved somewhat by earlier predictions of continuing expansion of the system as a result of growth in the demand for electricity. That trend now appears to be moving downwards steeply. It is possibly a result of some stagnation in the economy of that state which is saving it from even more peril in the electricity scene. It is not facing anything like the rate of growth that it anticipated.

In other states, the story is not very different. Victoria has also forecast fairly steep increases in the cost of electricity in the near future because, whilst it is able to generate electricity on an enormous scale compared to the Northern Territory, it is still faced with the very expensive capital required today for expansion and new works. My answer to the honourable member for Port Darwin is that Territorians should certainly expect regular and, unfortunately in some cases, fairly substantial increases in electricity costs for the next few years at least.

Hospital Charges

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the Department of Health's deficit of approximately $4.8m, is it true that the government is considering increasing hospital charges in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at this stage, the matter has not been presented to my colleagues for consideration. However, I would like to pick up the theme of the Treasurer in saying that we, too, have unrealistically low health charges in our community compared to the charges to be implemented in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and possibly Western Australia in the months to come. As honourable members would be aware, last year right across Australia bed charges in government hospitals were set at $80 and $110 for a private bed. Very shortly after that, New South Wales costs went up 15% and, as a result of the tremendous cost pressures being placed on state health systems everywhere, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia have agreed to lift their charges for bed days and outpatients fees considerably. Undoubtedly the matter will have to be addressed by the Northern Territory shortly because the same cost pressures are on us. As soon as there is a statement to make about the matter, I will make it public.

Legislation for TAB

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Is it his intention to introduce legislation for TAB in the Territory during the life of this Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at this stage, it is not my intention to present legislation to introduce the TAB in the Northern Territory. This Assembly still has another 2 years to run and decisions will be made from time to time during the course of those 2 years. Whilst government policy may change during that period, at this stage, there are no plans to introduce such legislation.

Toilet Facilities for Females at Nhulunbuy Police Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Recently, I was contacted by a concerned resident of Nhulunbuy regarding the lack of toilets in the Nhulunbuy Police Station for use by female members of police staff, female witnesses, female suspects and female members of the public. In his capacity as minister responsible for the police, what will he do to rectify this lack of ordinary amenities for women?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that there are toilets available for females adjacent to the police station in the courthouse at Nhulunbuy. Aside from that, there is a proposal in this year's police estimates for funds to enable the construction of a toilet for females at Nhulunbuy Police Station.

Breaches of Mines Safety Control Act at Ranger

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is he aware that workers employed by the BTR company operating at the Ranger uranium mine have been using the chemical CS2 and various other types of solvents without appropriate safety equipment? They have also been employed on work inside tanks that had contained yellowcake without the provision of film badges, in direct contravention of the provisions of the Mines Safety Control Act. What action is the minister taking concerning these breaches of the act?

ANSWER

No, I am not aware of that. However, on the advice that the honourable member has just given to me, I am more than happy to have the matter investigated and pursued with great vigour if, in fact, the claims he has made are true.

Farmers Co-operative at Adelaide River

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

How many people has the farmers co-operative at Adelaide River employed on average over the last 5 years? Have continuing accumulated debts from earlier years contributed to the fact that the co-operative is not now solvent, and does the government have any plans for land development north of Adelaide River or is it content to see blocks sold for real estate value as is occurring at the present time?

Mr SPEAKER: I direct that the question be placed on notice.

Establishment of Disabled Persons Bureau Facility

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

He approved the establishment of a shop-front facility by the Disabled Persons Bureau in March of this year. Is he able to advise me when this facility will be established?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I assume it will be established as soon as negotiations between the department responsible for handling of this matter and the owners of the shop space are completed. The intention at this stage is that the Disabled Persons' Bureau ground-level access will be made available in the Darwin City Council's car-parking area.

Berry Springs Zoo

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Which area of land is currently available for the Berry Springs Zoo and what area of land is still the subject of negotiations? What is the contiguity of the proposed zoo area in relation to sections 1579 and 1782 which comprise the present and proposed Berry Springs Nature Park?

ANSWER

The area of the Berry Springs open range, as I understand it is called, is shown in the plan of management of the Berry Springs Nature Park. In general terms, it will comprise sections 1571, 1572, 1573 and 1786 in the Hundred of Ayers. The zoo land abuts section 1570 and 1782 which comprise the existing nature park. Negotiations are still going on in respect of section 1572 which is an area of freehold land. Apparently, one of the owners is deceased and his legal representative is overseas. The deceased's estate needs to be resolved before the negotiations can be finalised. The surviving joint owner is willing to sell. Once the legal problems have been resolved, it is understood that a purchase will probably be able to be effected.

Air Fares

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In its submission to the independent air fares committee, the government stated it was prepared to allow the IAC power to set air fares provided that comprehensive advice of proposed air fares determinations on Territory routes, including the cost data on which proposed increases was based, was provided to the government. In a recent exercise which resulted in the 7% increase, what information did the IAC provide to the Territory government?

ANSWER

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

Management of Former Commonwealth Hostels in NT

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What decisions have been taken by the government about the future management of the former Commonwealth Hostels in the Northern Territory in light of the expiration of the present contract on 24th of this month?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has this matter before it at present. The honourable member will be aware that tenders have been called and an announcement will be made as soon as possible.

Fees for Hospital Reports

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that people who attend Darwin Hospital as a result of an industrial accident and who require a copy of their report for insurance purposes are being asked to pay a fee of $100 to obtain a copy of that report? Has this been authorised by the minister?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the practice. I am aware that it is common and proper for the department to charge companies for reports. If individuals are being charged, I will take the matter up with the administration and obtain an answer for the honourable member.

Responsibility for Todd River

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I note in the Alice Springs council minutes that the council has given Henley-on-Todd Incorporated permission to hold the event in the river bed on 28 August. Does that mean that the council has accepted responsibility for the Todd River within the town boundaries?

ANSWER

One could be forgiven for thinking it was some sort of tacit recognition of the facts as they always existed. The area of the Todd within the municipal boundaries of Alice Springs is not otherwise reserved by an action of the executive nor is it otherwise alienated from the municipality. One would therefore assume that the responsibility for the maintenance and custody of the Todd River bed within the municipality has always been within the province of that municipality.

Vegetables for NT conditions

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he advise what progress has been made in the development of new vegetable varieties suitable for Northern Territory growing conditions?

ANSWER

Considerable progress has been made in this regard. The Rural Credits Development Fund principal research program has identified several promising varieties for production in the Top End. Since most of the seed is only available from Taiwan and Japan, the Department of Primary Production is currently supplying such seed to growers free of charge for commercial appraisal until the local retail outlet can be negotiated. New varieties include 5 cabbages, 4 watermelons, 2 cucumbers, 2 salmon-fleshed rock-melons, 1 green-flesh melon, 1 cauliflower, 1 broccoli and several Chinese leafy vegetables.

Variety assessment trials have now been expanded to cover onions, capsicums, carrots, sweet corn, sweet potatoes and snake beans. Vegetable grower cooperation trials have been established at Middle Point, Adelaide River, Batchelor, Acacia Hills, Katherine and Alice Springs. Research work at Berrimah Experimental Farm has also been expanded to investigate the use of wind breaks, precision seeding and transplanting and plastic mulch laying and foliar fertilisers. A soil-testing device is now being provided to all fruit and vegetable growers within the Northern Territory. A collection of cashew seeds is being prepared for a seedling selection program and to develop vegetative propagation methods. Assistance is being provided to several pawpaw growers and small shipments of fruit to interstate markets have indicated good potential for quality Northern Territory pawpaws. A horticultural block is being established at the Katherine Rural Education Centre and a collection of mangoes, citrus, avocado and some exotic fruit tree varieties will be supplied for trial purposes.

Plans to develop a new 9-hectare block at the Coastal Plains Research Station are well under way. Wind break trees have been planted, a bore has been drilled and an irrigation system is being designed. This site will become increasingly important for tropical fruit introductions and a valuable source of planting material for fruit growers in northern Australia.

In cooperation with the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority, considerable efforts are being made to co-ordinate fruit and vegetable production in the Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs areas to ensure better continuity of supplies for the local marekt. ADMA is also making determined efforts to find interstate and overseas outlets for future fruit and vegetable production in the Northern Territory.

Medical Superintendent of Nhulunbuy Hospital

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it true that the Medical Superintendent of Nhulunbuy Hospital is shortly to leave Nhulunbuy? If so, is it the department's intention to downgrade that appointment as has happened this year at Tennant Creek Hospital?

ANSWER

The answer to the first part of the question is that the Secretary of the Department of Health has a policy of rotating staff in remote areas through the larger hospitals on a regular basis. I guess all doctors in remote areas will be moving in and out of communities as the secretary requires. I might point out that Dr Fleming holds the very strong view that medical practitioners who operate in remote communities, if they are not exposed to the normal pressure of a large hospital, can lose their skills. It is important that these skills be maintained by the doctors being put back into the system from time

to time to keep abreast of all the latest developments. I have no knowledge of any proposal to downgrade any position anywhere. In my view, that is a figment of the honourable member's imagination.

New Darwin Powerhouse

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Is he still assured of adequate Australian government assistance to allow the projected new Darwin powerhouse to go ahead as scheduled?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I answered a similar question earlier in the sittings. Negotiations with the federal government on the questions of the ongoing electricity subsidy for the Northern Territory and the assistance towards the construction of a new powerhouse for Darwin are taking place at this very time. Hopefully, they are in their final stages. We have been negotiating with the federal government both at officer and ministerial level for many months now over this question. It is one certainly of considerable complexity. We hope in the near future to be in a position to announce the agreement between ourselves and the federal government. Until such time as it is resolved and the Territory has obtained the best possible arrangement it believes it can get, we will obviously have to keep the details of such negotiations in house. Hopefully, there will be some news shortly.

Berry Springs Zoo

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

My question follows on from the previous answer he gave me regarding the Berry Springs zoo. What can the Chief Minister tell me about the present work being done by the Conservation Commission in relation to the setting up of the Berry Springs zoo having regard to the fact that he has already given me details about land negotiations?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Berry Springs zoo is to be an open range zoo. I am not really sure whether there will be toilets or whether people will return to nature or not. The Conservation Commission, in devising its plans and proposals for this particular zoo, looked elsewhere for experience. You would appreciate that the Conservation Commission has not previously been in the business of running zoos other than at Yarrawonga and even there they do not seem to be able to move a crocodile from one pond to the other without a great number of problems. However, they engaged a consultant from the Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo in New South Wales in November 1981 to prepare a concept for the zoo complex. This is now to hand and some work has commenced in accordance with the plan. For example, the boundary line has been determined and most of the boundary has been cleared. A fence has been erected along the Darwin River Dam road boundary and the section of the reserve to serve as the zoo has been determined and cleared. Bores have been sunk and 2 are productive; one of them produces some 4000 gallons a day. The line of the main public road within the zoo has been located and cleared to one dozer-blade width. The Conservation Commission is providing a detailed proposal to Cabinet so that it can consider the matter in some detail. I understand the proposals involve a great deal of money and may well have to be staged over a number of years.

Uranium Mining

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the Chief Minister aware of statements made by the federal opposition spokesman on the environment, Stewart West, warning companies mining uranium that they do so at their own risk?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware of statements in the press and on radio attributed to the opposition spokesman, Stewart West, warning companies mining uranium in the Territory that they did so at their own risk. Mr West is also credited with saying that Labor is committed to halving uranium mining operations in the Territory and that he had legal advice that indicated no compulsory compensation will be required.

Quite frankly, Mr Speaker, statements of this nature can do nothing but the utmost harm to the Northern Territory economy. How can any company that acts responsibly to its shareholders come into the Northern Territory when it knows that the potential, alternative federal government says that, if the company sets up its venture in the Territory, it is at its own risk and what it is doing might be cut in half arbitrarily at some stage in the future - cut in half, at the very least, or closed down. Who knows what Mr West means by 'halved'. Are all the existing mines to halve their production or are some to be closed and some to continue? What sort of climate of confidence is being created by loose and irresponsible statements of this nature? At this very moment, negotiations are proceeding on proposals for the establishment of the Pancontinental mine at Jabiluka, a proposal that involves expenditure of, at the very least, $600m in this Territory. It involves the employment of a considerable workforce and the engagement of a large number of people on a permanent basis to work for the mine and will have incalculable flow-on benefits to the Northern Territory. This is occurring at a time when the rest of Australia and the mining industry in particular is in a malaise and when the rest of the world is suffering an economic downturn. The Northern Territory is having its economic impetus sabotaged, attacked and undermined by irresponsible and almost irreconciliable statements by this person who, I would suggest, is not fit to hold the office of spokesman that he does.

Reduction of Nursing Staff at Galiwinku and Gapuwiyak

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Recently I have had correspondence with him concerning the very overworked nursing establishments at Galiwinku and Gapuwiyak. He advised me 2 weeks ago that the nursing establishment between those 2 communities was 5. Is he aware that those health centres were advised in March this year that that establishment will be reduced to 4 at the end of this month, thereby placing even greater strain on the already overworked nursing staff? If he is aware of this, could he explain to the Assembly the reason why this reduction in staff has occurred in these communities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to pursue the matter further for the honourable member. One aspect the honourable member has not raised which would be worthy of further investigation is the spread of the workload between the nurses and the health workers in the community. In the department's approach to staffing in remote areas, there is a manpower formula for providing community services. Quite often, where there are a few health workers, there are more sisters and, where there are many health workers, there are fewer sisters. I will obtain from the secretary of the department the specific cases that the honourable member has raised and take them up with him. I would emphasise for the honourable member's information that I am not aware of and I would not support any proposal to cut staff numbers in any area just for the sake of cutting them. On the other hand, we have a responsibility to try to provide the best service that we can by the best method. As I recall, the area that the honourable member refers to has a pretty substantial manpower of Aboriginal health workers, but I will obtain the details and come back to him.

Prison Farm at Alice Springs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What are the current plans for the establishment of a prison farm in Central Australia, bearing in mind there has been an increase in the number of prisoners in the Alice Springs gaol from 90 to well over 100? Is he aware that industrial action is being contemplated by the Prison Officers Association as a result of the government's reluctance to establish that prison farm?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, let me say at the outset that there is absolutely no reluctance whatsoever on the part of this government to establish a prison farm in the Alice Springs region. I cannot think of anything within the correctional system at the moment which is of more pressing need. I have not heard of any suggestion of industrial action in relation to it. Every member of the Prison Officers Association would be well aware of the endeavours being made at the highest level of the correctional services system to bring about the establishment of a prison farm in the southern region. The difficulty has been in locating a piece of land upon which to place the prison farm. Negotiations have been going on with pastoralists with a view to a possible surrender by a pastoral property for this purpose.

This is not pre-empting the budget because the government has already listed in the appropriation still with the Department of Community Development a sum of money for the establishment of a prison farm in the southern region. Had we been able to secure land upon which to put it, that money would have been committed already and the prison farm established. Indeed, the honourable Minister for Transport and Works, who is responsible for the disposal of government assets in the building forum, has already transferred to the Department of Community Development a number of buildings for the purpose of establishing a prison farm. Mr Speaker, as you would understand, there is reluctance on the part of pastoralists to have a prison farm in the middle of their properties. I understand that a pastoralist has now agreed with the Division of Correctional Services to enter into serious negotiations for the purpose.

The possibility did occur to us of establishing a prison farm at a place called Gillen Bore which is a stock reserve of sufficient size for the purpose, has good water and is conveniently located to the township of Alice Springs. By 'conveniently located', I mean close enough not to cost a fortune in transferring prison officers to and from the site back to the township as such transfers are extremely expensive in terms of overtime, travelling allowance and penalty rates. The trouble with Gillen Bore is that it is right alongside the highway. In order to have a prison farm on that location, one would have to have such excessive security as to defeat the purpose of a low-security institution such as a prison farm. Obviously, the government could not tolerate a situation where people could walk off the prison farm and thumb down a lift on the Stuart Highway which is 3 or 4 km away. That is the position at the moment. As I have already indicated, substantial progress has been made with a pastoralist who is prepared to surrender land to the government. Immediately that is done and the processing of the surrender and reissue of title documents occurs, a prison farm will be established forthwith.

Head Lice and the Education Act

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

The minister would be aware of the provisions of section 25(1) of the Education Act which allows for children to be sent away from the school for reasons of, and I quote from the act, 'the child is suffering from an infectious or contagious disease'. Does the Department of Education consider that head lice is an infectious or contagious disease under the provisions of this section?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide the honourable member with an answer to the question but I do thank him for it. He raises a good point. He indicates, by way of interjection, that he will explain the problem as he sees it later. It is more a matter for definition by the Department of Health than the Department of Education. We are in the business of teaching, not medical care. Even if head lice are not regarded as contagious for the purposes of the act, they are certainly a pest. It is a matter which I would certainly like to see further investigated.

Concessional Air Fares for Pensioners

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the government approached major airline companies on the question of old age pensioners' concessional air fares with a view to the airline companies also offering some concessions?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Tiwi raised this matter in an electoral capacity with me about a week ago. The idea had not been raised prior to the honourable member bringing it to our attention. One would have thought, of course, that these sorts of concessions are normally used by airlines for promotion and publicity purposes. If the taxpayer is prepared, through the elected government of the day. to make concessions available to pensioners in order to encourage them to stay here, one would think that the airlines, which make significant profit out of their general operations in the Territory, may wish to participate with the government in assisting pensioners to travel. This may be qualified by one of the airlines, Northern Airlines. Its parent company has high load factors around the Territory and is no doubt making a significant profit. It is a good idea and one which the department will now take up with the airlines as a result of the honourable member's representations.

French Markets for NT Uranium

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the minister sought markets for the Territory's uranium in France even though that country continues to conduct nuclear tests in the Pacific Ocean?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have always promoted the Northern Territory to be a supplier of uranium throughout the world and I do not regard France as any exception. If the French are prepared to buy our uranium, that would be a good thing. It would be a good thing for them and a good thing for us because we regard ourselves as large and stable suppliers of the product and they are very large users of it. By 1990, the French hope to have 58 reactors operating in France which will make them one of the biggest nuclear-generating countries in the world. They also are capable of supplying a greater portion of Europe with power for industrial expansion. I am aware that there are some people in the community who regard the exercise as one of providing raw material for bombs. That is really an extraordinary expression to put on the whole exercise given that France has had a nuclear program since 1957. The program has developed whether or not the Northern Territory sold a pound of uranium in that period of time. If anybody is telling me that the sale of Northern Territory uranium to France will have the slightest impact on its nuclear program, then I think that that is just phonus-bolonus. As far as I am concerned, the French are very good people to deal with. Any country that deals with the French would feel that it has a good trading partner. I think it would be an asset to both countries for us to supply France with uranium. I believe the federal government has established a bilateral agreement with France.

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, order! The honourable members will listen to the answer to the question and debate it later if they wish. The honourable Minister for Mines and Energy is answering the question fully and I think he should be heard in silence. If honourable members wish to debate it, then they better get another Speaker.

Mr TUXWORTH: We do have a formal agreement with France over the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, Mr Speaker. If any members have any problem with that, then really they should raise it in the appropriate place. I do not believe that this is the appropriate place to debate that issue. Could I just make one other pertinent point which I think is very interesting in the Northern Territory's terms. The government that has just come to power in France campaigned pretty heavily for the winding down of the nuclear program, both the weapons program and the generation of electricity program. In the short space of a year, we have seen no winding down of either program except that the number of nuclear generators was reduced from 60 to 58. That was because the expectation of load growth has not been realised.

Sale of NT Uranium

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What guidelines does the government have for the sale of NT uranium?

ANSWER

I would just make the point to the member that the guidelines for the sale of the Northern Territory's product is controlled by the Commonwealth. If the honourable member would like me to obtain full details for him, I can do that. I would make the point that it varies from country to country.

Tenders for Removal of Buffalo in Tiwi Electorate

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the composition of the Tender Board for the purpose of considering the tenders for purchase and removal of buffalo from areas in the Tiwi electorate?

ANSWER

There is a special board set up to evaluate the tenders received for the clearance of buffalo from the honourable member's electorate. I understand that that special tender board is comprised of 2 representatives of the general Tender Board, 1 representative in each case from the Conservation Commission, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Lands. For the Kapalga south area only, there is also a representative from CSIRO. I am sure that, with that sort of input into evaluating tenders, it is no wonder that it takes a little while. Clearly, there is much input from various sources, including the Commonwealth where appropriate.

Marina in Darwin

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the government's attitude towards the development of a marina in Darwin?

ANSWER

I would have thought that that would have been obvious to the honourable member because it was a government sponsored proposal floated to the public and exhibited by the Town Planning Authority recently. It received public comment and was knocked on the head. The government, quite clearly, favours the

provision of facilities for boating people in Darwin. The exercise that was undertaken in regard to the marina involved the commissioning of a consultant to evaluate sites. Six or so sites were studied in that selection ranging from Rapid Creek right around the coast into Frances Bay. The top site in that selection was Vestey's Beach. That is why the government proceeded with further environmental and engineering studies at a cost of some hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money with a view to demonstrating that it could be done in that area if the necessary planning approvals could be obtained and a developer attracted by the proposal. For the Vestey's Beach proposal, the government was to foot the bill itself. The cost would have been very substantial and it could have been represented that serving such a particular section of the community at such a level of funds from general revenue might not have been popular.

However, that matter has been concluded for the government. We are now looking at other areas around the coast which might be suitable for a marina or some modification of a marina. Most people consider a marina as being an area of water that is locked in and can be used for most of the tides. There are quite a number of systems which could be used to provide very attractive facilities for yachtsmen and others that do not involve the provision of locks and so on, depending on the geography of the area concerned. The government will keep this matter under study for some time until it can come up with proposals that are acceptable.

Approval Time for Rezoning Applications

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

Why do rezoning applications currently take from 10 to 12 months from approval by the Planning Authority to gazettal?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it would be an exception that a rezoning application from approval by the Planning Authority to gazettal would take 12 months. If such a case occurred, I think it must have had a particular problem associated with it which was held up by the system or by the minister. The planning process involves an application by either the government or another person to have land rezoned. That then goes to the Planning Authority to evaluate whether the proposal is not frivolous and should go on display. It is on display for a minimum of 28 days. That period can be extended to 3 months. When it comes off display, the matter then goes before the next meeting of the Planning Authority which may be some weeks away depending on the schedules of meetings. After the Planning Authority has considered it, it may call for additional information or set aside time in which to hear objections which can result in another meeting. Following a recommendation by the Planning Authority, which is the stage the honourable member for Alice Springs mentioned in his question, recommendations are made to the minister who considers the matter, receives further advice if he so wishes on the question, and has the matter forwarded to Executive Council. Following its processing through Executive Council, it is gazetted. Most applications for rezoning can be handled in about 6 months. That allows for the exhibition period, the delay following the various procedures to get the matter before the next Planning Authority meeting and before Executive Council and so on. I point out to honourable members that I am advised by our planning section that it takes about 2 years to effect a rezoning in most states. Members should be mindful that the rezoning of an area of land within a town plan should not be taken lightly. A rezoning application, as distinct from a development application, is a changing of the document which has been accepted as the basis of planning for that town. It should not be too easy to get and should be evaluated properly by the public. Normally every 5 years or so, new town plans are developed and go on display for each population centre over which there is a plan. At that time, the direction that town is taking should be laid down clearly and thereafter rezoning should not be easy to effect.

Additionally, under the planning system we have in the Northern Territory at the moment, we have somewhere around a dozen zones with a range of permitted and consent uses within them. That system is a lot better, we believe, than the system that existed before Cyclone Tracy whereby the Darwin town plan had about 70 zones in it. It was very difficult to make even a minor change to a development without a complete rezoning exercise. The 70 zones restricted severely what could be done with a piece of land. The new system of permitted and consent use zones should make it more difficult for people to change the town plan through rezoning willy-nilly.

Cape Don Lighthouse

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the maritime division of his department made any submission to the federal Department of Administrative Services regarding the proposed demanning of Cape Don Lighthouse and, if it has, would he make that information available to the Assembly, preferably in the adjournment debate this evening?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of such a submission. I will endeavour to obtain the information and provide it to the honourable member at some later stage. It might not be this evening.

Answers to Questions

Mr PERRON (Lands and Housing)(by leave): Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Nhulunbuy asked whether the government was proceeding to obtain land from Nabalco for the construction of housing. I am advised that the Housing Commission is persisting in its efforts to obtain further land in Nhulunbuy. Verbal advice has been received recently that 5 serviced blocks will be made available to the commission in the near future. We are awaiting written confirmation of this. The commission proposes to use the 5 blocks in the 1982-83 program. It is proposed that 4 blocks be used for detached housing, and 1 for medium-density housing.

The honourable member also asked about the situation in Nhulunbuy relating to the sale of houses to tenants. I am advised that Nabalco has provided draft subleases to the Department of Law. Honourable members would be aware that the matter is somewhat complex because we are subleasing land and Nabalco's lease has only about 38 years to run. The Northern Territory Department of Law has examined the subleases provided and believes that they do not fulfil the requirements of the Housing Commission in this regard. It is presently liaising with the Housing Commission with a view to putting back to Nabalco papers and alternatives which would suit the Housing Commission's needs.

Transfer of Prisoners to Interstate Jails

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the government contemplating the introduction of legislation to provide for the transfer of Territory prisoners to interstate jails?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as far as I am aware, provisions already exist for the transfer of prisoners to interstate jails. As I recall it, this has happened on 1 or 2 occasions. I will certainly look further into the matter because I cannot make a categorical statement here this morning.

Answer to Question

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister)(by leave): The honourable member for Nightcliff asked me a question which really wanted my prognostications on the future of

Cape Don Lighthouse. The position is likely to be that the Commonwealth will retain the lighthouse and its immediate precincts. This area of land would remain vested in the Crown in right of the Commonwealth. We have had an informal approach from the Commonwealth as to the Northern Territory Conservation Commission taking over the balance of the land, which I am told is in excess of 250 sq km which seems to me to be an extraordinarily large amount of land for a lighthouse. Of course, the airstrip is some distance from the lighthouse. It may be that the whole area including the road up to the airstrip and the airstrip itself is included in the particular reserve.

Jingellic Minerals

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has Jingellic Minerals paid to the government the full cost for the Mount Wells Battery and associated leases? If this has not happened, could he explain why it has not happened?

ANSWER

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

Assistance to Old Timers' Group

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he tell me what help is available from the government to an old timers' group which wishes to put up buildings on a block of land?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have any idea what the honourable member is referring to. If she could reframe the question, I might have some hope of answering it.

Guidelines for Local Preference

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Is he aware that inconsistencies exist in the drafting of the guidelines laid down for local preference? If he is aware of those inconsistencies, will he ensure that the guidelines are redrafted so they are consistent?

ANSWER

I cannot recall the actual details of the local preference policy although the government has looked at the matter once since implementing a system of local preference in tendering. I will ask Treasury to provide me with information on any problem it has had recently in regard to interpretation of the local preference policy. It is obviously an area where some subjective judgment has to be made from time to time. I believe it would be quite impossible to fairly and unequivocally describe what is in fact a local company having regard to the spirit of the policy. We are interested in people who have committed themselves to the Northern Territory and who employ people in the Northern Territory. They should have some preference over persons who do not do those things. There has been debate, at least outside this Assembly, over whether or not it is important that that company be registered locally in order to obtain local preference. My view is that it would not be necessary for a company to register locally. In fact, branches of some national companies which have operated in the Territory for many years employ many people in the Territory and probably will for a long time. Clearly, they should be eligible for local preference over persons who do not employ people locally. In response to the honourable member's question, I will have the matter examined again, but I cannot, at this stage, acknowledge that there are inconsistencies in the policy.

Photograph in 'Northern Territory of Australia 1982'

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I would draw his attention to the new booklet 'Northern Territory of Australia 1982' for distribution to schools and elsewhere. The first photograph on the inside cover is captioned 'Sunrise over Darwin', with the sun clearly in the west and the lights on. Would he take steps to assure people that, like the rest of the world, our sun actually rises in the east and sets in the west?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that is a very interesting observation by the honourable member for Nightcliff. It just so happens that the honourable member for Stuart, the government Whip, has been of some use at long last and has a copy of this publication to hand. Clearly, this photograph is incorrectly captioned, 'Sunrise over Darwin'. It appears rather like a sunset to me. I am sure that the people who read this in parts outside Darwin will be suitably impressed because, whether it be a sunrise or a sunset, it is an extremely attractive photograph and certainly hides some of the more obvious blemishes of Darwin that could be apparent if the photograph had been taken in full daylight. On the other hand, there is a very nice photograph of myself on the flyleaf as well.

Additional Land for Tracy Lodge

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The Northern Territory Pensioners Association urgently requires extra land to extend Tracy Lodge. Has approval been given for the land next to Tracy Lodge to be made available for this purpose?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the pensioners association applied some time ago for land next to Tracy Lodge in Darwin for future expansion. The matter was certainly approved in principle by myself some considerable time ago. I will check for the honourable member that the matter is being processed with due diligence through the Department of Lands but I see no problem at all in obtaining additional land for those people and their very worthy cause.

Management of Hostels

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that the Northern Territory government is creating anxiety and uncertainty amongst the staff of the former Commonwealth Hostels by its failure to make public any decision about the future management of those hostels?

ANSWER

I can appreciate that there may be some concern amongst the existing staff members of Tract Holdings, the company running the hostels in the Northern Territory at present. The matter is under consideration by government and a decision will be made as soon as practicable. Certainly it is a very important decision which should not be taken lightly. We are talking not only about quite a large number of people who are employed there but also a very substantial portion of accommodation throughout the Northern Territory in 3 centres.

Rural Old Timers' Group

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I will rephrase the question that I asked him a little while ago. As the Darwin Rural Old Timers' Group is seeking land upon which to build facilities, could he advise me what aid would be available if its application was successful?

ANSWER

I must apologise to the honourable member for not being able to pick up the tenor of her question previously. The honourable member is pursuing with some vigour the matter of the old timers' group wishing to establish itself in an accommodation unit in the rural area similar to that run by the old timers in Alice Springs of their own initiative rather than backed by a church.

The Commonwealth Department of Social Security basically administers all programs for the aged. There is a provision whereby the Commonwealth makes available two-thirds of the amount of money expended on capital works for aged accommodation. In addition, under the State Grants Home Care Act, a system administered by the state governments, in this case the Northern Territory government, the Commonwealth will provide $2 for every $1 of Northern Territory money for the purpose of capital works for aged accommodation. That is the nature of the 2 schemes. Quite obviously, the Department of Lands, in assessing an application from the rural old timers' group, would want to be satisifed from the various sources that the ability is there for the old timers to establish the facilities they need and that guarantees of funding, again from the various sources including their own resources, would be available in respect of current expenditure.

Electricity Accounts

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER

NTEC has warned the public that it will cut off electric power within 48 hours for people who have not paid their bills after the initial 14 days of receiving the bill. What advice would he give to members of the general public who want to go on extended leave?

ANSWER

I do not think it is unreasonable that our electricity authority requires urgent payment of its accounts once rendered. Consumers receive up to 100 days of credit for the electricity they have consumed. They are not being asked to pay for it in advance in any way. It is not the sort of thing you can take back if it is not paid for. Therefore, I support the commission's policy. It is in all our interests to keep the bad debts that NTEC will invariably incur from time to time to an absolute minimum.

As far as persons going on extended leave are concerned, an account may well be rendered and, if it is not paid, power will be cut off. I suggest that those people contact their nearest Electricity Commission office with a view to making arrangements for the period that they will be away. The account could either be held in the NTEC office until such time as those people return or other arrangements could be made. Perhaps a deposit could be left against the account. Certainly, arrangements can be made for people who are going away and I advise all consumers to make such arrangements.

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

A news report this morning stated that the federal government had accepted proposed changes to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act, those changes having been sought by the Northern Territory government. Would he give the Assembly details of the proposed changes?

ANSWER

I thought that I had reported to the Assembly in some detail on the negotiations which have been going on over a period of 14 months. Indeed, I thought that I may have even circulated at one sittings last year a copy of the 10 or 12 points that were under discussion. I can certainly elaborate this morning. In fact, I have a number of copies of a statement by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs giving certain details. I have not had time to prepare a detailed statement to make in this Assembly but, having been involved in these negotiations for 14 months, I am fairly familiar with the whole thing and I will attempt to flesh out the bones of the press statement by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

All honourable members will be aware of the tension that has been excited in Central Australia as a result of claims over stock routes that traverse pastoral properties and over bores and quarantine areas. It was the desire of the Northern Territory government to attempt to de-escalate tension, to use a Haigism. The Northern Territory government has had an employee working full time for quite some time. The Aboriginal Liaison Unit has as one of its major tasks the attempted resolution of various needs claims on pastoral properties. I think there are 32 of these claims by Aboriginal groups living on pastoral properties, mainly in Central Australia. In many cases, the negotiations have been going on for many years and, with the best will in the world, the Northern Territory government has not been able to conclude satisfactorily many of these negotiations because they require agreement by a number of parties and this is a difficult thing to achieve. The Northern Territory government suggested as one of the major concessions it would offer that, after it had consulted with pastoral organisations, there be a procedure established

by way of legislation in this Assembly to enable Aboriginal groups living on pastoral properties and wanting tenure over the land on which they live to enter negotiations. If the negotiations were unsatisfactory, they would be able to refer the matter to a tribunal comprised of a Supreme Court judge, a representative of the pastoral industry and a representative of the relevant land council for a recommendation to be made - to the best of my recollection - to the Minister for Lands for an area to be excised and compensation provided to the pastoralist. The Northern Territory also conceded that it would be prepared to legislate along the lines of, though not precisely the same as, the Cobourg Peninsula National Park legislation in respect of Uluru National Park and other, smaller, national parks. The concession the land councils were asked for was that there be no further claims to pastoral properties. This, of course, would require an amendment to the federal act.

Those are the basic provisions of the arrangements. I believe the package is a good one that will be of benefit to everyone in the Northern Territory. There are a considerable number of Aboriginal people living on pastoral properties, several thousand I understand, and they would all stand to be able to obtain tenure to land which presently, in many instances, they have no hope of obtaining. The Northern Land Council, the Central Land Council and the Tiwi Land Council have been involved in these negotiations with the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments over a period of 14 months. The Northern Land Council, in August, September or October last year, considered, at a meeting of its full council, the package of proposals and agreed in principle that they were acceptable. That was reported publicly about that time. In an earlier statement to this Assembly, I paid tribute to the land council for the words it chose to use at the time. It said that, in a spirit of conciliation with the whole community, it was prepared to go along with the proposals because it believed they were in the best interests of the Northern Territory. I believe that myself. We are all here together and we have to be able to live together. Unfortunately, with radical legislation, sometimes there are some rough edges that cause a degree of dissatisfaction, unhappiness and, in this case perhaps, some racial tension.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs intends to continue his negotiations with the Northern Terriotry government and the land councils. Detailed drafting instructions had been provided by the Northern Territory government to the land councils some months ago setting out the nature of the drafting instructions that we would be giving to our draftsmen to implement the Northern Territory side of the arrangements. As yet, we have received no detailed comment on the drafting instructions although one meeting has been held with the land councils with a view to attempting to settle them. The Commonwealth will also be preparing its drafting instructions and the details of these, one hopes, will be able to be settled with the land councils within a reasonable time.

I think it is pertinent to mention that the Central Land Council itself set a deadline for the completion of the negotiations: the end of October 1981. This deadline was not able to be met. That was not through a lack of goodwill on the part of the Northern Territory or the Commonwealth governments whose officials have stood ready to meet whenever the land councils here wanted to do so. I believe that the Northern Land Council and the Tiwi Land Council signified their acquiesence in principle with the proposals prior to the end of October 1981.

I would not for one moment suggest that there will be no problems in settling the details of the various bills; for example, the bill in relation to Uluru National Park. These are things that we must attempt to do and I do not believe that we should let the smaller points stand in the way of acceptance of a totality of elements that will be of considerable benefit to the whole of the Territory community. Mr Speaker, you would appreciate that, if this package of legislation is accepted and if the legislation is passed through the

federal parliament, the Aboriginal people would no longer be able to make land claims over pastoral leases but, nevertheless, they would be in the same position as everyone else in the Northern Territory. They can purchase pastoral properties and operate them. For that matter, they can purchase any land in the Northern Territory and do whatever they want to with it. I think that, if we can secure the passage of the various parcels of legislation, it will cater for the genuine needs of all citizens of the Northern Territory, whether they be Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal.

Roll-over of Pastoral Leases

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has there been a significant demand for the roll-over of pastoral leases since March 1981?

ANSWER

I have not been the minister for the full period since March 1981. I recall approving 3 or 4 roll-overs in the last couple of months. I could not really answer the honourable member's question. However, details could be provided.

Escort Agencies

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of his interest in developing industry in the Northern Territory, has he noted that there are now 10 escort agencies advertising in the Darwin area? Will he be considering legislation in relation to this up and coming service industry?

ANSWER

I cannot say that I am aware of the exact number of escort agencies operating in Darwin or the Northern Territory at present. When one flips through the classified ads, one certainly sees a full page of advertisements of these various establishments, with their various blandishments to lure the customer. I do not think the government has considered legislation for escort agencies. No doubt the escort agencies are kept under some surveillance by the police. I imagine the police would be on the alert for people who might be committing offences of the nature of living on immoral earnings and so on. The police would be seeing that there were no breaches of the law being perpetrated by the escort agency ladies and their customers.

Once would appreciate of course that these arrangements are of a very private nature. It would be very difficult for the police to obtain any evidence on which they might launch any particular type of prosecution against either a person from an escort agency or indeed one of its customers. I must say that it is certainly a phenomenon that has been on the increase not just in the Northern Territory but right throughout Australia over recent years. One notices now in the provincial towns along the coast of Queensland that there are advertisements of the same nature appearing in the papers there as appear in the Darwin paper here.

I personally believe in a policy of non-intervention in this area because it is something of a private arrangement. It seems to me that the industry, if it could be called that, has not been shown to have any particular links with any criminal organisations. I would like you and honourable members to know that I have personally requested the Police Commissioner to ensure that any attempt by organised crime in any shape or form to establish itself in the Northern Territory should be resisted with every possible recourse that we may have. Whilst one may, from a purely moralistic view, deplore the increasing incidence of these agencies in the community, I nevertheless feel that it is

a judgment for the individual to make as to whether he avails himself of the services of the particular agencies.

Action Inter-country Adoption Applications

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How many staff have been appointed to Action Inter-country Adoption applications and approximately how long does it take to process applications?

ANSWER

As is consistent with all state jurisdictions now as a result of the last welfare ministers' conference, it is not proposed that the states and the Territory set up special units to handle inter-country adoptions. The policy which has been accepted nationally is that the departments throughout the states and the Commonwealth will do the normal assessment as to eligibility and propriety of individual married couples who wish to adopt children. It is then up to an individual family to communicate with the respective government and arrange the actual adoption of the child otherwise, in a small place like the Northern Territory, the costs would become rather prohibitive. On our assessment, something like 10 additional staff would be required to carry out such a program. Currently, the estimated time between the placing of an application and all material being finalised and approval granted would be about 12 months. That is somewhat longer than one would anticipate in respect of a normal Australian adoption.

I am fully aware that this matter has caused considerable concern and anxiety among prospective adoptive parents of overseas children. I propose to hold a meeting with the President of the Adoptive Parents Association in my office next Tuesday. Following that meeting with her, I have asked for a meeting with the Director of Welfare Services Branch of the Department of Community Development and the secretary to see if we can come up with a system to expedite this process without necessarily building up the current expenditure side of staffing for which, of course, the taxpayer at large has to pay. Suffice to say that every effort will be made to reduce that time as much as we possibly can.

Amendments to Summary Offences

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the legal application of recent amendments to the Summary Offences Act in relation to drinking within 2km of a licensed outlet on Aboriginal land or a lease on Aboriginal land?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as I understand it, the honourable member for Nhulunbuy has asked me to offer a legal opinion to the Assembly. This would be contrary to Standing Orders. Whilst I would be happy to give an advising to the honourable member if he sought one of me in writing, I would prefer not to breach Standing Orders. I think the answer is fairly simple though, Mr Speaker.

Supply of Electrical Power by Private Enterprise

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER

Has he considered, as an option, the supply of Darwin's electrical power by a private company or companies?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, certainly in wrangling with the problems of electricity generation and its cost in the Northern Territory, the government has thought of private enterprise but I do not think that we thought about it for a great

deal of time. Electricity will cost a great deal of taxpayers' money as well as money from electricity consumers. Even if the government were able to attract private enterprise to generate electricity on a large scale in the Northern Territory, such an operation would undoubtedly involve enormous subsidies both in the form of capital for the construction of such facilities and also subsidies towards operational costs. In the light of that, we certainly will be using private enterprise as far as the construction of additional capital facilities for electricity is concerned. We will be doing our utmost to spread that work amongst the private sector. The generation of electricity on a full private enterprise basis is done in some countries overseas, particularly the United States. I do not believe this is a serious option for the Northern Territory at this stage. Certainly, it is not one that one could accept without very substantial subsidies being poured into the operation.

Security Officers

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the statement he made in the adjournment last night that special conditions on training were applied to security officers using handguns. Is it the government's intention to redress this situation by introducing such regulations and special training under the auspices of a specialist organisation such as the Northern Territory Police Force?

ANSWER

I have some hesitation in answering his question. I thought twice before I answered the first question from the Leader of the Opposition but I said that I would get him that information and I did. There is presently a charge laid in a particular matter in the criminal court. It is a very serious charge which relates to a security guard. I do not know that we should be touching on these matters in view of that fact. Quite frankly, I am prepared to indicate my views privately to the Leader of the Opposition. I would say that the Registrar of Firearms is the Police Commissioner and I doubt that there is any more experienced person in the Northern Territory in the handling of firearms and the training of people in the use of firearms than the Northern Territory Commissioner of Police. If the Leader of the Opposition would like to discuss this with me whenever it suits him, or write to me, I would be happy to give him a forthright answer to this question.

Registration of Physiotherapists

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does he intend to proceed with legislation to register physiotherapists in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, for the past 4 to 6 months, the department has been preparing for legislation for the allied health professional services group into which category physiotherapists would fit. This proportion has not yet been put to my colleagues and, as soon as I can, I will advise the honourable member.

Capacity of Rising Mains for Palmerston

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What population in Palmerston can be served by the current 750mm rising mains - one old one and one recently installed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the information I have is that a 450mm main is adequate for the initial population of Palmerston which is expected to reach about 11,000 people in the next couple of years. A larger rising main will be brought into

service to augment the capacity of the 450mm main which will ultimately become a distribution main for developing and clearing of that area once the population increases beyond that point.

Ablution Block at Lake Nash

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer him to an answer in a previous sittings of this Assembly in which he advised of a contract to be let at Lake Nash for some $15,000 for an ablution block. Why was that contract, valued at $14,950, for a permanent ablution block cancelled in favour of a much more expensive skid-type ablution block valued at $36,000?

ANSWER

The design of the toilet block was changed to allow the department to move it as necessary because the community is always on the move in that area.

Registration Plates on Trailed Vehicles

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Following a press release he put out some months ago regarding the interchange of registration plates on trailed and trailable vehicles, what is the current position on this matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, currently the department is investigating the proposal. Until such time as the Territory Insurance Office can give us further advice on it, we are unable to do anything further with it.

Lake Nash Aboriginal Community

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Was it at ministerial direction that his department wrote to the Aboriginal community at Lake Nash requesting it to move to Bathurst Downs by a set date? Is he aware that in reply the community has stated that it has no intention of moving?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no knowledge of the allegations made by the honourable member. I will check it out.

Traffic Act

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What proposals does the government have to implement section 26A of the Traffic Act which limits the time for which drivers of certain vehicles may remain continuously on duty?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

Rice Production in NT

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What intentions has the government in commencing commercial rice production in the Northern Territory along the lines of those farms operating under the ADMA scheme in the Douglas-Daly basin in the coming season?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government's view of rice production is that quite a lot more work needs to be done on testing and soil work. The government does not place rice as a high priority in so far as establishing a scheme similar to the Douglas-Daly is concerned. Certainly, if the work that is being undertaken at Tortilla Farm has good results, it may lead us to a reconsideration of that policy. We wait for those results.

Chiropractors

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it his intention to include chiropractors in the legislation for the allied health professionals that he referred to earlier and, if not, is it his intention to reintroduce separate legislation governing chiropractors?

ANSWER

No, they will not be included. There will be separate legislation.

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to his answer in relation to the statement last night by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and to his claim that the federal government was envisaging excisions to be negotiated. Does he envisage that this would be federal or Territory legislation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thought I had made this quite clear through information brought before the Assembly earlier. I should make it clear that there are 10 or 12 specific proposals to be taken together. If there is non-acceptance of 1 proposal, then the whole lot collapse. I thought I had made it clear to the Assembly last year that, if there was to be legislation in relation to excisions, it would be by way of amendment to the Crown Lands Act which is, of course, the relevant legislation for pastoral leases. This would give to people living presently on pastoral properties the right, after a period of negotiation, to go to the tribunal, which would be constituted under the Territory legislation, to apply for an excision. This would be in exchange for the agreement of the land councils that the Land Rights Act be amended to preclude further claims to stock routes.

Extension of Crop Purchase Guarantee Scheme

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is it the intention of the Territory government to extend the Crop Purchase Guarantee Scheme under the ADMA system from the present 1 year to at least 3 years so that farmers are better able to plan production?

ANSWER

Schemes of this nature really have to be run parallel to budget considerations of the government. Although there is a philosophical trend towards extending the life of this scheme for the 2 years suggested by the Cropping Development Committee, in view of government policy as far as this budget is concerned, these sorts of schemes are really a year-to-year proposition.

Equal Opportunity Plan

Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

What degree of priority is currently enjoyed by the equal opportunity program within the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand a number of proposals will come forward to me shortly in respect of the equal opportunity program. There is an officer in charge of equal opportunities in the Public Service Commissioner's Office and the Public Service Act contains legislative provisions in relation to equal opportunity as, I think, does the Housing Act. The question of equal opportunity in the Northern Territory is not as burning as it is elsewhere in Australia. Generally speaking, women are not severely disadvantaged in the Territory situation, at least in the urban community. Certainly they enjoy a measure of acceptance within government. We have a woman magistrate in the Northern Territory. As far as I can recall, she is the only woman who has ever applied for the position of magistrate. They cannot be appointed unless they apply. We have female senior executives in government, amongst them the director of the Department of Law Commercial Section. I am still waiting for a woman to apply for a position as a departmental head or head of a statutory authority. They are well represented on statutory authorities. All in all, I think the government's record in this area is one of which we can be reasonably proud. I hope this will not be misinterpreted because it is perhaps rather an ambiguous statement but I do not have anything against women.

Incorporation of Bill of Rights in Constitution

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of his public statements regarding the desirability for the incorporation of a bill of rights into a Northern Territory constitution, would he be prepared to consider committing his government to introduce a bill of rights which can presently be done under this Assembly's power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Territory and not delay its introduction until statehood?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think that the Leader of the Opposition considers that a bill of rights could be prepared in a matter of a couple of weeks, and I suppose one could be. But I think its evolution will take a number of years and it will be a question for the government of that time to consider whether it should introduce it in advance of incorporation in a Northern Territory constitution. I have officers of the Department of Law working on the formulation of a bill of rights, but I think that an Australian bill of rights would look quite different to the Bill of Rights that one sees through the American federal and state constitutions. It is something I had not considered before. I personally have never felt adversely affected. I see a bill of rights as something that we should put in our state constitution because our constitution will be our fundamental document. That is the appropriate place for any bill of rights that we might have in due course. It would also have various political overtones and might in fact weaken the Territory's position in certain areas were it to legislate in this field before actually considering a constitution for the Northern Territory.

It is not something that I can make any decision about myself, in any event. It is one that I would have to consider very carefully with my Cabinet colleagues. It is one that I would have to take to the parliamentary party and also canvass very widely in the community. But I see absolutely no need for haste in the exercise. I think that will be recognised by you and other honourable members as not characteristic of myself. It would be the first bill of rights ever likely to be enacted in an Australian parliament. I say that without any criticism of the Australian states or the federal government because the latter's constitution was enacted in 1901 and the states' constitutions were enacted many years before that. But we are in the 1980s. When it comes time to consider a constitution for the Northern Territory, then consideration

of a bill of rights must take place at the same time. It is not a decision for me to make; it will be a decision for whoever is involved in framing the Northern Territory constitution. That of course will be the whole membership of this Assembly, whatever it may comprise at that time.

I would highlight the fact that the evolution of the criminal code in the Northern Territory has been a very lengthy process. I do not begrudge that at all. I believe that we should take as long as this process needs. I just hope that we do not get other people coming out of the woodwork in due course, like the Opposition Leader, who decide 12 months later that they are at long last going to take an interest in the matter. That will continually delay and frustrate the matter. I certainly do not begrudge the time and, whether the Leader of the Opposition has come late to the party or not, we have certainly got to bear in mind what he says. We must have a criminal code that is acceptable to the vast majority of Territorians and that is what this government is working for. I do not know that the Leader of the Opposition's views are any more representative of the vast majority of Territorians than mine.

In any event, I think a bill of rights, when we get there, will have to be treated in much the same way. It will have to be publicly ventilated, and opportunities given for interested groups to come forward with their suggestions. I had thought that the liquor legislation exercise was a supreme example of community consultation on the part of this government because we spoke to almost every group and every community in the Northern Territory about the legislation but, the criminal code exercise, I believe, has been even more thorough than that. I think we are distilling a document that will be acceptable to most people.

Aboriginal Land Rights

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer him to his and the Treasurer's reported attendance at the federal council of the Liberal Party and to a report that appeared in the press consequent on that council in which it was said that a motion to voice support for the concept of Aboriginal land rights and the continuity of Aboriginal control over their land was in fact lost. Is he prepared to reveal to the Assembly the position he and his Territorian delegates adopted on that particular motion?

ANSWER

One should not believe everything that one reads in newspapers. I do not recall any such motion being put and lost. The Liberal Party does not conduct its business behind closed doors; the Liberal Party does not have faceless men. The Liberal Party conference was open to the public. There was a large public gallery provided and even the honourable member for MacDonnell would have been allowed in to listen if he had wanted to be there.

The matter of the federal Liberal policy platform came under review at the most recent federal convention of the Liberal Party. There were a number of motions from various state branches in relation to various aspects of the policy platform. In relation to the area of Aboriginal affairs, there were motions from the Young Liberals, from the Western Australians and from New South Wales. These motions were debated and discussed. As I recall it, the platform came through pretty much as it went into the mill. Certainly, the Liberal Party policy platform espouses the principle of Aboriginal land rights. The Northern Territory Country Liberal Party has observer status only at the Liberal Party and National Country Party conferences for the simple reason that we do not wish to be bound to either of the federal groupings because we believe that we are a party independent of federal control, unlike the members of the unitary party opposite me who must jump at the dictates of their centralist masters. Our party was formed by Territorians and operates for Territorians. I put forward the Territory point of view, as I am entitled to do as an

observer, and the Territory government quite clearly indicated its support for continuing the principle of Aboriginal land rights.

I might say that all the actions of the Territory government since self-government and before it have clearly supported Aboriginal land rights but we have not been prepared to throw away the interests of every other person in the community because we believe that everyone has rights and everyone has responsibilities. We do not see things through the one-eyed perspective of the honourable member for MacDonnell.

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 846, 852
Aborigines -
  Alice Springs, organisations 830
  community work program *741
  disadvantaged-card holders 758
  funding for education *746
  Groote Eylandt, trust account 768
  health workers 764,790, 791, 793
  interpreter service 749
  Lake Nash 851
  land rights 854
  nursing home care 757
  report on dry areas 818
  sacred sites 804
  teaching assistants 759
Action Inter-country Adoption applications 849
Adelaide River -
  Experimental Station 762
  Farmers Co-operative 809, 833
ADMA 774
Aerial medical base for Arnhem region 797
Air fares 834
Airlines of Northern Australia 795, 813
Alice Springs -
  Aboriginal organisations 830
  building heights 829
  eye specialist 810
  farming area 826
  High School, staff 816
  prison farm 838
  recreation lake *743
  rehabilitation facility 797
Anti-depressant medication 753
Apicultural industry 827
Arthurell and Buckley case 779
Ayers Rock -
  community adviser *745
  motels 808
  schooling *745
Banks' merger 819
Barramundi, management plan 808
Beef -
  tenderising techniques 770
  trade with South-east Asia *745, 798
Bees Creek Road *748, 799
Bellinger, Geoffrey Peter, compensation for injuries *739
Berrimah, rationalisation of rates 814
Berry Springs Zoo 833, 836
Bilingual education programs 762
Bill of rights, incorporation in constitution 853
Blood tests for drugs 801
Brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaign 765, 792
Buffalo -
  Beatrice Hill project 815
  shooting, tenders 790, 792, 840
Bynoe Harbour, access road 775, 787
Cane toads 787
Cape Don lighthouse 826, 842, 843
Central Australia, mosquito eradication 821
Channel Island, causeway 822

Child Protection Consultative Committee 761
Chiropractors, legislation 852
Collia tin mine *737
Commonwealth -
  Hostels, future management 834, 845
  houses, transfer to NT 786
Community Development Department, counselling 750
Community health centres 753
Convention on elimination of discrimination against women *740
Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Act, payments under 768
Crop Purchase Guarantee Scheme 852
Daly Waters, electricity supply 776
Dangerous Goods Act *742
Darwin Central Community Health Centre 752
Darwin City, access 818
Darwin City Council -
  boundaries 802
  houses *742
Darwin Community College -
  BA degree course 781, 796, 822
  basketball courts 801
Darwin Hospital -
  fees for reports 834
  northern region office *747
  pathology laboratory *736
  previous site 794
  security for patients' belongings *736
  separate facilities 757
  staffing 756
Darwin Prison, adulteration of food 821
Darwin water supply, failure to fluoridate 780
Detoxification centres 751
Disabled persons 756, 833
Disadvantaged cards 758
Doctors in NT -
  duty rosters *738
  ratio to patients *738
  salaries *738
Domestic violence 760
Douglas-Daly -
  Experimental Station 762
  farmland 829
Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee 827
Drug education program 754
East Point Reserve, management 817
Education Department -
  computers *742
  staffing at Banka Banka *744
  Yipirinya School *738
Electoral boundaries, redistribution 792
Electricity -
  charges 831
  generation, federal subsidy 803, 836
  payment of accounts 846
  private enterprise involvement 849
Elsey electorate, fire fighting equipment 766
Emergency accommodation for females *736
Emily Gap farm area 783, 788
Equal opportunity program, NT public service 852
Escort agencies 848

Eva Valley Station 749
Experimental electric car 824
'Fellow Territorians' circular *739
Feral animals, eradication by tourists 791
Firearms regulations for security guards *747, 779, 850
Fire station at 14-mile 786, 798
Flagpoles, NT buildings *744
Fog Bay prawn fishery, protection 786
Foreshore policy 825
Fortified wines, excise duty 777
Fred's Pass Police Office 798
Free trade zone in NT 787, 813
Frozen fish, advertising 804
Geothermal energy 830
Giles House 822
Golden perch *747
Government -
  contract to Brisbane company 805, 831
  land, cleaning up 813
  land purchases, Northlakes and Brinkin *743
Grants-in-aid *742, 755, 756, 774
Groote Eylandt, Aboriginal trust account 768
Grumman Trackers, use for surveillance 788
Guidelines for local preference 844
Gunn Point, plan of management 795
Head lice 838
Health Department -
  Aboriginal health workers 764, 790, 791, 793
  Chest X-rays 752
  debt collectors 768
  grants-in-aid 756
  internal reviews *737
  Nhulunbuy Hospital 835
  reduction of nursing staff at Galiwinku and Gapuwiyak 837
  research into in vitro fertilisation *742
  transfer of services 811, 812
Health grants, Commonwealth 755, 758
Horticultural industry 828
Hospital -
  charges 832
  payments by instalments scheme 769
Housing Commission -
  Nhulunbuy 817, 826, 842
  rental increases 765
  sale of units *744
  single-parent families, rental accommodation *744
Humpty Doo, water supply 797
International Labour Organisation conventions -
  Civil and political rights *740
  NT application *739
  standards *740
Jabiru -
  administration staff *746
  development costs *746
  operational funding *746
  rating system *746
  shop leases *746
  supermarket lease *746
  Town Advisory Council 781
Jingellic Minerals 843

Juvenile crime in NT *741
Katherine -
  Aboriginal camping area *736
  electricity supply *735, 766
  horticulturists *747
  Hospital 771
  Meatworks *745
  town boundaries *739
Koolpinyah Station -
  boundaries *742, *748, 802
  pastoral lease *742
Lake Nash -
  ablution block 851
  Aboriginal community 851
Legislative Assembly, repairs 810
Liaison between government departments *739
Life sentences *747
Liquor -
  Act 812
  campaign *737, 789
  Commission 800, 818
Litter campaign *738
Local government funding from Commonwealth tax-sharing arrangements 784
Low-alcohol beer 751
Low-cost housing designs 815
MacDonnell Ranges *743
McMinns Lagoon, pumping station 811
Magellan Petroleum *744
Male public servants *741
Marina, Darwin 840
Mataranka -
  farmland 829
  petrol bowser 778
Meat industry, Royal Commission 808
Medical evacuations *744
Millner School *743, 776
Mines Safety Control Act, breaches at Ranger 833
Mining Act, commencement 810
Minister for Health, visit to Hermannsburg 811
Molyhill mine 762
Motor vehicle accidents 771
Mt Wells battery *748, 843
Mudginberri -
  export abattoir 788
  pastoral lease 788
Munmarlary pastoral lease 788
Napperby Station, health clinic 777, 817
Nhulunbuy -
  Community Health Centre, use by private doctor 789
  grants-in-aid to sporting bodies *742
  hospital 791, 835
  Housing Commission 817, 826, 842
  Police Station, female toilet facilities 832
Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd, loan *735
'Northern Territory of Australia 1982' booklet 844
NTDC, loans 751
NTEC -
  Assistant General Manager 773
  award negotiations 773
  employees' remuneration and benefits 772

new powerhouse 836
vehicles assigned to employees *741, 772
NT hospitals -
bed costs 756
Outpatients 752, 753
procedures in cases of domestic violence 760
staffing 759, 769
Nursing and administration of medicine, report *738
Nursing home care 757
Old-age pensioners, air fare concessions 809, 839
Old timers' groups, land grants 803, 844, 845
Opposition members, telephone numbers 821
Outpatients at NT hospitals 752, 753
Palmerston -
land turn-off 825
police station 801
water supply 850
Pastoral leases -
foreign ownership 777
roll-over 848
Pet meat regulations 785, 786
Petrol sniffing workshop *745
Physiotherapists, NT registration 850
Pine Creek hall 771
Pintubi, relocation *745
Police -
planning group 776
uniforms for southern region officers 802
Prawning licences 750
Prisons, hard labour 818
Psychiatric services *738, 758, 769
Public -
expenditure 828
housing *737
servants 741, 770, 852
service housing sales scheme 793
Rape in southern region *735
Rapid Creek -
bridge across mouth 783,823
Primary School *743, 776
water gardens project *739
Red Cross, Darwin Hospital facility 800
Register of members' interests bill 790
Retrographics, government contract 805, 831
Rezoning applications 841
Rice production in NT 851
Royal Flying Doctor Service, tender for Alice Springs hangar *743
Rural subdivision 827
Sadadeen -
East industrial subdivision 784
hills, blasting *745
Salt and lime supplies for NT *747
Santa Teresa police station 799
School councils 785
School leavers entering apprenticeships *741
Sexual assault cases *736
Solar rebate scheme 823
Sports insurance 779
Student assistance 749
St Vidgeon Station 749

Summary Offences Act 812, 849
Sunday Creek Station, cropping programs 816
Superannuation deductions for NT public servants 764
Sydney Royal Easter Show, NT display 801
TAB, NT legislation 832
Tait, Donald 800
Telegraph Terrace, resealing 823
Tennant Creek, medical practitioner 826
Todd River 834
Tracy Lodge, land requirements 845
Tradesmen visiting remote areas *735
Traeger Park 828
Traffic Act 851
Trailed vehicles, registration plates 851
Transfer of prisoners to interstate jails 842
Tuberculosis *736
Uranium -
  French markets 839
  guidelines for sale 840
  mining 836
Vegetables for NT conditions 835
Wells Building 803
Winnellie, fire prevention services 802
Yipirinya School *738
Yulara Tourist Village 805, 824, 825

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 indicated that an answer has not yet been received.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 18 November 1980

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?

From 24 February 1981

Katherine Electricity 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 sub-divisions on the Gorge road, and to Katherine Gorge?

From 2 June 1981

Interest Rate on Loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

195 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What rate of interest is being charged on the $1.4m special assistance loan granted to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd?

From 9 June 1981

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service

198 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the present staffing of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Centre? Are there plans to increase the staffing levels and, if so, what positions?
2. What are the functions and duties of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service?
3. During the 6 months to 31 May 1981, (a) how many Aboriginals have been treated per week by AIMS, (b) what are the major categories of illness, and (c) where do the Aboriginals, in the main, come from?
4. How many Aboriginal liaison officers are attached to Casuarina Hospital; what hours do they work; and are there plans to increase the numbers?
5. Are any Aboriginal liaison officers to be employed at Darwin Hospital?

From 18 August 1981

Rape in Southern Region

210 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. (a) How many rapes have been reported in the Southern Command region since 1 July 1980 to 10 June 1981, (b) how many have resulted in charges being laid, (c) what is the state of these charges, and (d) have any reports of rape been false?
2. What facilities and resources are available for the psychological counselling of women raped in (a) the Alice Springs region, and (b) the

Tennant Creek region?

3. Has he received any representations from women's organisations regarding the level of rape counselling services in the Territory?

4. If so, (a) what organisations have made representations, (b) what has been the basis of these representations, and (c) what has been his response?

Darwin Hospital Pathology Laboratory

224 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can he inform me as to the fate of the pathology laboratory at the Darwin Hospital?

2. Has he considered the future of the laboratory in the light of a lack of such scientific facilities in the Department of Primary Production?

Security for Belongings of Hospital Patients

225 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are made to ensure the security of the belongings of hospital patients, for example psychiatric and geriatric patients, who are unable to care for themselves?

Incidence of Tuberculosis in 1979-80

241 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What was the incidence of tuberculosis in 1979-80 in (a) Australia, and (b) the Northern Territory?

2. Is his department undertaking any program to eradicate tuberculosis in humans similar to the program being undertaken to eradicate tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle?

From 24 November 1981

Sexual Assault Cases

379 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many sexual assault cases have been seen at the major Territory hospitals in (a) 1980-81, and (b) 1979-80?

From 1 December 1981

Liquor Campaign

500 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is being spent on the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign?

2. For what reason was the contract awarded to a southern firm?

3. Has any contact been made with the liquor industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

Collia Tin Mine

512 Mr B. COLLINS 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 in NT - Applications

513 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for general public housing were received during (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81, and how many applications were outstanding at (c) 1 July 1980, and (d) 1 July 1981 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Nhulunbuy, and (vi) Pine Creek?

2. How many outstanding applications were there for general public housing (a) at 1 July 1980, and (b) at 25 June 1981?

3. How many applications for general public housing were received in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

4. How many applications for general public housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1989-80, and (b) 1980-81?

5. How many tenants were accommodated in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

Internal Reviews of Health Department

517 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. He stated during the June 1981 sittings that his department had reviews taking place on all aspects of medical services offered to the public, and referred to an internal review of community health services. What were the details and outcome of this review?

2. In regard to other internal reviews conducted during the past year, (a) in which areas were they conducted, (b) who have the committees comprised of, (c) how many times have they met, and (d) what has been the outcome of these reviews?

3. How many internal reviews are being conducted at the moment?

Report on Nursing and Administration of Medicine

527 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When does he expect the report on manpower requirements for nursing and the administration of medicine to be completed?

Psychiatric Services

534 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what reason is psychiatric services included in the general administrative expenditure for health services?

2. For what reason has the level of funding for psychiatric services been reduced from $510,000 to $475,000? Where will this cut be felt?

Doctor-Patient Ratios in NT

538 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the current ratio of doctors per patient at each hospital in the NT?

2. What are the duty rosters of doctors and nurses? How does this compare with last year?

3. Is the percentage that salaried doctors can earn on top of their income to be increased from 25%? If so, to what level?

From 9 March 1982

'Fellow Territorians' Circular

564 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the cost of a circular letter dated October 1981, addressed to 'Fellow Territorians' and signed by the Chief Minister?

Rapid Creek Water Gardens Project

596 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Given that the Rapid Creek water gardens project already had 2 signs, 1 being a conventional Transport and Works sign and the other a pictorial representation of what the gardens will look like, what was (a) the purpose of erecting a third much larger sign identifying the project, and (b) what was the cost of the third sign?

Geoffrey Peter Bellenger

611 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the hardship suffered by Geoffrey Peter Bellenger, who was injured by a truck on a pedestrian crossing in Alice Springs on 23 May 1975 and who has not yet received any compensation for his injuries or costs?

2. Was the driver of the truck involved in the incident charged with any offence?

3. Is any of the almost 7 years delay between the injury and compensation attributable to any shortcoming or congestion in Northern Territory courts?

Liaison between Government Departments

618 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is there liaison between the Department of Lands, other departments and statutory bodies such as Telecom on the provision of services such as electricity, water, sewerage and telephones for new private or government subdivisions?

From 16 March 1982

Male Public Servants

640 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

As at 30 April 1981, what was (a) the average male earnings in the Northern Territory Public Service, and (b) what were the numbers and levels of the males?

Aboriginal Community Work Program

641 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. The Northern Territory government initiated the Aboriginal Community Work Program for a pilot period of 3 years, which was to conclude in January 1982. Has this occurred?
2. Has a report been compiled for consideration by the government agency reviewing the program?
3. If so, when is it anticipated that the government will table this report?

Motor Vehicles - NTEC

645 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. How many motor vehicles are (a) owned by NTEC, (b) what classes of vehicles are they, and (c) in what numbers?
2. To which designations of NTEC employees are these vehicles allocated and allowed to be driven to and from work?
3. Is it a fact that a lawyer retained by NTEC has an NTEC vehicle assigned to him for his personal use?

Houses, Darwin City Council

649 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of (a) the number of houses owned by the Corporation of the City of Darwin, and (b) to what use these houses are put?

From 25 May 1982

Repairs and Maintenance, Rapid Creek Primary School

657 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What plans does the department have to (a) repair and cyclone proof the roof of the older part of the Rapid Creek Primary School, including the covered way area, (b) paint, (c) replace furniture, and (d) repair gutters in the older part of the school, and (e) bituminize the school carpark?

National Parks, MacDonnell Ranges

663 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to question No. 586 regarding the gazetting of a MacDonnell Range National Park and ask:

What other 'acquisition proposals are proceeding satisfactorily in the Central and East MacDonnells', and for what purposes is the Conservation Commission seeking to acquire such land?

Drilling and Exploration, Magellan Petroleum

667 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What are the details of the current drilling program being pursued by Magellan Petroleum in central Australia?
2. What is the (a) registration number of, and (b) nature of exploration on each E.L. held by the company?
3. What funding has been committed to the exploration program either (a) in general, or (b) for each E.L.?

Education Staff, Banka Banka

670 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many staff positions does his department fund at Banka Banka?
2. Of these, (a) how many are members of the community, and (b) how many were recruited from outside the community?

Blasting, Sadadeen Hills

675 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What consultation took place, if any, with Aboriginal traditional owners and other citizens before officers of his department commenced blasting a section of the Sadadeen hills to enable erection of a water tank?

From 1 June 1982

Firearms, Security Guards

692 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What, in general terms, are the regulations governing the use of firearms by private security guards, and what type of training and level of competence in the use of firearms by private security guards is required in the Northern Territory?

Life Sentences

693 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In relation to life sentences imposed in the Territory, (a) how many persons are presently serving life sentences, (b) what is the average length of the actual sentence served, (c) are there any administrative procedures for the review of life sentences, and (d) if so, what are they?

From 3 June 1982

Boundaries, Koolpinyah Station

696 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

On 9 March 1982 he advised the Assembly that the matter of redrawing the boundaries of Koopinyah Station was under consideration. Is he yet in a position to provide further information on this matter?

Mt Wells Battery

697 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is the area of the Mt Wells Battery still part of the Ban Ban pastoral lease?

2. If so, is this the reason for the delay in full payment by Jingellic Minerals to the government for the Mt Wells Battery and associated leases?

3. If so, when will this be resolved?

From 17 August 1982

Farmers' Co-operative at Adelaide River

699 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. How many people has the farmers' co-operative at Adelaide River employed on average over the last 5 years?

2. Have continuing accumulated debts from earlier years contributed to the fact that the co-operative is not now solvent?

3. Does the government have any plans for land development north of Adelaide River, or is it content to see blocks sold for real estate value as is occurring at the present time?

Secondary Text Book Allowance

700 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many people received the secondary text book allowance during the period 1 July 1981 to 31 May 1982?

Publicity Officer, Yulara

707 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

What (a) qualifications were required by the Conservation Commission of applicants for the recently-advertised position of Yulara Publicity Officer, (b) how many applications were received, and (c) how many applicants were interviewed?

Dingo Baiting

714 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of the concern of cattlemen that aerial baiting of dingoes with the poison 1080 is being scaled down and that the potency of the poison is being reduced?

Life Imprisonment

718 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the effective sentence served by persons receiving life sentences?

2. What review procedures, if any, exist for the periodic review of life sentence detainees?

3. How many people are presently serving life sentences in the Northern Territory?

Coal-fired Power Station, Darwin

719 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

1. Will a crushing mill for converting lump coal into powder for use in the proposed coal-fired power station be constructed in Darwin?

2. If so, (a) where will it be constructed, and (b) what is the anticipated cost?

Coal-fired Power Station, Darwin

720 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

What is (a) the expected daily consumption of coal, (b) what is the expected waste, and (c) what is the anticipated cost of waste disposal for the proposed coal-fired power station for Darwin?

Power Plant, Elliott

722 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

When was the power generating equipment currently servicing the township of Elliott (a) installed, (b) has there been any major upgrading of the plant since its installation, (c) what is its capacity, (d) how many consumers are serviced by the plant, and (e) what is the level of demand for power from the community?

Power Plant, Newcastle Waters

723 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

1. When was Newcastle Waters (a) provided with a public power supply, and (b) what was the cost of the provision of that power supply?

2. What is (a) the capacity of the Newcastle Waters power station, (b) how many consumers are using the power, and (c) how many people from Newcastle Waters township signed a petition seeking the provision of a public power supply in October 1980?

From 31 August 1982

Doctor and Nurses, Kalano

724 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the government paying the wages of the Kalano doctor and nursing sisters?

Water Consumption

726 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What was the total water consumption in (a) 1980-81, and (b) 1981-82; total revenue raised from water rates in financial years (c) 1980-81, and (d) 1981-82; and what percentage of water used was unmetered in (e) 1980-81, and (f) 1981-82 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, and (iv) Katherine?

Roads - Pastoral Properties

727 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

On how many pastoral properties (a) does the government maintain roads from the station boundary to the homestead, (b) what is the longest length of road maintained under this system, (c) what is the average length of road maintained, and (d) what was the cost of maintaining these roads in the 1981-82 financial year?

From 2 September 1982

Access Road, Bynoe Harbour

728 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Further to his answer to question 652 (a) what future development does he envisage for the small community at Belyuen which he said generates traffic volumes warranting upgrading the road to the standard presently being constructed; (b) to what additional development in the pastoral, mining, fishing and recreational industries is he referring; (c) fishing and mining by whom; (d) what amount of capitalisation; (e) mining for what; (f) what type of pastoral and recreational development, where, when, by whom and at what capital outlay; and (g) where does the road through Bulldog Pass lead to, or is it part of the main Bynoe Harbour access road?

Loan - Katherine Meatworks

729 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Was a government loan made available to the operators of the Katherine meatworks?
2. If so, (a) was this loan to the value of $1.4 million, (b) what is the current status of this loan, and (c) is it being serviced correctly?

Free Trade Zone

730 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In relation to the proposal to establish a free trade zone in Darwin, has he requested the Commonwealth government to exercise its power under Section 122 of the Commonwealth Constitution to enable such a free trade zone to be established?
2. If so, what has been the Commonwealth government's response?
3. Would the establishment of a duty-free zone in the Northern Territory create a customs barrier that would concomitantly interfere with trade, commerce and intercourse between the Northern Territory and the states of Australia?
4. Has the Commonwealth government indicated that it would agree to the removal of customs duties?
5. What, if any, specific financial incentives are intended to be offered to potential investors?

2km Drinking Law

731 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was (a) the cost of preparation and distribution, including postage, of the 2 leaflets, (b) the cost of the recent TV advertisements, and (c) the cost of recent newspaper advertisements regarding the 2km drinking law?

Buffaloes

732 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. How many buffaloes have been received at the government facility at Annaburro Station?

2. Have the suppliers met the conditions required in terms of buffalo type and age?

Emergency Overnight Accommodation for Females

476 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the government aware of the need for emergency overnight accommodation for females in the NT?

2. Does the government intend to provide subsidies to willing organisations such as the Salvation Army and the St Vincent de Paul Society who have corresponded with the government on such a service and, if so, when?

ANSWER

1. The NT government is aware that single people and families often require emergency overnight accommodation. Any person requiring emergency accommodation should contact an office of the Community Welfare Division where they will be referred to suitable accommodation. Should existing emergency accommodation facilities not be available, financial assistance may be provided to enable the individual or family to seek commercial accommodation.

2. The NT government provides subsidies to the YWCA and the Salvation Army in Darwin to provide emergency accommodation for families. Individuals, including females, who require emergency accommodation are assisted to find such accommodation by officers of the Community Welfare Division. Financial assistance is provided where this is necessary. Rooms in government hostels in the NT are also to be made available to families and single people requiring emergency accommodation. The administrative arrangements for this scheme are currently being considered. Dawn House Womens Refuge, which receives substantial funding from the NT Department of Health, provides emergency accommodation for women in crisis situations. The Darwin Youth Refuge, which also receives substantial funds from the Northern Territory government, provides emergency accommodation for young people. In Alice Springs the NT Department of Health provides funds to the Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul to provide crisis accommodation for families and women. It is the government's understanding that the women's refuge 'Community House' management committee will re-open the centre and it is anticipated that funds will be available from the NT Department of Health.

Aboriginal Camping Area in Katherine

477 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the government aware of and does it agree with the decision of the Katherine corporation to allow Aborigines to set up a camping area in Katherine, despite the existence of Kalano Farm and the Corroboree Motel?

ANSWER

The government is aware of the Katherine corporation's decision to establish an Aboriginal camping area within the municipal boundaries of the town.

I do not propose commenting upon the decision of another government taken in respect of an area within its competence.

Transfer of Psychiatric Patients to South Australia

537 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much was spent in 1980-81 on the transfer of psychiatric patients to South Australia?

2. How many were transferred?

3. What was the average length of stay per patient?

4. When does the NT government expect to provide suitable secure premises for chronic patients in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

1. Approximately $4,200 (fares of patients and escorts where applicable).

2. Six.

3. The average length of stay in 1980-81 for psychiatric patients transferred to South Australia is calculated at 80 days approximately.

4. The numbers of severely mentally retarded and chronic mentally ill patients in the NT are too small to justify providing the wide variety of accommodation required. For example, 30 NT patients are currently housed in 9 different styles of accommodation in South Australia.

Yipirinya School in Alice Springs

545 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action, if any, has been taken by the Department of Education on the application for registration of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The Yipirinya School Council Incorporated has appealed to the Northern Territory Supreme Court against this decision. In the circumstances, it would not be appropriate to comment further on the matter.

Litter Campaign

547 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How much was spent on the anti-litter campaign?

2. Why was the contract for the campaign awarded to a southern firm?

ANSWER

1. The Litter Control Program has a budget of $200,000, these funds were provided by industry and are held in a trust account by a firm of chartered accountants.

   As advertising is restricted to the Northern Territory, all local television, radio and press organisations are actively involved in the program.

   T-shirts have been obtained from local suppliers and printing for promotional material is being arranged through the Government Printer.

2. An advertisement calling for registrations of interest in relation to the program was placed in local and interstate newspapers. Two registrations of interest were received from Darwin organisations, subsequently both organisations advised that they would not, for various reasons, be able to submit a presentation to the committee.

   The contract was therefore awarded to a southern firm.

Katherine Town Boundaries

619 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Katherine Municipal Council applied to have the town boundaries extended?

2. If so, (a) has the application been made as a result of any government action, and (b) what benefits would be expected to flow from an extension of the town boundaries?

ANSWER

No, the Katherine Town Council has not applied to have the town boundaries extended.

In November 1981, the Local Government Division of this department wrote to the town clerk pointing out the increasing amount of development outside the Katherine municipal boundary leading to a greater use of town services such as the swimming pool, library and recreation and amusement facilities provided from municipal revenues.

The council would need to balance against increased rate revenue from the extended boundaries, the additional responsibility for specific services such as roads and street lighting in the enlarged municipality.

I believe the matter has been discussed by council, but as yet no further action has been taken.

ILO Conventions

622 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware that the Minister for Industrial Relations informed the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives on 18 November 1981 (H. of R. Hansard, p. 3098) that on 26 May and 3 June 1977 the Northern Territory indicated by letter that in its view the Aboriginal population of the Territory does not constitute a dependent, indigenous population for the purposes of International Labour Organisation Convention No. 65, Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) 1939?

2. Who wrote the letter and on what date and by what means did the Northern Territory government authorize it?

3. Is he aware that a former Commonwealth Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations informed the former Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives on 4 October 1977 (H. of R. Hansard, p. 1607) that a review instituted by his department in April 1977 had revealed inconsistencies between provisions in the Northern Territory Apprentices Ordinance and the ILO convention?

ANSWER

1. Yes. It should be noted that while the reply of the Minister for Industrial Relations on 18 November 1981 indicates that the 'Northern Territory' expressed a view by letters of 26 May and 3 June 1977, the letters were written on behalf of the then Commonwealth Department of the Northern Territory, not the Northern Territory government. However, in common with all states (as indicated in the Commonwealth Minister's reply of 18 November 1981), I would agree that the Aboriginal population of the Northern Territory does not constitute a 'dependent', indigenous population for the purposes of the International Labour Organisation Convention No. 65, Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) 1939. Aboriginals are equals under the law with other Australian citizens and therefore cannot be regarded as having 'dependent' status.

2. See answer to 1.

3. Yes. However, following transfer of responsibility for the Apprentices Ordinance from the Commonwealth Minister for Education to the Northern Territory government (on 1 January 1978), the Ordinance was repealed and replaced by the Industries Training Act 1979.

Standards Set by ILO Conventions

623 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by those International Labor Organisation conventions which the ILO lists as basic human rights conventions but which Australia has not yet ratified, viz.:

   (a) No. 135 - Workers' Representatives, 1971;
   (b) No. 141 - Rural Workers' Organisations, 1975;
   (c) No. 151 - Labour Relations (Public Service), 1978; and
   (d) No. 156 - Workers with Family Responsibilities, 1981?

2. What views has the NT government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of each of these conventions?

3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have consultations taken place between the NT and Commonwealth governments concerning each of these conventions?

ANSWER

1. The laws and practices of the Northern Territory are regarded as being compatible with the standards set by the above conventions.

   In the area of direct Northern Territory government influence, i.e. Workmen's Compensation, Long Service Leave, Annual Leave and Public Holidays, it is policy that workers' representatives receive every courtesy, co-operation and assistance wherever their members' interests are concerned. This policy is also adhered to in Northern Territory Public Service employment.

   Under the aegis of the government, the Northern Territory Industrial Relations Consultative Council meets quarterly and is chaired by the Chief Minister. The charter of the council is to enable government, employer organisations and trade unions to consult on industrial relations and associated labour matters and, secondly, through the chairman, advise the government of its views on these matters.

   The great majority of the Northern Territory workforce is covered by federal awards, and the rights of their representatives in this case are protected by the provisions of Section 5 of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Under the same Act all rural workers, as defined, are covered by the Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union and are eligible to join that organisation unfettered by any laws or policies of the Northern Territory.

   All employees in the Northern Territory Public Service enjoy adequate protection against acts of anti-union discrimination in respect of their employment. Their organisations and unions have complete independence from public authorities and experience no interference in their establishment, functioning or administration.

   Their representatives receive every facility to enable them to function promptly and efficiently, both during and outside their hours of work.

   The Public Service Commissioner encourages and promotes the full development and utilisation of machinery for negotiation of terms and conditions of employment, and the settlement of any disputation which may arise thereafter.

   Public Service employees in the Northern Territory enjoy in full the civil and political rights essential to the normal exercise of freedom of association.

   The obligations of the Northern Territory government in the area of

workers with family responsibilities are seen as complementary to the functions of the Commonwealth Department of Social Security, particularly in the area of child care, family services and facilities, and assistance in the exercise of family responsibility. When one considers the comparatively short time the Northern Territory government has been in the field of social welfare, together with the current financial constraints, some appreciable inroads have been made.

2. The conventions referred to in this question are at a comparatively early consultation stage between the Commonwealth and the states. It is a difficult, and sometimes long, process obtaining ratification of a convention as all states and territories, as well as the Commonwealth must conform to every article. This at times results in non-compliance by one state or a single point holding up ratification for years.

   The Northern Territory Government has not expressed any direct views to the Commonwealth government on *Convention No. 135, Workers' Representatives*. However, in other areas of industrial relations, complete support has been adequately indicated for the principles contained therein.

   No direct dialogue has taken place on the articles of *Convention No. 141 - Rural Workers' Organisations*. The workers who would be defined in this convention are adequately protected by free access to union membership.

   Convention No. 151 - Labour Relations (Public Service) has not come under the discussion procedures as yet but as indicated in the answer to question 1 practice in the Northern Territory would seem to satisfy the requirements of this convention.

   The Northern Territory has commented on the requirements of *Convention No. 156 - Workers with Family Responsibilities* in conjunction with the contents of the report on the subject emanating from the 67th Session of the 1981 International Labour Conference. The Territory's comments were given under 3 headings:

   (a) Child Care and Family Services and Facilities

   The recommendation contained therein was supported as it is consistent with Northern Territory government policy in this area. The policy of the Department of Community Development, is to ensure that all members of the community have access to child care services, irrespective of their ability to pay. Child care services should be flexible to allow parents to make choices about the preferred form of care for their children. The department has a statutory responsibility to ensure that standards prescribing quality care are adhered to and helps to ensure that child care staff have access to adequate training.

   (b) Social Security

   The recommendations in this section were supported in principle. However, as they seek to ensure that individual workers have access to social security entitlements, while fulfilling family responsibilities and irrespective of the occupational activity of their spouse, the implementation of this recommendation would require legislative changes to the Social Services Act; this would have to be a policy decision.

   (c) Help in Exercise of Family Responsibility

   This section was supported. It is envisaged that in the long term, services of this nature could be provided to workers with family responsibility as part of a broad range of home help services

available to any member of the community in need of them.

As indicated in the answer to question 2 there is a set consultation procedure prior to ratification of conventions.

Convention No. 135 has been discussed generally at technical officer level and although ratification has been recommended a principal inhibiting factor has been the lack of general protective legislation in 2 states, although some protection is afforded to union representatives in these states by their registration under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

Delay in ratification of Convention No. 141 would seem to be attributable to similar circumstances.

Federal government policies would seem to militate against any progress at present on Convention No. 151.

Discussion on Convention No. 156 has already been indicated in the answer to question 1. This convention has not yet been classified in a priority category.

3. The answer to this question is contained in the reply to question 2.

ILO Convention on Civil and Political Rights

624 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by the 1966 ILO Convention on Civil and Political Rights which Australia signed in December 1972 and ratified in August 1980?

2. What views has the Territory government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of this convention since it entered into force in March 1976?

3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have discussions or consultations taken place between the Territory and Commonwealth governments concerning this convention?

ANSWER

1. Almost without exception, the laws and practices of the Northern Territory conform with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, taking into account the reservations and interpretative declarations lodged by the Commonwealth government on behalf of Australia at the time of ratification.

Such 'exceptions' as there are, generally relate to factors of isolation and distance operating in the Territory. For example, Article 10.2(a) provides that 'accused persons shall ... be segregated from convicted persons' in prisons. In the Territory's situation, particularly in remote localities, the cost of providing separate facilities for prisoners on remand and those convicted of offences, is presently prohibitive. To meet the concern of the Territory, and that of some states, the federal government provided in Australia's instrument of ratification that '... the principle of segregation is accepted as an objective to be achieved progressively'. Similar reasoning applies to the requirements of Article 10.2(b) and .3 (second sentence) to provide for segregation of accused and convicted juveniles from adults.

In accordance with Article 40 of the international covenant, Australia was required within one year of ratification, to submit to the United Nations a report on the measures '... adopted which give effect to

the rights recognised (in the covenant) and on the progress made in the enjoyment of those rights'. The report was required to include not only the measures in force in regard to each Article, but any restriction or limitation imposed by law or practice on the enjoyment of rights provided for in the covenant. I have provided the honourable member with a copy of Australia's report, prepared by the Commonwealth after consultation with the Northern Territory and the states.

Finally, it is noted that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is a United Nations instrument not an 'ILO Convention'.

2. & 3. The views of the Territory government on the international covenant have been expressed to the Commonwealth through a forum known as 'Meeting of Ministers on Humans Rights'. The establishment of this forum, comprising the Attorneys-General of the Commonwealth, the states and the Northern Territory, was prompted in late 1978 specifically to consider the terms upon which Australia should ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Entry of Australia into international treaties and conventions is a matter for the Commonwealth government under the constitution. However, the present Commonwealth government has a policy of consulting the states and the Northern Territory in such matters, particularly in cases where, as with the international covenant, the convention or treaty deals with subjects traditionally within the jurisdiction of the states, and more recently the Territory.

The international covenant and the terms of Australia's ratification were discussed at meetings of ministers on human rights held in February, May, July and October 1979. Extensive consultation at officer level also took place before and after the ministerial meetings in 1979. Subsequent to Australia's ratification of the covenant, ministerial meetings in November 1980, April and August 1981 discussed the form and content of the report required under Article 40 of the covenant.

It would neither be practical nor valuable to attempt to identify all the 'views' expressed at ministerial and officers meetings by the Territory on the provisions of the international covenant.

The purpose of such meetings was, of course, to exchange views and attempt to arrive at a consensus on the terms of Australia's ratification of the covenant. In many matters, some or all jurisdictions shared similar concerns or raised similar interpretation issues regarding the provisions of the covenant. In such circumstances, whether the Territory, a state or the Commonwealth expressed a view or agreed with a view suggested by another would often depend on which jurisdiction addressed a particular matter first.

The discussions by the ministerial meetings on human rights resulted in the following text, agreed by all Australian governments, of the reservations and declarations lodged with the United Nations when Australia ratified the international covenant on 13 August 1980:

AUSTRALIAN RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS

Articles 2 and 50

"Australia advises that, the people having united as one people in a Federal Commonwealth under the Crown, it has a federal constitutional system. It accepts that the provisions of the Covenant extend to all parts of Australia as a federal State without any limitations or exceptions. It enters a general reservation that Article 2, paragraphs 2 and 3 and Article 50 shall be given effect consistently with and

subject to the provisions in Article 2, paragraph 2.

Under Article 2, paragraph 2, steps to adopt measures necessary to give effect to the rights recognised in the Covenant are to be taken in accordance with each State Party's Constitutional processes which, in the case of Australia, are the processes of a federation in which legislative, executive and judicial powers to give effect to the rights recognised in the Covenant are distributed among the federal (Commonwealth) authorities and the authorities of the constituent States.

In particular, in relation to the Australian States the implementation of those provisions of the Covenant over whose subject matter the federal authorities exercise legislative, executive and judicial jurisdiction will be a matter for those authorities; and the implementation of those provisions of the Covenant over whose subject matter the authorities of the constituent States exercise legislative, executive and judicial jurisdiction will be a matter for those authorities; and where a provision has both federal and State aspects, its implementation will accordingly be a matter for the respective constitutionally appropriate authorities (for the purpose of implementation, the Northern Territory will be regarded as a constituent State).

To this end, the Australian Government has been in consultation with the responsible State and Territory Ministers with the object of developing co-operative arrangements to co-ordinate and facilitate the implementation of the Covenant."

Article 10

"Australia accepts the principle stated in paragraph 1 of Article 10 and the general principles of the other paragraphs of that Article, but makes the reservation that these and other provisions of the Covenant are without prejudice to laws and lawful arrangements, of the type now in force in Australia, for the preservation of custodial discipline in penal establishments. In relation to paragraph 2(a) the principle of segregation is accepted as an objective to be achieved progressively. In relation to paragraphs 2(b) and 3 (second sentence) the obligation to segregate is accepted only to the extent that such segregation is considered by the responsible authorities to be beneficial to the juveniles or adults concerned."

Article 14

(a) "Australia accepts paragraph 3(b) on the understanding that the reference to adequate facilities does not require provision to prisoners of all the facilities available to a prisoner's legal representative."

(b) "Australia accepts the requirement in paragraph 3(d) that everyone is entitled to be tried in his presence, but reserves the right to exclude an accused person where his conduct makes it impossible for the trial to proceed."

(c) "Australia interprets paragraph 3(d) of Article 14 as consistent with the operation of schemes of legal assistance in which the person assisted is required to make a contribution towards the cost of the defence related to his capacity to pay and determined according to law, or in which assistance is granted in respect of other than indictable offences only after having regard to all relevant matters."

(d) "Australia makes the reservation that the provision of compensation for miscarriage of justice in the circumstances contemplated in

paragraph 6 of Article 14 may be by administrative procedures rather than pursuant to specific legal provision."

Article 17

"Australia accepts the principles stated in Article 17 without prejudice to the right to enact and administer laws which, insofar as they authorise action which impinges on a person's privacy, family, home or correspondence, are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety, the economic well-being of the country, the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

Article 19

"Australia interprets paragraph 2 of Article 19 as being compatible with the regulation of radio and television broadcasting in the public interest with the object of providing the best possible broadcasting services to the Australian people."

Article 20

"Australia interprets the rights provided for by Articles 19, 21 and 22 as consistent with Article 20; accordingly, the Commonwealth and the constituent States, having legislated with respect to the subject matter of the Article in matters of practical concern in the interests of public order (ordre public), the right is reserved not to introduce any further legislative provision on these matters."

Article 25

"The reference in paragraph (b) of Article 25 to 'universal and equal suffrage' is accepted without prejudice to laws which provide that factors such as regional interests may be taken into account in defining electoral divisions, or which establish franchises for municipal and other local government elections related to the sources of revenue and the functions of such government."

Convicted Persons

"Australia declares that laws now in force in Australia relating to the rights of persons who have been convicted of serious criminal offences are generally consistent with the requirements of Articles 14, 18, 19, 25 and 26 and reserves the right not to seek amendment of such laws."

Articles 2, 26, etc.

"The provisions of Articles 2(1) and 24(1), 25 and 26 relating to discrimination and distinction between persons shall be without prejudice to laws designed to achieve for the members of some class or classes of persons equal enjoyment of the rights defined in the Covenant. Australia accepts Article 26 on the basis that the object of the provision is to confirm the right of each person to equal treatment in the application of the law."

Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women

625 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by the 1980 Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women?

2. What views has the Northern Territory government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of the convention?

3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have consultations taken place between the NT and Commonwealth governments concerning the ratification of the convention?

ANSWER

1. The question of what laws and practices of all jurisdictions in Australia fail to comply with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women is currently under consideration by the Attorneys-General of the Commonwealth, States and Territory in the forum of Ministerial Meetings on Human Rights. At this stage, consideration of the convention is directed largely to issues of interpretation and it will not be possible to provide a list of laws and practices, if any, which do not meet the requirements of the convention before such interpretation issues are resolved.

   For further information in this matter, I refer the honourable member to the statement I made in the Legislative Assembly on 11 March 1981 in support of a motion by the honourable member for Nightcliff proposing the Assembly support the United Nation Convention.

2. I refer the honourable member to my statement on 11 March 1981 referred to in 1. above.

3. See 2. above.

Juvenile Crime in NT

626 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has there been an increase in the incidence of juvenile crime in the Northern Territory?

2. If so, (a) can he provide figures to demonstrate this increase, (b) what are the causes of this increase, (c) what action is to be taken to rectify the situation and (d) what are the main offences being committed?

3. What is the average age of juvenile offender?

4. (a) How many juvenile inmates are in NT institutions and how does this figure compare with that for the same period last year?

   (b) What is the average length of stay for a juvenile inmate?

ANSWER

1. 'Juvenile' has been regarded as a child up to and including 16 years of age. The amount of crime committed by juveniles cannot be ascertained. Statistics are based on the number of juvenile offenders apprehended for crimes. Offenders are probably in proportion to the total number of offences committed, and it is probable that there has been an increase over 1980 and 1978 but less than 1979.

2. (a) Total figures for the years 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981 are:

	Male	Female	Total
1978	749	81	830
1979	1,276	62	1,338
1980	1,042	140	1,182
1981	1,109	158	1,267

   (b) The juvenile age group (10-17 years) increase in population would be the significant factor accounting for the apparent increase in

juvenile crime.

(c) Youth oriented programs will continue to be supported and developed.

(d) Break, enter and steal, larceny, illegal use and interfere with motor vehicle, malicious damage.

3. Statistics for the 6 months ended December 1981 show the average age of an offender for main offences listed in 2(d) as 14 years for both males and females in each instance except for females in respect of 'illegal use of motor vehicles' where the average age is 16 years, but is based on an exceedingly small total of 6 offenders only.

4. (a) In January 1981 there was 1 juvenile remanded in Malak House, and in January 1982 there were 4 juveniles remanded in Malak House.

In January 1981 there were 6 juveniles held in Giles House and in January 1982 there were 11.

In January 1981 there were 4 juveniles in NT prisons and in January 1982 there were 5.

(b) The average length of stay for a juvenile in Giles House is approximately 30 days.

The average length of stay for a juvenile in prison is 48 days.

School Leavers Entering Apprenticeships

636 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware of the problems that school leavers, particularly those not living with their parents, face when entering apprenticeships?

2. If so, what does the NT government do or intend doing to enable such disadvantaged youths to enjoy equality with their peers?

ANSWER

The NT Industries Training Commission is not aware that apprentices (whether residing with their parents or otherwise) are disadvantaged with respect to their peers. In fact, there are at least 3 ways in which apprentices appear more fortunate than other school leavers.

1. If obliged to live away from home young apprentices receive some financial assistance through the Commonwealth government's CRAFT scheme. This is not available to school leavers in non-apprenticeship areas.

2. The NT Industries Training Commission employs apprentice training supervisors whose role is to oversight the training of apprentices and to ensure that the conditions of the indenture are fulfilled. School leavers in non-apprenticeship areas do not receive such support.

3. The terms of the indentures of apprenticeship offer young people security of employment which is not normally available to other school leavers apart from those who secure government positions.

Computers, Department of Education

648 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Did the Department of Education hire Price Waterhouse to draw up a report on its use of computers at all levels?

2. If so, (a) when was the report given to the department, (b) is it available for scrutiny, and (c) is it true that the department has 14 different types of word processors?

ANSWER

1. The Department of Education engaged Price Waterhouse Associates to undertake a review of operations, information systems and technological requirements.

2. (a) April 1981.

   (b) The report is not a public document, however if the honourable member wishes, a copy is available in my office for his perusal.

   (c) No. The Department of Education has 3 IBM OS6 and 1 IBM display writer.

Koolpinyah Pastoral Lease

650 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does the government intend to accept part of Koolpinyah lease in exchange for granting Koolpinyah management an additional lease?

2. If so, what is (a) the location and area of land Koolpinyah is to relinquish to the government and, (b) the location and area of the new land to be released to Koolpinyah?

ANSWER

The position as at 3 June 1982 is as follows:

Negotiations are continuing with the lessee of Koolpinyah pastoral lease aimed at rationalising the property boundaries and land exchanges may be involved. The location and area of the land that may be involved depends on the results of those negotiations and an announcement will be made on their successful conclusion.

Koolpinyah Boundaries

651 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

I refer to the proposed 'Rationalisation of boundaries for Koolpinyah' and ask: Is it a fact that both the Department of Primary Production and the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority recommended against the proposed re-drawing of the boundaries and, if so, on what information did Cabinet agree on 22 December 1981 to accept in principle the proposed re-drawing of the boundaries?

ANSWER

The position as at 3 June 1982 is as follows:

Negotiations are continuing with the lessee of Koolpinyah pastoral lease in order to rationalise the property boundaries. These negotiations are being held following advice from all relevant departments and authorities.

In vitro Fertilisation Research

653 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the NT government, through the Department of Health, intend to provide funds for further research into *in vitro* fertilisation as Northern Territory couples are affected by it?

ANSWER

The NT Department of Health has not been involved in the highly specialised research program of *in vitro* fertilisation and no proposal has been submitted for research in this field.

Grants-in-Aid, Nhulunbuy Sporting Bodies

654 Mr LEO to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

I refer to his answer to question No. 605 and ask what was the breakdown of the $27,199 provided through grants-in-aid to Nhulunbuy sporting bodies during 1980-81?

ANSWER

The following grants make up the total of $27,199 provided through grants-in-aid to Nhulunbuy sporting bodies during 1980 and 1981:

Gove Peninsula Surf Life Saving Club (Travel)	$ 4,154
Gove Junior Soccer Association (Equipment)	$ 420
Gove Squash Club (Facilities and Coaching/Training)	$ 8,875
Gove Boating Club (Facilities)	$ 3,500
Gove Country Golf Club (Facilities)	$ 8,000
Nhulunbuy Police and Citizens Youth Club for the Judo Club (Equipment)	$ 2,250
	$ 27,199

Dangerous Goods Act Commencement

655 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why has the Dangerous Goods Act, assented to in January 1981, not yet come into operation?

ANSWER

The Dangerous Goods Act cannot be brought into operation until the necessary Dangerous Goods Regulations have been drafted. The delay in preparing these regulations has been caused by the difficulty of recruiting suitable staff for the Dangerous Goods Branch of the Department of Mines and Energy.

Only very limited resources were available to carry out the initial drafting of these regulations until the Chief Inspector of Dangerous Goods was recruited in December 1981. Recruiting for this position commenced in September 1980 and no suitable applicant was found until late last year. A supervising inspector was recruited in May 1981 but initially most of his time was taken up with the day to day activities of the newly established branch.

The Dangerous Goods Act covers 8 classes of hazardous chemicals including, explosives, flammable gases and liquids, oxidising agents, poisons and corrosive substances. The regulations are being drafted in sections to cover both general requirements and those specific to each class of chemical. They are therefore both complex and detailed.

Wherever possible suitable Australian codes and regulations from other states are being utilised. However, these need to be checked for consistency with the Dangerous Goods Act and conditions in the Territory.

Tender, RFDS Hangar, Alice Springs

656 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Who was the successful tenderer for the Royal Flying Doctor Service hangar facility at Alice Springs airport?
2. Was this decision consistent with the Tender Board's recommendation?
3. What were the grounds on which the decision was based?

ANSWER

It is noted the honourable Member asks about the successful tenderer for the Royal Flying Doctor Service hangar facility at Alice Springs Airport.

In response, I wish to advise that neither I, as a member of the government, nor officers of my Department of Health, are competent, nor indeed have authority, to answer questions on behalf of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. In view of this, may I suggest that the Member addresses the question to the administration of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Land Purchases, Northlakes and Brinkin

659 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has the government purchased, or does it intend to purchase, blocks of land at the Northlakes Country Club Estate and at Brinkin?

2. If so, for what purpose has the government made or intend to make these purchases?

ANSWER

No.

Recreation Lake, Alice Springs

661 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I draw his attention to the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority report tabled in the Assembly on 11 March 1982 in which, in relation to Welatje Terre, the proposed site for the recreation lake, it was stated that it was hoped that alternative locations for the proposed development may be identified in the near future, and ask:

1. Is he able to advise of any such alternative sites?

2. What is the relative feasibility of each site in comparison with Welatje Terre?

3. If no alternative sites have been identified, will the government proceed with construction of a recreation lake at Welatje Terre and, if so, when will the work commence and when is the project expected to be completed?

ANSWER

1. At least 5 possible sites have been examined, including Pyberingie and Ildjarabada on Jay Creek, Birthday Gap on the Hugh River, and Wigley Gorge and the Old Telegraph Station on the Todd River.

2. A feasibility report has been prepared covering the 3 sites selected for closer scrutiny, namely the Old Telegraph Station (Todd River), Birthday Gap (Hugh River) and Ildjarabada (Jay Creek).

   The following is part of a feasibility report showing comparisons between these sites:

   9. COMPARISON WITH OTHER SITES

   This section presents an updated comparison of the three sites previously identified as of most interest.

   In order to provide valid comparisons of the size and storage behaviour of the sites, it is assumed that dams at Ildjarabada and Birthday Gap would be of a size so as to display hydrologic similarity, with the Todd proposal - that is, each design storage volume in approximately the same proportion to the available run-off and hence catchment area. Hence in each case, although the actual lake surface areas differ,

the relationship between proportion of maximum area and percentage of time availabe would be similar.

The main items for comparison are listed in the following table:

Comparison of Sites

	Telegraph Station (Todd River)	Birthday Gap (Hugh River)	Ildjarabada (Jay Creek)
LAND TENURE	RESERVE/CROWN	PASTORAL LEASE	ABORIGINAL
Distance from Alice Springs (km)	5	68	47
Length of access road required (km)	1	11	2
Accessibility of waters edge	Good	Fair	Good
Catchment area (km^2)	400	310	223
Assumed storage volume (10^6 m^3)	4.3	3.8	2.6
Corresponding surface area (ha)	92	96	64
Estimated surface area exceeded for 90% of time	60	60	45
Maximum depth (m)	13	10	11
Preliminary total cost estimate	$2.1m	$3.5m	$1.3m
Cost per hectare of water provided (when full)	$23,000	$36,000	$20,000

The significantly higher cost of the Birthday Gap site is attributable to high costs of access, clearing and leakage problems. The higher cost of the Todd site compared with Ildjarabada is due to the additional work on saddle weirs and miscellaneous works.

A number of other matters are relevant to the comparison of sites:

(a) Although the cost per hectare offered could favour the Ildjarabada site, this does not allow for the economic benefit which would flow from using the Todd site for watering parks and gardens. As discussed in 5.06, the present net benefit of the scheme is at least $1.1 million, which negates half the cost of the Todd site. No worthwhile net benefit would be applicable to a similar scheme for Ildjarabada, because of the distance involved. When the economic benefit associated with flood attenuation is also considered, it is apparent that the real cost per hectare of providing water for recreation at the Todd is in fact much less than for Ildjarabada.

(b) The Birthday Gap site, by virtue of the topography offered, could offer a high level development with corresponding large storage. Such a development would not be appropriate for a recreation lake owing to the cost and because the storage behaviour would be highly irregular. However, it could be economically attractive in future years as a major water supply storage for Alice Springs - water would be used as and when available from the storage as an alternative to or in conjunction with groundwater.

(c) In an engineering-geological survey by the Department of Mines and Energy (report in preparation) it has been found that the Birthday Gap site, while suitable for high development, may not be suitable for a low development. This is due to matters relating to foundation permeability and weathering at the spillway site.

(d) Whether the relative proximity to Alice Springs of the Todd site

is regarded as an advantage depends on one's point of view. Arguments in favour of the Todd include convenience for the public and the relative ease of management (because it is close to existing management machinery).

(e) Although there is little appropriate date for Jay Creek and the Hugh River, sediment flows in those rivers are probably lower than in the Todd. This implies that the Todd site would have a shorter life, but is not necessarily a valid consideration because:

(i) a sand trap on Jay Creek or the Hugh River would not be as beneficial as at the Todd because there would be no potential for mining of the sand; and

(ii) the high sediment load in the Todd may be a justification for the Todd lake in itself, as discussed in Section 4.07.

(f) Any undesirable environmental effects of a lake would possibly be of more significance in the case of the Todd. No major effects have been identified at this stage, however.

Consideration of the above aspects and the information contained generally in this report confirms earlier indications that the Todd River offers the best site for a recreation lake. Ildjarabada offers the second-best site, although it would not be viable without the support of the Aboriginal land owners.

Acting Secretary
Department of Transport and Works
Darwin

The Director
Office of Aboriginal Liaison
P.O. Box 4396
DARWIN N.T. 5794

Attention: Mr L.A. KENT

QUESTION ON NOTICE No. 661 - PROPOSED SITE FOR RECREATIONAL LAKE - WELATJE TERRE

The concept of a recreation lake in Alice Springs region dates back many years. At least five possible sites have been examined, including Pyberingie and Ildjarabada on Jay Creek, Birthday Gap on the Hugh River, and Wigley Gorge and the Old Telegraph Station on the Todd River.

Of these, three were selected for closer scrutiny and I enclose copies of part of a feasibility report showing comparisons between these sites.

The Old Telegraph Station site near Alice Springs was eventually selected as being the most favourable on the grounds of distances, accessibility, storage and depth. In addition, the lake could be used for flood mitigation and for watering recreational areas.

Reports on the feasibility, Hydrology Water Quality and Environment have been prepared and the proposal has been widely publicised.

At this stage no firm commitment has been made to commence construction of a recreation lake in the Alice Springs region. It is seen as a political decision.

Should you require any further details please contact Mr Colin Brown of the Water Division on 896655.

(Sgd) C.J. FULLER

3. The matter is still under consideration.

Flagpoles, NT Buildings

664 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to question No. 587 and ask:

What is the cost of the supply of flagpoles for erection at all Northern Territory buildings?

ANSWER

Cost of supply and installation of flagpoles as at 31 March 1982 is $64,390.

Sale of Housing Commission Units

665 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many people in (a) Alice Springs, (b) Darwin, (c) Tennant Creek, and (d) Katherine have purchased housing units of various types since the government announced its home purchase scheme in October 1981?
2. How many units of various types have been released for sale in (a) Alice Springs, (b) Darwin, (c) Tennant Creek, and (d) Katherine since the scheme was announced?
3. How many people in (a) Alice Springs, (b) Darwin, (c) Tennant Creek, and (d) Katherine have listed their names with the Tenancy Section of the Housing Commission expressing interest in purchasing units of various types?

ANSWER

As the Housing Commission's home purchase schemes for detached 2, 3 and 4-bedroom housing units have been operating in the Territory since well before 1981, it is assumed that the honourable member's question refers to the recently introduced strata title unit sales scheme.

1. In Darwin 14 tenants have purchased town houses since October 1981. No sales of flats, units or town houses have been effected at the other centres.
2. All commission dwelling units which are assessed as suitable under unit titles legislation, will be made available for sale to tenants.

   All new development throughout the Territory is designed to comply to strata title requirements and is 'released' for sale to existing or new tenants upon handover.
3. In Darwin, 20 tenants have listed their names expressing interest in transferring to purchase new town houses currently under construction. Five tenants have applied at Katherine whilst no applications have been recorded at Alice Springs or Tennant Creek.

Accommodation for Single-parent Families

666 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Does the Housing Commission require evidence of custody of children from single-parent families who apply for rental accommodation?

ANSWER

No. However, where marriage breakup is involved this commission requests a statutory declaration confirming physical custody.

Medical Evacuations

668 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many medical evacuations for interstate specialist attention were recommended by (a) private GPs, and (b) government hospital doctors in the Territory from August 1980 to August 1981?
2. How many medical evacuations for interstate specialist attention were recommended by (a) private GPs, and (b) government hospital doctors from 1 September 1981 to 31 March 1982?

ANSWER

Only government hospital doctors are permitted to authorize medical evacuations for interstate specialist attention, under the Northern Territory government's medical evacuation scheme.

Between August 1980 and August 1981, 129 patients were evacuated; 62 patients were evacuated between 1 September 1981 and 31 March 1982.

Under the Commonwealth government's Isolated Patients Travel Accommodation and Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS), both private general practitioners and government hospital doctors may authorize medical evacuations. I am advised that the Commonwealth government does not record whether the evacuations were authorized by private general practitioners or government hospital doctors.

The number of patients evacuated between August 1980 and August 1981 was 1,462 and between 1 September 1981 and 31 March 1982, 505.

School, Ayers Rock

671 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many school-age children are currently living at Ayers Rock?
2. When will his department provide a school for these children?

ANSWER

1. The number of school-aged children at Ayers Rock varies between 8 and 18.
2. A permanent school for children in the area is planned in the first stage of construction of Yulara village. In the meantime a temporary school will be established for the construction camp associated with the Yulara project and the Ayers Rock children will attend this school. This temporary school will open at the beginning of the second semester 1982.

Community Adviser, Ayers Rock

672 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Will his department fund the position of community adviser at Ayers Rock?
2. If not, why not?

ANSWER

1. The Department of Community Development has no plans to fund a position of community adviser at Ayers Rock.
2. The department does not, as a general rule, provide funding to communites for the employment of advisers.

Relocation of Pintubis

673 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When does he expect the findings on the review of the relocation of the Pintubi at Kintore and elsewhere to be made known to the Kintore community and relevant government departments?

ANSWER

The review of the Pintubi relocation movement was undertaken by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the question should be directed accordingly.

Petrol Sniffing Workshop

674 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What action has resulted from an interdepartmental workshop on petrol sniffing held at Papunya on 24 February 1982?

ANSWER

Following the Papunya workshop a meeting of Department of Community Development officers was held in Alice Springs. Subsequent to this meeting the department has commenced consultation with the Lyappa Congress with the view to providing material assistance to the Brown's Bore Outstation where it had been proposed that sniffers be rehabilitated.

Discussions are continuing with the Papunya police and the courts regarding provisions of the Child Welfare Act which relate to protective custody. As well, a working committee has been established with departmental representation to assist with the implementation of the motion carried at the Papunya workshop.

Beef Trade with South-east Asia

676 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does he realise that the attitude of NT meat processors towards our northern neighbours Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Phillipines directly affects the BTB eradication campaign and the development of the beef industry in the NT?
2. If so, will he review the licences of abattoirs that do not accept the NT policy of seeking trade with South-east Asia?

ANSWER

The continued progress of the BTB eradication campaign in the NT and the establishment of alternative markets for NT beef other than the US export market are issues central to the development of the beef industry in the NT.

Producers must have viable export markets for their product to ensure that they are economically capable of maintaining and strengthening their BTB eradication program.

The NT government has already taken an initiative in this direction by seeking a dispensation from the Commonwealth to allow the export of meat from NT domestic abattoirs to meet the needs of the South-east Asian markets.

With regard to NT meat processors, the question implies that some NT abattoirs are resistant to the expansion of our frozen meat trade with South-east Asian countries.

I believe it is in the interests of the whole spectrum of the cattle industry from the producer through to the abattoir owner and the shipper to develop new markets. The government would certainly review its position if, by any chance, a particular organisation appeared to be working against the interests of the NT cattle industry as a whole.

Beef for South-east Asia

677 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In view of the crisis situation which exists in the NT beef industry, will he take urgent steps to contact Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines to determine if beef killed to Australian domestic standards is acceptable and if they require quotes and proposals to supply?

ANSWER

The Chief Minister has already written letters relating to this government initiative addressed to the heads of government of neighbouring countries regarding the Northern Territory government's policy on Australian domestic standard beef to South-east Asia.

Award Wages, Katherine Meatworks

679 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does the government realise that its efforts to develop the beef industry in the Top End are being hampered by the Katherine Meatworks making over-award sweetheart agreements with AMIEU members?

2. Will the government ensure that this meatworks operates under the AMIEU award or on contract kill as do other meatworks in the Territory?

ANSWER

1. The government is aware of previous complaints from the industry relating to the cost of killing at Katherine Meatworks.

2. The honourable member can be assured that the government will do everything in its power to encourage meatworks to play a very full part in achieving a competitively priced product for our markets, as well as providing the producer with a fair return for his cattle.

Shop Leases, Jabiru

681 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many of the 7 speciality shops available for lease in Jabiru have been leased?

2. To whom have they been leased?

3. What is the period of each lease?

4. What are the terms and conditions of each lease?

ANSWER

1. None of the 7 speciality shops available for lease in Jabiru have, to date, been formally leased, the hold up being the preparation of the sublease documents in registerable form. The land tenure system which will apply to the group of 7 speciality shops is as follows:

   - The land, the subject of the lease, will be vested in the Director, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service in fee simple.

   - The Jabiru Town Development Authority will obtain a lease over this land.

- Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) will then obtain a sublease over the land from the JTDA.
- The individual operators of the speciality shops will obtain subleases over the space which they occupy, from ERA, who are the owners of the buildings.

2. ERA will enter into commercial sublease arrangements with each of the operators of the 7 speciality shops, subject to the finalisation of ERA sublease over the land from JTDA.

   In order that the opening of the shops not be delayed while awaiting finalisation of leasing arrangements, ERA has issued letters of intent and understanding over draft sublease agreements to the following businessmen:

• Snack bar/take-away-food	Mr Alberto Luglietti
• Hairdresser	Mr and Mrs John Mills
• Newsagent	Mr B.T. Seeleither
• Post office	Australia Post.

   Applications for the remaining 3 shops are still under consideration.

3. JTDA lease from the director will be for a period of 40 years and ERA lease from the JTDA is expected to be for 40 years less 1 day, and it is expected that the term of the sublease for the individual shops will be for normal commercial periods, say, 5 years with the right of renewal for a further 5 years.

4. The terms and conditions, being commercial sublease agreements between ERA and the shopkeepers, are unavailable.

Supermarket Lease, Jabiru

682 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Which company has been given the lease of the supermarket at Jabiru?
2. What is the period of the lease?
3. What are the terms and conditions of the lease?

ANSWER

1. Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) will be granted a sublease by the Jabiru Town Development Authority (JTDA) over the land occupied by the supermarket. It is expected that ERA will enter into a commercial sublease agreement with the supermarket operator, who will be Casuarina Pharmacy Pty Ltd.

   It is expected that JTDA sublease to ERA will be finalised within the next 2 months, which is estimated to be the time necessary to survey the land in question and to produce the survey plan and sublease documents in registerable form. In order that opening of the shop is not delayed, ERA has issued a letter of intent and understanding over a draft sublease agreement to Casuarina Pharmacy Pty Ltd.

2. It is expected that the period of Casuarina Pharmacy Pty Ltd sublease from ERA will be 20 years with the right of renewal for a further 10 years.

3. The terms and conditions, being commercial sublease agreement, between ERA and Casuarina Pharmacy Pty Ltd are not available.

Development Costs, Jabiru

683 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has a formal cost sharing arrangement on the funding of the development of Jabiru between the JTDA and the mining companies been signed?

2. If yes, what are the details of this cost sharing agreement?

ANSWER

1. A formal cost sharing agreement on the funding of the capital cost of construction of the town of Jabiru between the Jabiru Town Development Authority and the mining companies has not yet been signed, but negotiations have reached an advanced stage which should permit execution of the agreement before the end of June 1982.

2. The details of the cost sharing agreement are not available at this stage.

Operational Funding, Jabiru

684 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has an agreement been reached between the JTDA and mining companies over the funding of the operational costs of the town?

2. If yes, what are the details of this agreement?

ANSWER

1. Interim agreement has been reached between Jabiru Town Development Authority and Energy Resources of Australia over the funding of the operational costs of the town, but it is not intended to enter into a formal agreement with the mining companies until the capital cost sharing agreement has been finalised and executed.

2. The town is currently operating under a town management budget for 1981-82, which was approved by the Chief Minister in May 1981. The budget provides for the levying of municipal rates on property owners in the town, to cover the operating deficit which would otherwise have occurred. Municipal rates are being paid this financial year on all properties where building had commenced by 1 July 1981 and rates and charges for sewerage, water supply and garbage have also been introduced in accordance with the approved budget.

   The terms of the formal agreement between the JTDA and the mining companies to cover operational costs of the town are not yet available.

Rating System, Jabiru

685 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Was a rating system for Jabiru introduced on 1 July 1981 as indicated in page 22 of the JTDA Annual Report?

2. If yes, what are the details of this rating system?

ANSWER

1. A system of town rates has been introduced in Jabiru with an effective commencement date of 1 July 1981, as indicated on page 22 of the JTDA Annual Report, as tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

2. The JTDA set a budget for operation and maintenance of the township. This budget was submitted to the Chief Minister for approval and was so approved.

   The Valuer-General determined the UCV of residential and commercial

blocks of land within the township. The amount of revenue required for operations was divided by the total UCV of all rateable blocks and a rate per dollar of UCV was obtained. This was then adopted as the town rate.

The purchase of capital plant and equipment, while included in the budget approved by the Chief Minister, was funded directly by ERA and was not included in the general rate calculation.

Administration Staff, Jabiru

686 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

How many people are (a) employed, and (b) at what levels, in the town administrator's office in Jabiru?

ANSWER

(a) There are 4 staff members including the town manager.

A further 6 workmen are employed on a contract hire hourly rate from a local contractor to carry out town maintenance under the works supervisor, who is one of the above 4 staff members.

(b) Staff are aligned to NTPS salary rates:

Town Manager	E3
Accounts Clerk	A7
Secretary/Typist	A3
Works Supervisor	W/S

Aboriginal Education Allocations

687 Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What financial allocations were received from the Commonwealth government for Aboriginal education in 1980-81 and 1981-82?
2. Did Dhupuma College, (a) ever receive a specific allocation of Commonwealth funding and, if so, (b) when, (c) how much, and (d) for what purpose?

ANSWER

1. In 1980-81 there were no Commonwealth grants made to the Department of Education specifically for Aboriginal education.

   In 1981-82 the department received one grant of $125,000 from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to cover salary costs of Aboriginal teachers in homeland centres and one grant amounting to $74,000 from the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs to provide automotive apprenticeship training for community based Aboriginals.

2. The department has no record of Dhupuma College having received any Commonwealth grants during 1979-80 which was the only year the college operated under Northern Territory government control.

Salt and Lime Supplies

688 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

What action is being taken to supply NT needs for salt and lime?

ANSWER

Currently most bulk salt used in the Northern Territory is imported by road freight from South Australia. Major users are abattoirs who require considerable quantities to preserve cattle and buffalo hides sent inter-

state for processing. Freight costs incurred for the 'top end' are $120 per tonne. As the need for salt for hide preservation and other uses grows it is envisaged that volume may be sufficient to import by sea, which would be less costly.

Investigations have been undertaken in the past to use salt evaporation ponds in Darwin for local supply but the proponents have considered the operation uneconomical.

Lime is also presently imported into the Territory from South Australia, although a locally established firm, Northern Cement Pty Ltd, is proposing to establish a quick-lime manufacturing plant in Darwin. When established, the plant will supply lime to the building industry, to water and sewerage treatment services and to the growing need for lime in the uranium ore treatment operations.

Northern Cement has already expended considerable resources in efforts to identify suitable limestone deposits for local lime manufacture and those efforts are continuing. If suitable local deposits are not located the proposed manufacturing plant will import limestone.

Encouragement of Horticulturists

690 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What practical encouragement is being given to horticulturists in the Katherine district to grow vegetables and fruit in competition with growers 2,000 miles away?

ANSWER

Most of the research work being conducted at the Berrimah Experimental Farm is directly applicable to the horticulturists in Katherine. Officers from the Horticulture Section are advising Katherine growers on cropping programs, new techniques in irrigation and plastic mulch laying. Small lots of seed of promising new vegetable varieties are under test in the Katherine area.

Horticultural officers are presently establishing a fruit and vegetable block for teaching purposes at the Katherine Research Education Centre.

A new DPP soil testing service has been established for horticulturists, and most horticultural farms in the Katherine area have been tested and growers have been provided with fertiliser recommendations for their various crops.

Studies are also being initiated to coordinate the cropping programs of growers in the Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs areas to ensure better continuity of supply to the local markets of many fruits and vegetables.

Cost of Transfer - Regional Office

691 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What were the removal and re-establishment costs involved in the transfer of the Northern Region office from the old Darwin hospital to Casuarina?

ANSWER

Cost of removal and re-establishment of the Northern Region office to Block 4, Darwin Hospital was approximately $11,400. This figure is comprised of the cost of removal and the installation of telephones at Block 4.

Golden Perch

694 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Has the Department of Primary Production thoroughly examined the possible impact of the introduction of golden perch into Top End streams?
2. If so, is he confident that there will not be any harmful effects of such an action?
3. Will he make available to the Assembly the report of his department on the possible impact of the introduction of these fish when it is complete?

ANSWER

1. Preliminary investigations have been carried out and more detailed studies will continue as information becomes available. These preliminary investigations show that -

   Golden perch is indigenous to the central Australian river drainage system (Barkly Tableland region of the Northern Territory).

   There are no provisions under the *Fish and Fisheries Act* prohibiting the translocation of fish indigenous to the Northern Territory from one drainage system to another within the Northern Territory.

   On 4 March 1982, Mr L. Ah Toy of Koolpinyah Station was issued with a 'C' class licence under the *Fish and Fisheries Act* (Licence No. 82/C/029) to culture live fish for sale in accordance with specific conditions relating to same, namely:

   (i) golden perch (*Macquaria ambigua*) shall be released only in discrete ponds on Koolpinyah Station which are secure from accidental escape into the adjoining natural water system;

   (ii) unimpeded access will be provided to officers of the Fisheries Division to examine the state of ponds containing golden perch; and

   (iii) directions from the Director of Fisheries to make alterations to improve the security of golden perch held under the licence will be duly and expeditiously implemented by the licensee.

   On 7 April 1982, the Director of Fisheries issued a permit under the *Fish and Fisheries Act* to Mr Ah Toy to bring into the Northern Territory 2,000 golden perch fingerlings from New South Wales on the basis that their feasibility for fish farming in the top end could be examined under controlled conditions. Approval for this feasibility experiment to proceed was made with the knowledge that -

   - Mt Isa Mines introduced golden perch from the Georgina River system into Lake Moondarra (Queensland) and whilst the fish survived and matured, breeding failed to take place (Midgley; Freshwater Fisheries Consultant to Mt Isa Mines, pers. comm.);
   - that golden perch were introduced into the Mary River (Queensland east coast) and whilst the fish survived and matured, breeding failed to take place (Midgley, pers. comm.);
   - breeding failed to take place in these areas due to unsuitable environmental conditions, particularly high water temperatures.

2. Yes.
3. Yes.

Sealing, Bees Creek Road

695 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

A great number of residents of my electorate are forced to use Bees Creek road as an access road to the Stuart Highway, sometimes several times each day. Could he advise if and when the government intends to upgrade and seal this badly corrugated dirt road?

ANSWER

The first stage of the upgrading of Bees Creek Road is proposed for commencement in the 1983-84 financial year.

The work proposed is reconstruction and sealing between the Stuart Highway and Lowther Road - a distance of approximately 1.5 km - at an estimated cost of $0.3m.

Further upgrading stages will be included in later programs.

Patoral Lease Roll-overs

698 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Will he provide details of the applications received for the roll-over of pastoral leases since March 1981?

2. What action has been taken in respect of these applications?

ANSWER

Details of applications received for the roll-over of pastoral leases since March 1981 and subsequent action taken -

Pastoral Lease	Date of Application	Action to Date
Argadargada	31.3.81	Inspected by Land Board, roll-over granted by Minister.
Mulga Park	15.6.81	Inspected by Land Board, report yet to be sent to Minister.
Lilla Creek	18.6.81	Inspected by Land Board, report sent to Minister.
Hamilton Downs	16.10.81	Inspected by Land Board, roll-over granted by Minister.
Alcoota	6.12.81	As above.
Dalmore Downs	20.1.82	To be referred to Land Board for inspection and report following comments received from other departments.
Alroy Downs	20.1.82	As above.
Tarlton Downs	25.2.82	As above.
Owen Springs	1.3.82	As above.
Mt Skinner	16.3.82	As above.
Tipperary	25.3.82	Application deferred until new Crown Lands Act receives assent.
Elizabeth Downs	25.3.82	As above.
Litchfield	25.3.82	As above.
Forster	25.3.82	As above.
Murray Downs	29.3.82	To be referred to Land Board for inspection and report following comments received from other departments.
Glen Helen	29.3.82	As above.
Tennant Creek	26.5.82	As above.
Indiana	27.5.82	As above.

Driving Time Limits

701 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How does the government intend to implement section 26A of the Traffic Act which places a limit on the time for which drivers of certain vehicles may remain continuously on duty?

ANSWER

My department is currently reviewing all land transport legislation, including the limits on driving placed in section 26A of the Traffic Act, their appropriateness and the most effective means of enforcement. The emphasis is on potential road safety benefits taking account of Northern Territory conditions and experiences elsewhere in attempting to control driving hours. These aspects are also being considered at the national level.

Airfare Increases

702 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In its submission to the Independent Airfares Committee, the government stated it was prepared to allow IAC to set airfares in the Territory provided IAC gave the Territory government comprehensive advice on proposed airfare determinations on Territory routes, including the cost data on which any increases are based.

What information did IAC provide to the Territory government to justify the recent 7% increase in Territory airfares?

ANSWER

The IAFC has established a format for airfares reviews which requires that detailed information be submitted on movements in direct and indirect operating costs.

The information supplied by ANA was most comprehensive and complied in every way with the requirements of the IAFC who, after consideration, considered the fare increase justified.

Chemical Contamination

703 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Is the occupational hygiene section of his department adequately equipped to conduct tests on workers who may have been contaminated with chemicals and solvents?
2. What action will he take to ensure that appropriate medical records are kept of workers handling dangerous substances or operating in hazardous environments?
3. Has the occupational hygiene section of his department (a) monitored levels of exposure to various chemicals and solvents at the BTR Ranger site, and if so, (b) on what date did this commence, and (c) what were the findings?
4. What, if any, provisions exist to require companies to be aware of levels of contamination to which workers may be subject when using chemicals or solvents, or operating in hazardous environments?

ANSWER

In providing a response to the several parts of this question, it may be helpful to mention the respective roles of employer, responsible for the maintenance of safe working conditions and provision of appropriate equipment (including protective equipment), and the Departments of Mines

and Energy, which administers regulations and standards, provides inspectors to ensure compliance, furnishes advice and so forth. It is the policy of the department in meeting its responsibilities to stress the importance of safe practices and conditions, to test the workplace rather than the worker.

1. The Occupational Hygiene Section of the Department of Mines and Energy is well equipped to monitor, sample and carry out analytical work on the environment, including the working environment. Work of this nature commenced in the Ranger project area in 1978.

   Atmospheric, radiation and noise parameters are monitored as a matter of routine. The department also co-operates with the Department of Health in other related work, including analyses of biological samples taken by the Department of Health.

2. Full medical records of workers who present with medical problems resulting from the handling of dangerous substances or from operating in hazardous environments are kept in the Department of Health's hospitals and community health centres. In addition specialised occupational health records are maintained by the Central Office of the Department of Health in accordance with the relevant legislation.

3. (a) Yes.

   (b) 27 May 1982.

   (c) Two sets of samples taken on this day at the BTR Ranger site of work, where the solvents xylene and toluene were being used together, showed concentrations, averaged over 30 minutes, of 11 and 5 parts per million and 57 and 258 parts per million respectively. The recommended National Health and Medical Research Council standards for continuous exposure over the working life to xylene and toluene are 100 parts per million each. It will be seen that whilst the xylene concentrations give no cause for alarm, those for toluene require care by ventilation, provision of protective equipment, or in some other way, to ensure that the long-term average is not exceeded for individual workers.

   The department was approached several months ago by Messrs BTR, who are specialists in industrial rubber work, and discussion have been held between Messrs BTR, Ranger Uranium Mines, the Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union and the department, on the precautions appropriate to the work, including protective clothing and equipment. The work situation and the precautions in force, appear safe and satisfactory to the various parties, with the exception of a small number of individual workmen who are understood to object to wearing the protection stipulated.

4. Provision exists in the Mines Safety Regulations Part V for the definition of acceptable levels of concentrations of chemical substances which may be present in the workplace.

   Part V of the Mines Safety Control Act makes the manager responsible, unless the context otherwise indicates, for compliance with the requirements of the regulations and for ensuring a safe working environment at the mine.

Buffaloes for PNG

704 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What was (a) the cost of the buffaloes purchased for the Papua New Guinea export project at the Beatrice Hill Research Station, and (b) from

where were the buffaloes purchased?

ANSWER

250 head of buffalo heifers were purchased on the open market for $45.30 per head for the Beatrice Hill-Coastal Plains Research Stations export project. The buffaloes were from Mudginberri Station.

201 head of buffaloes in excellent condition have been delivered to the Department of Primary Industry, Papua New Guinea. The animals were unloaded at Wewak on 16 June 1982.

Buffalo Export Project Staff

705 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

How many extra staff were (a) appointed to the Breatrice Hill Research Station to carry out the latest buffalo export project, (b) were these extra staff transferred from within the Department of Primary Production, and (c) if so, from what sections were they drawn?

ANSWER

There were no staff appointed specifically for the export project.

Two extra people were appointed to the Veterinary Field Research Section for buffalo domestication and research projects. One labourer was deployed from Tortilla Research Station to Veterinary Field Research Section. All 3 people are based at Beatrice Hill.

Buffalo domestication control and research has a high priority in the Department of Primary Production and is an on-going project. The export project was part of the larger project but has provided much information and experience which has proved of great value to both the department and to the buffalo industry.

Aborigines Employed in Conservation Commission

706 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many Aborigines are employed by the Conservation Commission in the southern administrative region?
2. Of these, how many are employed as rangers, and in which parks or reserves are they currently employed?
3. Does the Conservation Commission conduct ranger training programs for Aborigines in (a) the southern region, and (b) the northern region, and, if so, how many people have (c) received training, or (d) are receiving training in (i) the southern region, and (ii) the northern region?

ANSWER

1. Eighteen persons identifying as Aboriginal or of Aboriginal descent were employed by the Conservation Commission in the southern region at 28 June 1982.

   Positions of employment included plant operators, field assistants, drivers, technical assistants, consultants, ranger trainees and utility staff.

2. At 28 June 1982, 2 were employed as trainee rangers, with arrangements in hand to recruit an additional 3. No Aboriginals are currently appointed as rangers in the southern region. The parks concerned are Uluru (Ayers Rock-Mt Olga) and Ormiston Gorge.

3. A comprehensive training program for all Conservation Commission rangers was devised last year and is now being implemented, subject to the availability of funds. In addition, the Commonwealth has been approached for funds to enable expansion of the program at Uluru.

   (a) in the southern region, 2 Aborigines are currently receiving training as rangers and action is in hand to recruit another 3 trainees.

   (b) In the northern region, 3 Aborigines are currently receiving training as rangers and action is in hand to recruit another 5 trainees.

Housing Commission Home Loans

708 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. With regard to the operation of the NT Housing Commission home loans scheme during 1981-82, (a) how many loans were advanced, (b) how many applications were received, (c) what is the value of the average loan advanced, and (d) what is the total value of dwellings financed through the scheme?

2. In what towns or suburbs have houses been built with assistance from the NTHC home loans scheme since the scheme's inception?

3. What is the average waiting time from lodgement of application until receipt of the loan?

ANSWER

1. (a) 488; (b) 799; (c) $42,484; and (d) $29,376,560.

2. Darwin - all suburbs excluding city area - Kahlin, Anula, Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Alice Springs.

3. 6 to 8 weeks.

Teachers, Amaroo and Utopia

709 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will replacements be obtained for (a) Mr Keefe and Ms Nash, who have resigned from teaching positions at Amaroo Station, and (b) Mr and Mrs Churchill, who are due to leave Department of Education employ at Utopia Station in June 1982?

ANSWER

Replacement teachers for Amaroo Station and Utopia Station will commence duty at the beginning of the second semester 19 July 1982.

Advisory Services, Primary Production

710 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Given the recent resignation of the Department of Primary Production officer whose prime responsibility was provision of advice to the pig, poultry, dairy, and crocodile industries, what action has been taken to ensure that adequate departmental resources are available to assist in these areas?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Production is continuing to make available extension advice to the pig, poultry, dairy and crocodile industries. The position recently made vacant has been advertised in Queensland Country Life and the NT News. Pending an appointment, arrangements have been made for another officer to provide this service to producers.

Fish Silage

711 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Has the government investigated the potential for a fish silage industry in the Northern Territory?
2. Is it the intention of the government to support such a potential industry with loans or grants if investigations prove to be encouraging?

ANSWER

1. Yes. An application was received under the Northern Territory Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund and considered by the Northern Territory Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund Advisory Committee.
2. Yes. Acting with the advice of the Northern Territory Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund Advisory Committee, I approved the inclusion of the fish silage project within the development projects approved for the Fisheries Division and allocated a further $10,000 to the Fisheries Division under the Gear Development Loan Scheme to further investigate gear loan assistance for the development of this project.

Disease Eradication

712 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Could the herd control measures being introduced to eradicate brucellosis and tuberculosis in cattle also help to eradicate other diseases?

ANSWER

Clearly, herd control measures being introduced to eradicate brucellosis and tuberculosis in cattle will also be available to help eradicate other diseases. Property improvements, such as fencing and water traps, enable animals to be segregated into identifiable groups and regularly mustered for testing. These facilities from the basis for the control and eradication of brucellosis and tuberculosis through testing and culling, and would also be able to be used for the control and eradication of other diseases.

Brucellosis and TB Eradication Funding

713 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

If the federal government does meet the demands of the BTB Committee, will the NT government fund the eradication program?

ANSWER

Will the honourable member please rephrase the question as its meaning is not clear.

Cattle Exports to Indonesia

715 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Does the NT government intend to accept the same responsibility for assuring TB-free status of live breeder cattle exports to Indonesia as it now accepts for buffalo?

ANSWER

International trade in live animals exported from or imported into Australia is subject to Commonwealth authority and responsibility.

Regulation 96A of the Commonwealth Quarantine Act provides that:

(1) A person shall not export an animal that is a bird or mammal unless the animal has been examined by a quarantine officer who is a veterinary surgeon during the period of forty-eight hours immediately preceding shipment.

(a) A quarantine officer who has examined any such animal intended for export shall grant such certificates relating to the freedom of the animal from disease or otherwise as the circumstances require.

Just as animals imported into Australia must meet the health conditions prescribed by the Commonwealth government, animals exported to Indonesia must meet the health requirements prescribed by the Indonesian government.

While the Commonwealth government is ultimately responsible for ensuring that breeder cattle exported to Indonesia meet the conditions for TB freedom prescribed by the Indonesian government, the responsibility extends to the producer, the exporter and the certifying officer. Substantial penalties are provided under the Commonwealth Quarantine Act, including Regulation 96A.

Although no State or Territory government has jurisdiction over Australia's international trade in livestock, the NT government provides veterinary services to assist Territory producers and exporters to present animals for export which meet the health requirements of the various importing countries.

Cattle Exports to Indonesia

716 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Does the NT government intend to negotiate long term contracts with Indonesia for the supply of breeder cattle in line with the establishment of the buffalo domestication program?

ANSWER

It is unlikely that the Indonesian government will agree to purchase breeder cattle from the Northern Territory until both brucellosis and tuberculosis have been eradicated from areas in the Northern Territory which can otherwise supply suitable cattle.

Building Regulations, Katherine

717 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Are prospective purchasers of residential blocks in Katherine East subdivision adequately warned of the requirements of the Building Authority Branch with regard to flood levels?

ANSWER

Yes, in the Gazette of 26 March 1982 and, before that, of 9 October 1981, wherein the land was advertised as being available for sale, under the heading of 'Information for Intending Purchasers' the public was advised that the building regulations required floor levels of dwellings to be 0.35 metres above the predicted 1 in 100 year recurrent flood and that further information was available in a brochure entitled 'Land Use in Flood Plains - The Interim Flood Plain Management Policy of the Northern Territory'.

Sorghum and Maize Production

721 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. What was the size of the 1982 harvest of (a) sorghum, and (b) maize in the Northern Territory?

2. What is the estimated size of the Northern Territory market for both These commodities?

3. When does ADMA expect that demand for both maize and sorghum in the Territory will be wholly met by local production?

ANSWER

1. Final deliveries of grain to ADMA for 1981-82 were (a) sorghum - 2559 tonnes; (b) maize - 620 tonnes; and (c) mung beans - 67 tonnes.

2. Of all grain received, 1400 tonnes of sorghum is unsold. The authority anticipates that buyers will be found prior to the 1982 harvest. A number of end-users of feed grains in the Territory are still drawing on Ord River supplies. It is estimated that without a major feedmill, the demand for unprocessed grain will amount to 4000 to 5000 tonnes.

3. The authority expects the local demand for maize and sorghum to be fully satisfied by local production after the 1983 harvest.

Incident, Maningrida

725 Mr MacFARLANE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

What are the details of the recent incident at Manangrida when a 14-year-old petrol sniffing youth held up a nursing sister at gun point?

ANSWER

On 1 August 1982 at 2045 hours, at the Maningrida nurses quarters, an Aboriginal male, aged 16 years, entered the room of a nursing sister residing at the quarters. He pointed an unloaded .44 calibre rifle at the nursing sister to force her to supply him with food. The offender had been sniffing petrol prior to the offence. He was a resident of and was supported at Maningrida and was in no urgent need of food.

The youth was apprehended by Maningrida police and charged with the following offences arising out of the incident -

- assault with intent to rob whilst armed;
- unlawfully on premises;
- aggravated assault;
- possess firearm not holding a shooter's licence; and
- armed with offensive weapon.

He appeared before court at Maningrida on 9 August 1982 and was remanded to appear in Darwin.

The offender appeared before the Children's Court at Casuarina on 10 August 1982 and a plea of 'guilty' to the charge of 'assault with intent to rob whilst armed' was entered.

He was again remanded in custody and is due to appear before the Children's Court for sentence on Tuesday 24 August 1982.

Further charges of 'possession of unregistered firearm' and 'possession of a firearm not holding a shooter's licence' are to be proceeded with on this occasion.

Legislation for Incorporation of School Councils

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will he be introducing legislation to provide for the incorporation of school councils?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to advise that a bill has been prepared. In the last week, I had detailed discussions with officers of the Departments of Treasury and Law in relation to those difficulties in the use of the Financial Administration and Audit Act as it relates to the proposal for incorporated school councils. I am satisfied that solutions can be found to each of those problems. Cabinet will be considering the draft legislation at its next meeting. I hope to introduce appropriate legislation during the course of this sittings.

Ambulance Service for Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the position regarding the supply of an ambulance service for the people of Jabiru?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, you might think it strange that the honourable member for Tiwi asked that question of me as Chief Minister rather than of the Minister for Health. I have some small interest in the town of Jabiru and, as a consequence of the Minister for Health having to go south last week, it fell to my lot to have discussions with the St John Ambulance service. The St John Ambulance service met with me yesterday in the persons of Mr Richard Morris and Mr Burden, the superintendent of the service. We were able to come to an arrangement whereby St John Ambulance will maintain its existing service at Jabiru. Additional space will be allocated to it in the health clinic there to meet with its requirements. I think that the concerns of the people of Jabiru will now be allayed in respect of a vehicular ambulance service. I had the pleasure of conveying this information to a meeting of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council last evening. I am sure that the word has probably circulated in the town of Jabiru by now.

Sewerage and Electrical Installations at Bees Creek

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that sewerage ponds are to be constructed at the end of Gulnare Road? Is it a fact that, in order to install sewerage pipes, 10 metres of land are to be resumed from blocks on the north side of Gulnare Road and that NTEC is to claim a further 12 metre easement on the same blocks for the erection of power poles to service the sewerage ponds which will make a total of 22 metres in all?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the department has 2 projects planned which affect Gulnare Road. One is the sewer outfall from Humpty Doo town centre which will run from the proposed lagoons adjacent to the Elizabeth River. The construction of Gulnare Road between the Stuart Highway and Lovelock Road is also on the 1982-83 draft capital works program. Gulnare Road will ultimately become a distributor road as development in the area proceeds.

The width of the present road reserve is 20 m while the minimum desirable width for that standard of road is 30 m and preferably 35 m. The department identified a probable minimum widening of 10 m along the northern boundary of

the road. The northern side was selected because it is less developed than the southern side. The department commissioned a consulting engineer to design the sewer and roadworks and investigate the total road easement requirements. These requirements are complicated by an NTEC proposal to construct a high tension powerline along that section of Gulnare Road on the northern boundary. This required a further 12 m buffer strip along the frontage of the blocks. The entry onto the properties by surveyors arose during the survey of the sewer line. Unfortunately, the private surveyors engaged by the consultant did not obtain prior approval to enter on the properties. The consultant engineer has been instructed to liaise directly with the people to rectify the damage done and it is anticipated that there will be no further problems in this area.

The road width desirable to accommodate future development has been determined as 30 m. A meeting was held on 30 July by local residents, representatives of the Department of Transport and Works and NTEC to discuss the problems. The proposed 10 m widening on the northern side is now in some doubt because of the existence of multiple water services and a recently installed Telecom cable. Widening on the southern side is complicated by the proximity of dwellings and the presence of an NTEC powerline. Strong objections were raised by the residents regarding proposed sewage lagoons at the Elizabeth River. The department has agreed that it will further examine the options regarding sewage disposal. The situation is complex and requires further examination which will be completed in the next 6 weeks.

Grumman Trackers for Coastal Surveillance

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Would he advise the House if he has received recently any communication from the federal Minister for Defence regarding the possible return of the Grumman Trackers to be based in Darwin for coastal surveillance?

ANSWER

In the recent past, I have not received any formal communication from the Minister for Defence in relation to the return of the Grumman Trackers to Darwin. I have written 3 times to the Minister for Defence regarding the use of Grumman Trackers based in Darwin for coastal surveillance work. My recollection is that the last communication from the Minister for Defence advised me that the matter had been referred to the Committee on Fixed Wing Aircraft. Obviously, there is a committee on airships and balloons as well. I am still waiting for this committee to come up with some sort of response. Since the member for Nightcliff has raised the matter, I will certainly investigate it and perhaps write again to the minister.

Old Darwin Hospital Site

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

A beautiful piece of real estate remains unused in the electorate of Port Darwin. I refer to the old Darwin Hospital site. What consideration has been given to the future use of that area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Department of Health has now vacated totally the old Darwin Hospital site at the end of the Darwin peninsula. A portion of the facilities there were leased some time ago to a consortium of the YWCA and the YMCA to utilise the old nurses' accommodation on the site. Regarding the rest of the facilities on the site, I think there are a couple of temporary tenants and there are further demountables under investigation by my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works. The future of the remaining substantial

assets on the site is being determined by his department in consultation with myself. The future of the land itself has not been determined in any way. It is a very substantial portion of land and, at present, the government has no particular proposals for it.

Rehabilitation of Rum Jungle

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise on the progress of the program to rehabilitate Rum Jungle?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, because it involves Commonwealth government direct funding, the matter of Rum Jungle rehabilitation is being handled by the Co-ordinator-General who, in consultation with the Department of Mines and Energy and the Department of Transport and Works, has presented a 4-year program to the federal government through Senator Carrick, the Minister for National Development and Energy, in relation to the rehabilitation of Rum Jungle. My recollection is that the total cost of the program is in the order of $14m. In my recent visits to Canberra, I have spoken to Senator Carrick about this matter on 2 occasions. I urged on him the importance of rehabilitation work being funded by the federal government during the course of this year. Whilst no undertakings have been given, I am led to believe that at least there will be money in this year's federal budget to enable the rehabilitation program to commence.

Relocation of Leanyer Dump

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is there a proposal actively under consideration by his department for the relocation of Leanyer dump?

ANSWER

No.

Health Clinic Services at Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the position of the supply of health clinic services at Jabiru?

ANSWER

On 26 July, the new Community Health Centre at Jabiru become operational and from that centre will be conducted infant health, doctor consultation and first-aid services. The centre will also have 2 holding beds for observation of patients and dental services will be conducted from the new health centre by a private dentist who has taken up residence in the centre. The private dentist will be conducting work on underprivileged people in the community.

The member for Tiwi would already be aware that the centre will not open as a hospital now because of its proximity to Darwin and the very small demand that the people of Jabiru have for hospitalisation services. In fact, there is an average of 1.5 or 1.75 patients per week who require hospitalisation from Jabiru and such a very small figure cannot justify the establishment of a hospital. The furniture and equipment from the Jabiru East Health Centre is being used in the new centre which is to be manned by a full-time doctor, 4 sisters and a clerical assistant who have all transferred from Jabiru East Health Centre.

As the honourable the Chief Minister pointed out a few moments ago, discussions have been going on for some time concerning the evacuation of patients at Jabiru. Certainly, the road evacuation system is settled and it looks as though it will continue as it has in the past with the very kind and generous offices of St John. On the other hand, the department is still reviewing the

best system of evacuation that can be provided by air with the resources and the technology that we have available to us.

I am particularly confident that the services that are being offered at Jabiru are excellent. The services are relevant to the state of the community at this time and, as the community expands and develops and its demographic pattern changes, there will be a need for changes in the way we deliver health care to the people. In that sense, I would ask the member for Tiwi, who has a very close interest in the matter, to keep me advised of community attitudes concerning the level of health care that we deliver so that, if changes are necessary, we can make them at a very early stage and endeavour to continue to deliver the best service possible.

Pharmacy Services to Hospitals

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Since it has been demonstrated that the supply of pharmacy services to the Tennant Creek Hospital on contract by a private pharmacist rather than from within the Health Department is costing the government an additional $1800 a month, is it still his intention to let contracts for the private supply of pharmacy services to other hospitals in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member has raised an interesting question that is already being addressed by the department and Dr Fleming. About 6 or 9 months ago, the Pharmacy Division of the department did an assessment of transferring its pharmaceutical delivery care to the private pharmacist in the town and it was estimated that there would be considerable savings in this exercise. As it has transpired, the estimates were wrong and the department has incurred a loss. For this reason, the department is reviewing its position and will be going back to the previous system of providing its own pharmacist and its own dispensing service. So far as the delivery of pharmaceutical care is required in other centres, each centre will be assessed on its own merits and any new direction that is believed necessary by the department will be based entirely upon the needs of the community and the best method of delivering care to that community.

Leanyer Dump

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has his department undertaken any investigation of the noxious smells and gases which are presently being emitted from the Leanyer dump and, if so, what are the results of this investigation?

ANSWER

I would ask the honourable member to place that question on notice. I make the point that, if honourable members can give an hour's notice of a question of that nature, it would enable people like myself to give a responsible reply.

Nathalie Gorey Pre-school

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER ofr EDUCATION

Would he undertake to keep the Nathalie Gorey name associated with the pre-school that has been moved to the new Sadadeen school complex?

ANSWER

Nathalie Gorey is the name of a person and that family would need to be involved in the use of the name. The arrangement at Nathalie Gorey Pre-school

has always been that of a trust fund which was set up to provide materials for the pre-school. Needless to say, it would be quite improper for the minister of his own motion to transfer those trust funds to another building. Nonetheless, the Gorey family have consented to the continuation of the name at the new Sadadeen pre-school. Indeed, I believe a sign to that effect is being erected at the premises at this time.

Transfer of Alice Springs Policemen

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Were the 14 policemen who are to be compulsorily transferred from Alice Springs given assurances last year that such action would not be taken?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is an interesting question because presumably the honourable member for Nhulunbuy, who is shadow spokesman on police affairs, has obviously not spoken to the police concerned but has taken advice and asked this question as a result of simply reading misleading reports in the media. No policeman in Alice Springs is being compulsorily transferred and certainly not 14 policemen.

The story in fact is this. Last year, the Police Commissioner issued a circular advising members of the police force that, in their own interests and in the interests of their careers developing satisfactorily, they should seek from time to time to move around in the force to gain better experience and to become generally more experienced policemen. Recently, the Assistant Commissioner in Alice Springs issued a circular to a number of police officers who have been in their current positions for many years advising them that it is in their own interests to seek a transfer to another position. That position might well be in Alice Springs if they chose to seek it. It could certainly be in the Southern Division. There has been no compulsory transfer of anyone.

Two circulars have been sent out by the commissioner and by an assistant commissioner. The first was a general circular and the second was a more specific circular advising police who have been in the one position for quite some time that it is in their interests to seek to develop their careers by moving into other positions to gain greater experience. All that has been said is that, if moves are not made within a reasonable time by these various policemen who have been in the one position for a considerable time, then the assistant commissioner and the commissioner may well have to review the position. As far as anyone being compulsorily transferred, they have been given counselling by their superiors as is the responsibility of their superiors who want to see them advance in the force rather than stultify in the one position.

Darwin Water Supply

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

A large percentage of water disappears between the Darwin River Dam and Darwin. This percentage is as high as 20%. Is he aware of this wastage and, if so, what steps have been taken to track down this phamtom water?

ANSWER

There is a certain amount of waste in the area that the member refers to. At the moment, the Water Division is investigating. I hope to have a report by mid-September regarding that particular problem.

ADMA Northern Grain Receival Depot

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Will the northern grain receival depot for ADMA be located at Adelaide River?

ANSWER

The board of the corporation is currently looking at this question. I believe that it proposes to make a recommendation towards the end of the month. Certainly Adelaide River has been considered as a logical site but some believe that the facilities should be located right amongst the farmers themselves.

Tenders For Demolition of Stuart Building

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that John Holland and Whelan the Wrecker put in tenders for the demolition of the Stuart Building? Is it also a fact that John Holland was successful over Whelan the Wrecker on the basis of being granted a 5% local industry preference? Is it also a fact that John Holland has subsequently subcontracted the job to Whelan the Wrecker?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the answer to the honourable member's 3 questions is yes.

BTB Campaign

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he advise the outcome of discussions at the recent Australian Agricultural Council on the future course of the BTB campaign in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it was a long way to go for a meeting, but our discussions were very fruitful. We received strong support from the Standing Committee and the Australian Agricultural Council. As a result of the initiatives taken by the Northern Territory, a detailed case will be finalised, in consultation with Western Australia and Queensland, as a matter of urgency and presented to the council in an out-of-term meeting towards the end of this year. The Northern Territory has been successful in obtaining from the Standing Committee on Agriculture a sympathetic understanding of the problems being experienced in northern Australia in implementing the BTB eradication campaign. The attitude of the council at the meeting in New Zealand was a great deal more sympathetic and understanding than at previous meetings. The delegation argued strongly for an extension of the taxation concessions beyond 1984 to 1992, the immediate increase in compensation for tuberculosis reactors to 75%, the introduction of special holding facilities and other capital assistance.

Housing Commission Loan Statistics

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer him to his answer to question on notice number 708 in which he said the number of applications received for Northern Territory Housing Commission loans was 799 and the number of applications approved was 488. I also refer him to his subsequent disputation of those figures. Why were such false figures provided in answer to a question placed on notice in this Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have a string of figures before me at present to answer the honourable member's question in detail. I can indicate that what

has been recorded in the past by the Housing Commission under the heading of applications for loans were also applications for a statement of eligibility for a loan. Members will be aware that the first approach to the Housing Commission when a person is trying to establish whether or not he is in a position to buy a home in the Northern Territory is to establish his eligibility for the Northern Territory loan which has a number of criteria related to it. Anyone who approached the Housing Commission and gave particulars of his income etc was given a document which in many cases said he was eligible for a loan of X dollars and the repayments would be X dollars. The person could then go away and decide whether or not he could afford to purchase a home or to have a home built. He could establish from that document exactly what bracket he was in as far as the market was concerned.

Many of those people do come back to complete further documentation to apply for a loan from the Housing Commission, which action required of course details of the house and land to be purchased, its price and the contract for the construction of the house on that land. However, many people do not come back. They might find that they cannot affaord the necessary deposit, they cannot raise the funds additional to the government's loan which may be required for their bracket or they cannot find a suitable property on the market. Whatever the reason, there are many applicants who do not come back.

Unfortunately, the member for MacDonnell just grasped the figures that were presented to him in the question on notice that he refers to and claimed that the difference between applicants and loans approved obviously had to be loans rejected. He did not consider that there might be a batch of loans on hand, which of course there is at any given time. In subsequent releases on the subject, I indicated that there were in fact 56 loans on hand and that the loans take several weeks to process. That is not unusual. I will have to look again in Hansard at the actual question the member put to me and see if there is further information required to be provided to him.

Overpass for Darwin High School

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Since the government has provided a pedestrian overpass to enable the children of the northern suburbs to cross the road to play safely in the water gardens, will the government provide a similar overpass to enable the children of the inner suburbs to get safely to high school?

ANSWER

I presume that the honourable member for Fannie Bay is referring to an overpass for the Darwin High School students and St Johns College. When we first completed the overpass on Bagot Road, traffic studies indicated that there was no need for an overpass for Darwin High School. Prior to the completion of the overpass, traffic banked up along East Point Road as far as the old Fannie Bay Gaol. Since December last year, this has not occurred to the same extent and, until such time as it is warranted, I have no intention of proceeding with an overpass in that area.

Palmerston Area - Garbage Disposal

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it a fact that garbage from the Palmerston area will go to Leanyer dump and not into a dump established at Palmerston?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, not necessarily. There are quite a number of users of the Leanyer dump who live outside the municipality of Darwin although the dump is operated and run by the Darwin City Council. To compensate the council for this

use by people who are not rate-paying residents of Darwin, the government makes an ex gratia payment to the council each year. If the very small initial population of Palmerston in the early period had to use Leanyer dump, or whatever major dump Darwin has in the future, I do not see that as a terrible thing.

Officers of the Palmerston Development Authority tell me that presently they are examining 2 sites as potential interim refuse disposal sites within the boundaries of Palmerston. Whilst these would not have a long life, such use could contribute to small reclamation projects and improve the land for other purposes. A firm has been engaged as a consultant to look at long-term requirements and suitable areas in Palmerston for refuse disposal, at first I wondered if we should go to the expense of engaging consultants to investigate sites for garbage disposal. However, whilst Palmerston may be a couple of kilometres from the banks of the Elizabeth River, any of the potential areas that could be used as dumps clearly border on mangrove areas which exist in the area. Therefore, there is some sensitivity about the question and we should investigate it properly. To answer the honourable member's question, we may not use Leanyer dump for Palmerston residents in the early stages, but the option has not been ruled out totally.

Assistance from Singapore for Rice Growing

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has the Northern Territory government been offered financial and technical assistance by the Singapore government or a private organisation based in Singapore to promote rice growing in the Northern Territory? If so, what were the terms of the offer and what was the response of the government?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of any offer from Singapore-based interests. We have liaised with people in the Philippines for quite some time but, apart from that, I am not aware of any other consultations.

Caretaker for Malak Pre-school

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Recently he has received representation from the Malak Pre-school Association concerning incidents of breaking and entering the school. Has he made a decision, as a result of those representations, to place a resident caretaker at the school?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware of concern in the area. I will have the subject investigated and inform the honourable member later in the sittings.

Bulletin Article on Roxby Downs

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

Is he aware of an article in the Bulletin of 8 August which claims that linear methods were used on Roxby Downs some 300 m below the surface? Is he also aware that the article predicts that an 80 km diameter area in the Harts Range region is worthy of exploration on the same linear predictions? Would he, therefore, bring the article to his department's attention for consideration and to that of mining interests who may wish to explore the region further?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am grateful that the honourable member raised this question. It had escaped my notice and, until it was raised with officers of the depart-

ment, it had escaped theirs. The information surrounding this is of interest to all members. The study of lineaments, which are often evident on aerial photographs or at least Landsat images, is an important tool for company geologists, government and university personnel. It is one of the more recent tools of exploration to become available. Many major mineral deposits have a close, spacial relationship with such linear features and Roxby Downs is one such case. Whether or not the lineaments have played a direct role in the mineralising processes is often open to debate. The pros and cons of this debate constitute an ongoing theme in geological literature. In many instances, the lineaments appear to represent major faults or factors in the earth's crust which probably have acted as conduits for mineralising fluids. Generally speaking, lineament studies must be considered in conjunction with other avenues of geological, geochemical and geophysical investigations when assessing the mineral potential of any area. It is interesting that the company which used this to its great advantage at Roxby Downs is one of the most successful exploration companies in Australia if the premise is accepted that tonnage is really the measure of a company's success in exploration. Certainly, Western Mining has tonnage. I think the concept should be pursued more closely by our own people and our own exploration companies and I will be bringing it to their attention.

Housing Commission Loan Applications

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer him to the answer to my previous question in which he said that many people approaching the Housing Commission for assessment of eligibility did not in fact follow through their applications. Is he monitoring the fate of those people who do not follow through?

ANSWER

As I indicated in my earlier reply, we really have no idea why people do not come back and make further applications although we can reasonably assume why a number of them do not. At that stage, it is a matter of establishing exactly what their entitlement is under the Home Loans Scheme. As members know there are about 10 categories of income eligibility as well as requirements concerning ownership of land and former activity in the Northern Territory. It is quite unreasonable for the government to be expected to follow up every person who does not come back. Some of them would have travelled interstate while others would have decided not to proceed with an application for a whole range of personal reasons. I do not see that that is of concern. The important thing is that the government loans scheme is there for them if they want to come back. It has helped an enormous number of people in the Northern Territory to date. Something like $76m has gone into the scheme since October 1978 when it was introduced by the government. There has not been a single applicant who has been rejected for want of funds through the scheme.

The member made some criticism in the press that we did not use all the money that we had allocated last year for this scheme. Of course, government estimates at the beginning of a year in the Appropriation Bill are exactly that: estimates of expenditure. To a degree, we are gazing into a crystal ball. Most figures in a budget alter during the course of a year either through overexpenditure or underexpenditure for a very wide range of good reasons. Again this year, we will have to assess how many loans we are likely to make and what level those loans are likely to be. It will be an estimate and no doubt it will not be accurate. By the end of the year, adjustments will have to be made. The important point is that every eligible person who came to the government for a loan was given a loan if he was prepared to proceed with it. There was no holding back whatsoever of a single applicant for want of funds. The view that people have been disadvantaged by the government's actions is nonsense.

Vacancy on Jabiru Town Advisory Council

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the recent resignation from the Jabiru Town Advisory Council, can the Chief Minister tell me when a declaration will be made as to the person who will fill that vacancy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Tiwi for raising that question. I spoke to Mr Ray McHenry regarding the matter last night because I observed that there was one member short at the meeting of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council. He informed me that the provisions of the legislation that we passed here not so long ago provided that the person who was the next most successful at the recent election would fill any vacancy. The vacancy was created by the routine transfer of a Department of Health employee. The person next in the line was Mr Norbert Olaf Detlef Tenthy who is a sergeant of police at Jabiru. I hope that my recollection in that regard is correct. In any event, it appears that the person next in line at the election will fill the vacancy. The only political aspect of the transfer of the doctor from Jabiru is that people sought to make it political. I am assured by the Secretary of the Department of Health that it is a perfectly routine transfer according to the system that he normally operates within his department. This transfer was sought to be brought into the political arena to attempt to have the transfer revoked.

There are 2 things which I hope we as a government will not interfere with in any sense. One is the Housing Commission housing lists which must have a certain inviolability about them. If there are to be people who are pushed up the public housing list, then they must go through the committee that provides the only avenue of appeal. The other area where I certainly would not want to become involved or want any of my ministers to become involved would be in attempting to override public service decisions on the transfer of personnel. I think those 2 matters are subjects about which there must be certainty in the minds of the public. People who have their names on a housing list must know that there will not be political interference to put people higher up the list who might bring pressure to bear on ministers. It is also for the protection of the ministers themselves because, if it is known that by putting pressure on a minister you can get yourself higher up the housing list, then it will invite hundreds of people to put pressure on. We just could not operate the system in that way. Likewise, a transfer notice must be complied with and no one has been able to show that this doctor was not transferred in accordance with the usual practice and procedure of the Department of Health. Remarks were made that apparently the Chief Minister ordered his transfer. I am afraid I cannot even remember the good doctor's name so I could not have ordered his transfer.

Subdivision Conditions

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When permission is granted to a developer to open up a new subdivision, the developer has to agree to certain conditions imposed by the Northern Territory Planning Authority in the instrument of determination. Could he advise who has the ultimate responsibility of ensuring that these conditions are complied with before the blocks are available for sale to purchasers?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, before the Registrar-General is prepared to register titles for those blocks so that people can purchase them, he obtains a certificate from the Lands Branch and from the Surveyor-General that the works have been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the various authorities. This

system is aimed at preventing persons subdividing land that has not been serviced in accordance with the conditions of approval that were granted.

Education of Children from Isolated Areas

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is the government considering any proposal to provide for the primary and secondary school of the Territory's isolated schoolchildren by assisting with the provision of facilities in Darwin similar to those that were formerly provided by Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member would be well aware of the program throughout the Northern Territory to provide assistance to isolated children. As for the possibility of doing anything along the lines previously provided by Carpentaria College, the answer is no. It is not currently anticipated that that is the best direction in which to move. Mr Speaker, the schools of the air are based in Katherine and Alice Springs. They seem to be the 2 centres which service the rural district of the Northern Territory and it would seem to me to be proper to develop the system with facilities which are already in those 2 centres and to improve them rather than completely re-establish a replacement system in Darwin similar to that of the old Carpentaria College model.

Yulara Tourist Village

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

How many people or companies have approached the Northern Territory Development Corporation with regard to taking up units when they are completed at the Yulara Tourist Village?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member means the Conservation Commission which is actually handling the project rather than the Northern Territory Development Corporation. I am not aware, although no doubt I could find out, of the exact number of people who have approached the Conservation Commission expressing an interest in purchasing any of the various components of the Yulara project. These include 2 hotels, a tavern, supermarket, various speciality shops and other things. In July, I was concerned to learn from the Conservation Commission that a relatively small number of Territory contractors had registered their interest in being involved in the construction of Yulara. Certainly, we are all Australians and we must see that the government administers its contract so that there is no disadvantage to contractors outside the Territory but wherever possible, we must advantage people who are established in the Territory in the hope that they will provide employment.

I must confess that I have not examined the matter in detail but prima facie it appears to me that a construction firm in Darwin has been guilty of a rather cynical misuse of the local preference clause in respect of the demolition of a certain building not far from the precincts of this Assembly. An examination of this particular misuse of the local preference could result in what I would regard as a grave detriment to the total construction industry: the abolition of such preference. If it is to be misused in that fashion, we must have as our paramount consideration the taxpayer's dollar. We are not interested particularly in just going through a middleman to get at the action. It appears to me that this is what may well have happened in that case and I have asked the Minister for Transport and Works to report to me on the matter so that, if necessary, the whole business can be brought before Cabinet for review.

As a general principle, this government wants to support Territory contractors, subcontractors and suppliers. Because I noticed that a relatively small number of Territory contractors had registered, I thought it wise to bring the matter to the notice of the Master Builders Association. Once the registration process had closed, no doubt some of these contractors would wake up and come crying at a later stage when they saw that someone else had won a juicy contract that they could not even tender for because they were not registered. I am satisfied that the Masters Builders Association has brought the matter forcefully to the notice of its members and also sought publicity in an attempt to do this. It is hoped that there will be considerable use of Territory subcontractors and suppliers by any southern companies that do gain contracts here.

I would like to say something about some of our local contracting firms, some of whom seek to avail themselves of our local preference clause. I had better not make too much of that because I believe the local preference clause has only had to be availed of about half a dozen times in almost as many years. These local firms, when they get the contracts from the government, often subcontract to and buy their supplies from southerners to save a few dollars and to make a bigger profit on the contract. We have examined the legalities of having some sort of requirement in the contract for the use of local subcontractors and suppliers wherever possible but I am advised that it is simply not practical to frame a clause which will cover the situation. All you could have would be a sort of pious statement of policy waffle which would not be binding on anyone and it is pointless putting a clause like that in what is intended to be a binding contract.

However, everyone knows the government's policy. It is the policy of this Assembly. Certainly, local firms must be competitive which is something that has to be hammered home too because they cannot just sit on their butts behind a desk in Darwin and be non-competitive and expect to get the work. They must be competitive. At the same time, local contractors, certainly when dealing with government contracts, should be looking to give some sort of preference to local subcontractors and suppliers. Especially at this time, when the economic climate around Australia is tough, it is necessary that as Territorians we all hang together for survival and that we try to keep the dollars circulating as much as possible in the Territory and maintain a maximum of Territory employment.

I thank the honourable member for Port Darwin for asking me this question. I have certainly roamed beyond the parameters of the question that he asked. I was concerned that Territory contractors had not registered in any great numbers - at the most there were 3 or 4 - for the Yulara project. I hope that others have availed themselves of the opportunity to do that. I hope that no company comes crying to me in 12 or 18 months when it finds that a southerner has walked away with the contract.

Contract for Housing in Brunei

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Honourable members would recall the Chief Minister advised this Assembly of what appeared to be an extremely promising contract - I think it was in Brunei - for a substantial order for prefabricated houses. Could he advise if there has been any followup action on that?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, whilst I was in Singapore or Kuala Lumpur a few months ago, I ran into someone from Brunei who passed this information to me. I phoned the information back to the Northern Territory Development Corporation. I also asked that the Master Builders Association be informed. I believe that there was some publicity given to this matter in my absence. The contract was for

3000 housing units in Brunei. Of course there would be absolutely no question that the Brunei Government with its massive financial reserves could afford to meet such a contract. In any event, I believe that the winning of such a contract by the Northern Territory would have been of tremendous assistance in developing shipping and barge services between northern Australia and South-east Asia, in particular Brunei but possibly also Singapore.

I am not aware whether there has been any consortium of Territory companies formed to bid for this contract because I have not followed it up. I do not really consider it my job to nursemaid the construction industry to that extent. It must be given the opportunities and that is where my job stops. I hope there has been because I foresaw that perhaps the job would be too big for an individual company, but it could be a good one for a combination of them, perhaps to work in with one of our local shipping companies such as V.B. Perkins. I hope that that sort of thing has happened. However, there is one thing that I do know. I was approached last week for a letter of introduction to people in Brunei by White Industries which is doing the Yulara project and is interested in other projects in Darwin. It is constructing the casino. I understand that Whites were going to Brunei to investigate the situation and to bid for the contract. I guess that Whites are as well established in the Northern Territory as other companies such as John Holland which we regard as local. Therefore, I do know of that interest but that is the only interest of which I am aware.

Gunn Point Recreational Plan

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer yet again to public access for recreational purposes to the Gunn Point area. In December and May, the Chief Minister advised of a second draft of a recreational plan for the area being provided by the Conservation Commission. Is such a plan ready and, if so, when will he table the plan for public discussion?

ANSWER

I will read this briefing note that I received on the matter from the Conservation Commission which I think goes at least some of the way to answering her concerns.

Development for recreation at Gunn Point is proceeding on a staged program. Unimpeded access to the beaches has been provided and a toilet block has been constructed at the main beach. Maintenance of the toilets, beach areas and swimming areas is being carried out by Gunn Point Prison Farm. The government is soon to consider a 3-year development program to enhance the recreation opportunities of the peninsula. The main points in this program are the development of camping grounds with ablution facilities near the beach, improved access by road, construction of boat ramps to allow fishermen to use the waters of the area, the development of picnic spots with barbecues, tables and so on to cater for the increasing number of day trippers, and a beach protection program similar to that carried out on Casuarina Beach. The Conservation Commission expects development to keep pace with the growing demand for recreation outlets near Darwin and it anticipates that, in the future, Gunn Point will be a prime recreation asset for the people of Darwin and for visitors.

Mr Speaker, we saw a proposal in Cabinet 2 months ago now. We made some alterations to it and referred it back to the Conservation Commission. It certainly included a 3-year or even a 4-year program at that time. As I recall, we asked the Conservation Commission to telescope the timeframe for the program. From memory, we asked it to complete a road - I think it was intended to be built in a couple of years - within the next financial year. This has to be taken to some extent with a grain of salt and not as gospel because this was a

while ago. I cannot remember everything absolutely. I do know that we sped up the program and, as soon as we have a final document from the Conservation Commission, I will be more than happy to make it available to honourable members.

Federal Budget Health Grant

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that funding for the health grant in last night's federal budget showed a reduction from $26m to $23m? What does the minister see as the implications for the Territory health system of such a reduction in funding?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the honourable member to put that question on notice. The information is about 12 hours old. In fact, the matter will be addressed in our own budget in the next few days. The answers that she is looking for will be catered for quite adequately at that time.

Palm Valley Gas Pipeline

Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he advise who is the successful tenderer for the Palm Valley to Alice Springs gas pipeline?

ANSWER

The government has decided to recall tenders for this project for several reasons. The principal reason is that negotiations with the Central Land Council to obtain agreement for an easement for the pipeline have been protracted and cannot now be finalised until at least the end of August. Negotiations with the 2 lowest tenderers have demonstrated that firm financing commitments, which were claimed, do not exist. Validity dates for all current tenders expire today. The recently announced depreciation allowances which the Commonwealth has introduced could provide for more attractive tenders to be received. The government will be moving quickly to call new tenders at the earliest possible date.

Sanderson High School

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When does he expect that the construction of the Sanderson High School will be commenced?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will advise the honourable member later.

Fire Prevention and Control in the Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Could the Chief Minister give me results from the meetings that were held in the rural area regarding fire prevention and control?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is an interesting question from the honourable member for Tiwi. By saying that, I do not imply that her other questions are not interesting also. The bushfire meetings of which she speaks were regarded by the Conservation Commission as being reasonably successful. It was a bit disappointed at the level of attendance by people at some of the meetings. That is what it said in its briefing to me. What was not in the briefing was that the advertisements for the first meeting appeared on a Friday and the meeting was held on a Monday. Since this is a relatively small place, the minister sometimes notices things like that. There were 5 meetings which were scattered around the rural area and people did have an opportunity to attend a meeting if they really wanted to. The attendance varied but was not as high as expected. They were considered to be successful because a full spectrum of views of the community

were presented and discussed. A consolidated report on the outcome of the meeting is currently being compiled by the Conservation Commission for further consideration. It will prepare a draft fire control policy for submission to Cabinet. Cabinet will give tentative approval to that policy and will then bring it to this Assembly for debate. It can be debated and any useful suggestions can perhaps be incorporated in the further work that the Conservation Commission will do on it before it is finally approved by Cabinet and promulgated.

I noticed that Trees, an organisation which I support, collected signatures on a petition at the Darwin Garden Fair again this year. It asked me to present the petition on its behalf, which I was pleased to do. I might say that the initiative of the Conservation Commission and other organs of the government is certainly being helped by the work of the Trees organisation. During the past year, a number of meetings were held between representatives of Trees, government and, I think, local government.

In addition, in the petition yesterday, Trees asked for protection of rain forest areas. This is a matter that the Conservation Commission is concerned with. It has a number of rain forest areas at least gazetted at the present time and a couple more are planned for gazettal in the near future. I understand that Holmes Jungle is one area that will shortly come before Cabinet for consideration. One of the problems is feral animals. On that point, this government several years ago arranged for consideration of this problem by the Feral Animals Inquiry. The report of that inquiry was tabled in this Assembly and it was commended by all members. Since then, over a period of 3 years, funds have been allocated to the Feral Animals Committee which has been established within government to plan for the eradication or at least the control of feral animals. I understand that the priorities that have been given have accorded buffaloes top priority with feral pigs perhaps coming second. At the last sittings, I reported to this Assembly by way of a statement in relation to some of the work that has been going on in respect of buffaloes. Later in the sittings, I hope to circulate some technical documents on buffalo population for the information of members. I had a look at them over the weekend. I think some members at least will be interested. I am certain the honourable member for Tiwi will be interested. I hope to be able to circulate these documents when I receive enough copies later in the sittings.

Mr Speaker, the matter of fire control in the Territory is dear to my heart. It has been said to me that, if we were to practise fire control in the Territory as it is practised in Victoria, it would cost us not millions but almost billions annually. Therefore, we have to come to some modus operandi which is a compromise between our present situation and the level of fire control that can be exercised in smaller and more densely populated areas. It is towards that end that we have directed the efforts of the Conservation Commission.

Alleged Illegal Fishing in Keep River Area

Mrs LAWEIE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Has he yet determined whether charges will be laid against 3 Western Australians regarding alleged illegal fishing activities in the Keep River area on 3 and 4 July?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I received a further report in relation to that matter yesterday. Fairly detailed preliminary inquiries have been carried out by the police. In that regard, a superintendent was dispatched to Western Australia to accumulate such evidence as could be obtained at this stage. As a result, a report was made to me which I referrred to the Solicitor-General. I have

not yet received any final advising from the Solicitor-General as to whether any charges may be laid and, if so, the nature of those charges. The Solicitor-General could come back and say that perhaps other efforts should be directed towards obtaining evidence in other particular areas. That may be his advice. If the evidence is procurable by the police, then they will be directed to do that. I am not, therefore, in a position to say at this stage what charges, if any, will be laid against the people referred to by the member for Nightcliff.

South Australian Public Examinations Board

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

South Australia proposes to change the structure and functions of its statutory board for public examinations in a draft bill for the establishment of a public exmainations authority. If such a bill were passed by the South Australian government, would there be any diminution of standard particularly in respect of those Northern Territory students wishing to undertake tertiary or university studies?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is difficult to answer the question with a great deal of certainty at this stage. For the information of members, the arrangement is that, as a result of the Keeves Report commissioned by the South Australian Minister for Education, the functions of the present Public Examinations Board are to be absorbed into a new board called the public examinations authority. Members would be well aware that the present system of matriculation is designed for one purpose and one purpose only: to classify people in order of merit for entry into university. Over the last few years, particularly in the Northern Territory, we have seen a movement towards course structures designed more particularly for the broader community, not just those courses required for entry into university.

With this movement away from a strict line of learning designed for university entrance, we also find the lack of a provision of an assessment for those students who decided to do 12 years of schooling but do not necessarily wish to enter tertiary education. The idea of the public examination authority is to give accreditation and certification for a broader range of subjects. The intention most certainly is not to lower the standards of academic achievement for those students who do not wish to enter university. The university authority will be well represented on the public examinations authority, as will a wide range of people from other disciplines in education including employer and employee representatives.

I might say that we intend staying with South Australia by way of purchasing, if you like, right of entry into its scheme. Nonetheless, it should provide for not only a wider range of accreditation but an encouragement of a wider range of more relevant courses being taught at the more senior levels of our high schools. Territory parents and students can rest assured that, on my understanding of the matter - and I am in continual touch with the minister's office in South Australia - if this legislation is enacted, there will be no lowering of standards for the purpose of entry into university. Rather, we would hope to see a raising of standards in areas which are not related to the university.

Mr Speaker, the programs for matriculation have now been set for the school year 1983-84. No matter what happens in the South Australian Parliament for this year and next year, it is unlikely that there will be any change in the method of assessment of accreditation of Year 12 students. Perhaps the best thing I can do is to undertake to have distributed to honorable members the very detailed press release put out by the Honourable Harold Allison, the South Australian Minister for Education, later during the course

of the sittings. Indeed, Mr Speaker, if the staff is listening to the broadcast system that you have made available perhaps photocopies could be prepared this morning and we will have them distributed shortly after lunch.

ADMA Grain Receival Depots

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is it still the intention of the government as previously stated to hand over the grain receival depots now being established by ADMA to farmers to be operated by them?

ANSWER

The final details of this particular situation have not been decided. Firstly, we must select a site for the receival depot. When the board finalises that, those sorts of management arrangements could then be struck

Specialist Medical Staff in Health Department

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the ongoing negotiations for the transfer of Health Department specialist doctors to private practice and on sessional hospital arrangements, how many full-time specialist positions does the Health Department intend to retain at Darwin and Alice Springs Hospitals?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would be happy to obtain that information for the honourable member if she places the question on notice.

Subdivision in the Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the moratorium on subdivision down to 5 acres in the rural area be lifted?

ANSWER

Late last year, the Department of Transport and Works, through its Water Division, undertook a survey of the rural area's water supply. At that time, there was some concern that the aquifer was being polluted by various landowners in that area through substandard bore equipment that was being installed or maintained. That study is not expected to be finalised until late September. Once that information is available, I will be passing it on to the Cabinet and Cabinet will decide what further arrangements should be made.

Alice Springs Police - Compensation for Transfer

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Will those Alice Springs policemen who have accepted long-term financial commitments in Alice Springs as a result of having been told that they will not be compulsorily transferred receive any compensation if they are transferred other than by application?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that he has not told any police that they will not be compulsorily transferred.

Nightcliff Dental Clinic

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it still his intention to close the Nightcliff Dental Clinic and, if so, is he aware that that will result in a reduction of available Department of

Health dentists in the northern suburbs from 5 to 2?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I advised the honourable member in March that we would be transferring the Nightcliff centre to the new building near Casuarina Shopping Centre where both the Sanderson and the Nightcliff clinics would be amalgamated. I am not sure that the honourable member's statement is true that the number of dentists in that region will be reduced. I will investigate it and respond to her later.

Prison Farm in Central Australia

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will the minister advise the progress of negotiations on acquiring suitable land for a prison farm in Central Australia? Will he consider compulsory acquisition of land should such negotiations falter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would rather not give the name of the properties in respect of which negotiations are going on at the moment but I would be more than happy to inform the opposition spokesman of the identity of those places privately. On a property at the moment, a drilling project is being undertaken to find suitable and potable water. We simply cannot establish a prison farm without there being adequate water supplies. A number of pastoralists have been extremely cooperative and it is anticipated that we will be in a position to commence the construction of a prison farm and have it operating within the course of this financial year. The fundamental task is to find a reasonable water supply to establish the prison farm. Once that is done, I think we can move very quickly.

Dress Standards at Casinos

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

The standard of dress to enter the casinos in Darwin and Alice Springs has recently been reviewed by Federal Hotels. Has the government been monitoring the standard of dress at the casinos, is it happy with the standard of dress at casinos and will the minister assure me that the standard of dress to enter both casinos will remain high?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this matter is the government's business because it is set down in our laws as part of the many, varied and detailed controls that the government may exercise in relation to casinos in the Northern Territory. As I have stated before, I think that industry is possibly more controlled than any other in the Territory. Mr Speaker, the subject of dress standards for casinos in the Territory will perhaps be one of public debate forever. It has certainly been constant since we have had casinos in the Territory. Opinion on what is an acceptable standard of dress varies with almost the number of people you can ask on the subject and, for that reason, I can see an ongoing problem.

The government does not monitor dress standards in the casino specifically to the point where government inspectors - who of course are in all casinos - pay particular regard to this matter by way of recording the number of persons they see dressed to a good standard or otherwise. It is an area which can be monitored to some degree through personal contact. I receive advice from various people on the subject, as do other ministers, and no doubt all members of the Assembly. From one's own occasional visits to the casino, some idea can

be obtained fairly quickly as to how the dress standards are policed and whether they are to one's particular liking.

The difficulty faced over the past couple of years has been over the interpretation of what are jeans. The earlier dress standards forbade jeans being worn in a casino. With the variety of designs and materials on the markets these days, it is sometimes very difficult and one can quickly get into an argument about what jeans are. Federal Hotels asked me if I would agree to their changing the dress standard to place primary emphasis on neat dress. Although the blue denim type jeans technically are still excluded there are what might be called dress jeans which most people would find acceptable in casinos. The recent changes to the standards were designed to accommodate that dress jeans could be allowed but not ordinary jeans. It will not solve all the problems because we are now having a debate on what are dress jeans. The government does take an interest in this matter.

As minister responsible, I believe that it is important that we keep a certain level of dress standards in casinos in the Northern Territory. They are facilities that were put there primarily to add to the tourist attractions in the Northern Territory and they are still there for that very purpose. They are also very great employment creators for the Territory and that has been demonstrated. However, we want visitors to the Territory to be attracted to casinos and to feel that, when they go to casinos, they will be in an atmosphere which is appropriate to casinos. Whilst we will continue to keep an eye on the situation as distinct from positive bureaucratic monitoring, we will try to keep as high a standard as possible. The accent these days will be on neat attire rather than specifically on the type or design of material.

Housing for Teachers

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

He would be aware of the public concern and the concern of organisations such as the Teachers Federation and COGSO with the continuing problem of teacher housing. I refer the minister to his press release of 26 July on employment opportunities and recruitment for the Northern Territory Teaching Service. With this expanding employment and recruitment that is being carried out, what steps are being taken by the minister to ensure that these recruits will be adequately housed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, really I do not see the relevance between a guaranteed employment scheme through the Darwin Community College and housing. I do not see the connection at all. If we are to recruit for teachers, then the housing problem exists in respect of each of those teachers whether from local or interstate schools. One would think that at least in their early years and having regard to the fact that Darwin is the largest centre in the Territory, they would be likely to have a better prospect of their own accommodation than teachers we have to recruit for other places.

The government is very much aware of the problem, particularly in places such as Nhulunbuy. I believe the problem has largely been overcome in Tennant Creek. It is rapidly being overcome in Katherine. There is a difficulty remaining in Alice Springs, particularly in relation to about 4 teachers who are in Malanka. Nhulunbuy is the main problem. Personally I have had detailed negotiations recently with Nabalco Limited, with its most senior officers and members of the board and I am expecting, through the Minister for Lands and Housing, a proposition from that organisation in the near future. In Nhulunbuy, the Department of Education is purchasing 4 houses that are to be upgraded for teacher accommodation. We are hopeful of an offer from Nabalco in respect of surplus accommodation which it currently has by way of a short-term lease until

such time as a longer-term solution can be found, not only in respect to teacher housing in that community, but in general government employee housing.

Development on Cox Peninsula

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In answer to a question on notice concerning the type of development envisaged on Cox Peninsula which would justify the building of the Bynoe Harbour access road, he replied that, apart from providing an upgraded road to the Belyuen community, it would assist in the increasing development of the pastoral, fishing and mining industries. I am only seeking general answers. Can he give some further details of what type of development is taking place or envisioned in the pastoral industry? Can he advise the Assembly what type of fishing development and what type of mining is taking place?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

Youth Needs in the Northern Suburbs

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

When will a committee formed at a public meeting in March to examine youth needs in the northern suburbs report back to a public meeting?

ANSWER

As I understand it, the committee was supposed to report back within 3 months. I was to attend a meeting last night with the Youth Advisory Forum and that information would have been given to me then by the delegates at that meeting. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend because of another commitment. However, I will obtain the information and provide it to the honourable member at a later date.

Old Timers' Village for Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

I understand the plans for the rural old timers' village have been commented on by the Minister for Community Development and the Minister for Lands and Housing and they are now with the Minister for Health. Could he give me the views of the Department of Health regarding the establishment of an old timers' village in the rural area?

ANSWER

As the honourable member said, my colleagues and I have been working for some time on a proposal for the establishment of residential accommodation for people in the rural area, particularly retired and senior citizens. It is my intention to make a ministerial statement in the second week of this sittings in relation to this matter.

Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

The wet season is fast approaching. When the humidity rises, the palm leaf beetle will once again take to the skies. At what stage are tests on the virus to control the beetle and when are we likely to see the virus introduced into the Darwin area?

ANSWER

The question has taken some time to decide. We dispatched an officer to West Samoa to study the parasite that would in theory gobble up the problem.

Presently, the parasites are in quarantine in Queensland and specific tests are being undertaken on the parasites to see that they do not become themselves an unwanted problem. When that work has been finalised, we will go about getting final approval to release them in the Northern Territory.

ADAM Grain Receival Depot

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

The minister advised me yesterday that Adelaide River was being considered as a possible site for the northern grain receival depot of ADMA. As part of that proposal, would there be an upgrading of the grain receival depot that is already there or would a completely new facility be constructed?

ANSWER

The options that the honourable member refers to have been considered. It would be ultimately desirable for the township of Adelaide River if some other enterprise could be established. It would be to the commercial and economic benefit of the people in that town. Obviously, there are other realities that have to be taken into account and the decision will be taken after full consideration.

School Crossings

Mrs LAWRIE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Following the remarks I made in the adjournment last night, is he in a position to advise the Assembly who has the responsibility for the monitoring and proper ordering of school crossings?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand from my inquiries this morning that these school crossings are in fact provided by local government who also provide the flags for them. However, as a result of my discussions with the Minister for Education, the head of his department and the Acting Commission of Police, we decided that the whole matter should be looked at. If there are to be crossings, we should determine whether there should be distinctions between them. After all, it seems as though it may have led to problems in that motorists could think that they need not be careful around school crossings at all hours whereas children might think that crossings are perfectly safe to use at all times. We are arranging for a paper to be prepared after input from the relevant authorities - such as the Department of Transport and Works, the Road Safety Council, the Education Department, the police and local government - to decide whether we should persist with this concept of school crossings or indeed simply have one type of pedestrian crossing which is inviolable at all times.

Exemptions from 2 km Law in Alice Springs

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer him to an Alice Springs alderman's suggestion that the Alice Springs Town Council seek exemption under the 2 km law for 4 areas in Alice Springs and set up facilities for public drinkers. Will the government support such a proposal?

ANSWER

It is very pleasing to infer from the statement by the member for MacDonnell that he considers the 2 km legislation to be a good thing. All I can say is that I have not seen this proposal by an alderman of the Alice Springs Town Council but it is a matter for that council whether it chooses to adopt the proposal or not because the legislation of course devolves responsibility on councils to make decisions as to whether they wish to apply for these sorts

of exemptions. Therefore, the ball is fairly and squarely in the court of the Alice Springs council. If, however, it would like the government to hold its hand in the matter, it only has to write to us about it and we will be happy to share such of the odium as it feels may attach to the matter.

New Darwin Airport

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the latest estimate of the commencement date for the construction of a new terminal at Darwin Airport?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is an interesting question because, as honourable members know, the Minister for Civil Aviaition, Wal Fife, was here for the federal Cabinet meeting in June. He and I, and his predecessor, Ralph Hunt, have had lengthy correspondence on this subject and many meetings. Until the appointment of Ian Sinclair as Minister for Defence recently, it appeared as though the Royal Australian Air Force base at Darwin would be upgraded to be able to have the capacity to handle a squadron of fighters. As a consequence of this, the civil terminal would have needed to be relocated and a new civil terminal constructed on the northern side of the RAAF base adjacent to Rapid Creek, and a general aviation area would have needed to be constructed not far distant from the civil terminal.

Honourable members may recall that Wal Fife in fact invited members of the press to come with him on a tour of the RAAF base. At that time, he unveiled sketches and plans of the proposed civil terminal and general aviation area and took members of the press on a tour of the various proposed sites. Shortly before then, Ian Sinclair was appointed Minister for Defence and a review of some of the activities of the Department of Defence was undertaken. As a consequence of that review, it appears that the Northern Territory will have a considerable infusion of defence commitment.

Honourable members would have noticed that in last night's federal budget an amount of $4.18m towards the Tindal aerodrome was allocated under the heading of defence. At this stage, I dare not call it 'air base' but it appears very likely that Tindal will be upgraded and developed into quite a complex for use by the RAAF. At the same time, the Minister for Defence made it clear at his press conference a week or so ago when he had discussions with myself and the federal member, Grant Tambling, that the Darwin base would also have to be upgraded to enable it to handle RAAF fighter squadrons. I think that the new fighter is the F18 which is a very complex aircraft that requires a considerable amount of infrastructure to enable its requirements to be met. There is no doubt that Darwin RAAF base will have to be upgraded to enable it to handle these fighters. At present, a review is being undertaken which will decide exactly what infrastructure is needed and whether it will be the whole of the proposed stage 1 of the various contracts for the RAAF base before Tindal came to the forefront. Work has been halted for the time being on the civil terminal and also on the general aviation area. It may be that the whole of the south side of the complex may not be required by the RAAF. I am not able to make any commitments along those lines. Indeed, I do not really know. Obviously, the whole of the RAAF complex in Darwin is in the melting pot to the extent that what will be needed for the F18 and other aircraft using the RAAF base is being looked at again. Obviously, Darwin's requirements for an upgraded civil terminal and additional general aviation facilities are also being kept in mind.

All that would have been done this year in respect of the civil terminal was design work and a not very substantial amount of money would be required for that. I would expect the review to be completed within a couple of months

and design work can then proceed after various announcements have been made and after the matter has been referred to the Parliamentary Public Works Committee. I do not think that a new civil, international terminal for Darwin is in any doubt. I think that the location of that terminal is possibly in a state of flux. There is no doubt that the federal government and the minister concerned appreciate the absolute necessity for new general aviation facilities for Darwin.

Those are the problems that are being faced at the moment, Mr Speaker. I think that the Territory over all can only gain from what is going on. Therefore, I am trying to exercise patience in this matter because I believe that the establishment by the RAAF of a major base at Tindal will be a tremendous boost not only to Katherine but also to defence in the north of Australia. It is not for me to make announcements in this regard but the plans that the RAAF certainly would like to see for Tindal would really do much to make Australians in this part of the country feel a great deal more secure. I would ask honourable members to remain patient at least for a couple of months. I hope that, within that time, the respective Ministers for Defence and Civil Aviation will be able to advise us what exactly is going on.

Assistance for Meatworks at Katherine

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has an approach been made by the company proposing to establish a second meatworks at Katherine for financial assistance from the Northern Territory Development Corporation?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any approach to establish additional meatworks in the Katherine area. I have been advised that the Urala meatworks was sold. It is being pulled down and reconstructed to make another meatworks there. I am not aware of any plans to obtain finance from any government source.

Bridging of Peel Creek

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the government any plans for bridging Peel Creek which is crossed by Spencer Road, a gazetted road, as some 30 to 40 residents have no access to the Stuart Highway during the wet season?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of any proposal to put a bridge across Peel Creek. However, I will attempt to find out from the department and let the honourable member know today.

Subdivision at 34-mile

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I understand that there is a subdivision about to take place at the 34-mile, and there have been some hindrances either connected with subdivision and/or electricity reticulation. Could the honourable minister give me some information?

ANSWER

I am advised that there has been some difficulty in having electricity reticulated to a particular subdivision at the 34-mile area. A number of transformers had to be installed and they had considerable difficulty in properly earthing some of these. This is not an unusual problem in rural Darwin where there are technical problems with earthing electrical equipment from time to

time. However, I am advised that, as of yesterday, the earthing problems were fixed. Five transformers have been installed and the completion notice for the electrical reticulation has been issued. NTEC were testing the system yesterday with a view to energising it forthwith. A couple of applications outstanding for electricity in this area are expected to be connected tomorrow.

Motor Vehicle Registration

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it not true that people resident in the Territory for 3 months are required to register their vehicles in the Territory and is it not also true that those who refuse to do so deprive the Territory of legitimate revenue? Would the honourable minister undertake to investigate, at least in a general way, the complaints of constituents of mine who, having brought such matters to the notice of the police on several occasions, have observed no tangible results?

ANSWER

The answer is yes to all questions.

TDC Loan to Tennant Creek Meatworks

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is there an outstanding loan of $1m in the Northern Territory Development Corporation for the Tennant Creek meatworks and, if so, is this loan being serviced to the satisfaction of the corporation?

ANSWER

There is a loan outstanding from the TDC to the proprietors of the Tennant Creek abattoirs. My understanding is that the loan is being serviced adequately as are most of the other loans that we have extended to the meatworks.

Standards of Service at Darwin Hostels

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Does the government intend to enforce the provisions of the tender documents covering the new management of 2 hostels in Darwin which required services to be maintained at former levels in view of clear evidence that standards in areas such as catering have diminished?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Housing Commission, which has charge of administration of the tender the honourable member refers to, has been monitoring the situation in regard to the hostels and in regard to the tender documents and their requirements. About 8 days ago, I asked for a report on whether any aspects of the tenders were being breached as far as the law was concerned and, if so, in what regard. The report that reached me following some inquiry was that the tenderers had not breached the contract at all and no action was required in that regard at that time.

Town Planning Controls for Darwin City Council

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is there a timeframe envisaged for the devolution of town planning controls for the Darwin City Council?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is one of those questions where one can very readily be accused of passing the buck. I doubt it has a great deal to do with the

minister responsible for local government. In fact, the whole operational side rests with my colleague, the Minister for Lands and Housing. I would like to state that I am reluctant to promote the cause of local government to take over the total functions of planning and building control in the municipalities. We have a relatively small population in the Northern Territory. Our population centres are very widely scattered and I believe that a continuity is required in standards and methodology in each of these areas. Previously I was Minister for Lands and Housing and I certainly was not anxious to see these functions totally handed over. As to what arrangements can be entered into by way of local government servicing some of the standard provisions which are basically under the umbrella of the responsible minister, we have not yet determined. It is on public record in many places that I am a great believer in the devolution of functions to local government. I do not believe that one should go pell-mell into devolution of functions on local government when that is not in the interests of all citizens.

Management of Territory's Prawn Resources

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In February of this year, the government appointed a fisheries consultant whose stated function was to develop a plan to provide for the effective management of the Territory's prawn resources. Could he advise the Assembly of the progress of that study and when a report will be available to this Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the honourable member to place his question on notice.

Health Services to Aboriginal Communities

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer him to his suspended criticism to withdraw financial and administrative services from the locally-based health services at Papunya, Utopia and in the Pitjantjatjara homelands. Will he advise the Assembly of his intentions in this regard during these sittings?

ANSWER

The honourable member may or may not be aware that last weekend I had the opportunity to meet with the federal Ministers for Health and Aboriginal Affairs and the South Australian Minister for Health and representatives of the Western Australian government in relation to the problems of servicing Aboriginals in remote areas of central Australia. Some live on our side of the border and some live in Western Australia and South Australia. The provision of aerial medical flights, surveys and other services, such as pharmaceutical and other paramedic services, to these health groups is a total issue. It involves more than the cost of sending an aeroplane to a specific place. Let me expand that a little for the benefit of the honourable member. The department conducts remote health services in about 80 places in the Northern Territory. Two places where we do not are in central Australia. One of them is Papunya and the other is in the Pitjantjatjara homelands area in South Australia. The conduct of health services there is the prerogative of the South Australian government.

In cold hard reality, the taxpayers of the Northern Territory pay over $1m a year to hospitalise South Australians in Northern Territory hospitals and it is my view that that account should fall to South Australia. South Australia is very good to us in some senses. It takes patients from the Northern Territory and we pay for them from time to time so it is my view that, when South Australian patients come to the Northern Territory, then that account should fall to South Australia. That premise has been accepted now by the South Australian government and we are moving forward on it. But it does

not stop there because we have independent health services operating in the Northern Territory, particularly in central Australia, some of which are quite removed from any influence or involvement of the Northern Territory Department of Health. This is fine because we are not in the business of competing with people who want to deliver health serivces. There is more than enough to be done without people involved in the area competing to do the things that need to be done. The Territory position was put to me when I first became responsible for health even before the executive responsibility was transferred that we should try and wind down the independent services because they had long-term difficulties that we would live to regret. My view at the time - and, in hindsight, I was wrong - was that we should let the people do their thing.

The department has compiled an information paper that I presented to the ministers on Saturday. It indicates that the independent health services per se have some difficulties that spill over to the rest of us. Let me just highlight, without putting a great deal of emphasis on it at all, the problems of Papunya. Over the last year, we have admitted to hospital in the Alice Springs area 77 children for the treatment of measles. There were many other children in the region who had measles but who did not need to be admitted to hospital. That is a matter of concern because we have vaccines today to prevent children from becoming so sick that they have to go to hospital. In central Australia, we have a situation where, of the 77 children admitted, 42 came from Papunya, 5 from the camp areas in Alice Springs and 17 came from the Pitjantjatjara homelands in South Australia. Without being emotional about the problem, it is not unreasonable to say that the hospitalisation cost of those patients would be in the order of $15 000 to $20 000. I might make the point that it is money that we could have well spent on preventative areas of health. I would rather keep the people out of the system than be spending a fortune on keeping them alive when they get into it. The reality is that, where we have a blip on the curve like that, it shows up in the Alice Springs Hospital. The paediatricians can detect if there is a problem in a community. Where that community is our responsibility, we can get in there quickly and overcome the problem that has developed, be it measles, malnutrition or whatever. In the case of the independent services, the problem is that we really do not have a capacity to become involved and prevent the people from becoming so ill as to require hospitalisation.

Mr Speaker, I have highlighted one aspect. Of course, the pain is only a small part of this whole business. The lifesaving mechanism comes at the end of all the trauma that should never have started in the first place. I guess that is what is irritating the people in the department who are really standing at the bottom of a cliff just catching people as they come over instead of building a rail around the top to stop them falling over in the first place. Let me highlight for members some of the other problems that were presented on Saturday and I might add that these were not known to me at all. The representatives from Western Australia painted a situation that happened last year in one of their small settlements in the north-east corner of the state. A baby was very ill with diarrhoea and a plane from Kalgoorlie was requested. The 2 planes at Kalgoorlie were out and were not available until the next day. We had an RFDS plane in the air that was diverted 467 miles at a cost of $15.0 a mile to the Northern Territory government. The plane landed but the people would not get on the plane because it was going to Alice Springs and not to Kalgoorlie. Our plane came back to the Territory. The next day the Western Australians sent a plane from Kalgoorlie to this settlement to pick up the baby, which was deteriorating rapidly, and another patient. On the way home, the plane crashed as a result of a storm. Members might remember the story. Two pilots and a nursing passenger were lost. An Aboriginal was picked up. The baby lived through the crash but died the next day from diarrhoea. The Western Australians feel it is past any reasonable bounds. They too are looking for a solution to the problem.

The honourable member would probably be aware of a place called Kintore which is an outstation very close to the border. I believe it is a few miles north of Docker River. Kintore is an outstation of Papunya, I believe, and there are quite a few people there. There is a body of opinion, and I will not say from where, that Kintore ought to move into Western Australia and become someone else's problem. I think that is really putting our heads in the sand and not addressing ourselves to the reality that, firstly, there is no such thing as an independent service because we all rely on someone else. Secondly, if people are socially or geographically related to Alice Springs, Katherine or anywhere else, then we ought to devise a mechanism, setting aside state boundaries, to deliver care to the people and apportion the responsibility to the parties that are concerned on the basis of the responsibility that is involved.

This whole area is a minefield. Many people are now trying to work their way through it to devolve a system of delivery that will provide the best level of care and be in the best interests of the whole community. If the honourable member is interested, I would appreciate him giving me his views on where we are going. At the moment, a fair mix of people is involved. Three state governments and 2 federal departments are directly involved plus services such as the RFDS in Western Australia and the RFDS and St John Ambulance in the Territory.

I would like to advise the honourable member that the plane rides to which he alluded were but a very small part of the whole equation. For the time being, until the ministers meeting in October, we will continue our aerial evacuation system. I cannot give him any undertaking that it will continue after October. If the meeting breaks down in October, that will be sad and we will have to get together and find a way around any problems that occur, but it is my hope ...

Mr B. Collins: Have you read any good books lately?

Mr TUXWORTH: I am sorry that the honourable Leader of the Opposition finds the problem so boring, Mr Speaker. Really it is a very difficult one. It will take the resolve of many people to make it work.

Katherine High School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the fact that in the first half of this year there was a staff turnover of 13 at the Katherine High School to the great concern of parents, has the minister or his department investigated the reasons for these numerous resignations?

ANSWER

This has been a matter of considerable concern to the school and to parents and students. Instability as the result of rapid turnover of staff at any school is a highly undesirable thing. Mr Speaker, I think you were involved in the rather detailed discussions that the commissioner and the secretary of the department had with the school council and the principal. I cannot say that any definite resolution of the problem was reached at that meeting but the school council was certainly informed of the reasons. It is not a matter peculiar to Katherine; it is something we face throughout the Northern Territory, particularly with secondary schools. In far too many instances, people whom we recruit from down south are on a waiting list for a job in their home state. All too often, this information is not disclosed to the recruiting officer at the time. In fact, we are merely being used in the Northern Territory as a stopgap employment avenue. Very often, the person leaves his home address with the southern department and a job offer is subsequently made through the parents' address. When the teacher is subsequently informed of the acceptance of his job application in the southern state, which could be 6 months or 12 months or 6 weeks after coming to the Territory, the teacher quite often gives the principal of the school about 24 hours notice. He simply wanders in and gives his resignation. There is nothing that we can do about it as long as people who apply for jobs in the Northern Territory do not inform us that they are continuing applicants for jobs down south. We have 200 to 300 teachers a year who come to the Territory and leave. It is a very significant problem which will only be overcome by increasing the number of teachers who come from our own Northern Territory. It will be a long time, if ever, before we will be in a position to have sufficient locally-trained teachers to remove this problem. I agree with the people of Katherine. It is a serious problem. But I am afraid it is one that we do not have any ready answers to.

Restrictions on Access to Billabongs

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Concern has been expressed by the people of Jabiru that Island Billabong, Jabiluka Billagong, Ja Ja Billabong, Leichardt Billabong and Magela Point have been fenced off and notices erected by the NLC? Can he tell me whether these restrictions on the people of Jabiru are to continue?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, concern has been expressed we are told by the honourable member for Tiwi by people at Jabiru township that Island Billabong, Jabiluka Billabong, Ja Ja Billabong, Leichardt Billabong and Magela Point have been fenced off and notices have been erected by the Northern Land Council presumably warning against trespass. The member for Tiwi has received complaints about this action as has the Office of Aboriginal Liaison. The background is that, on 28 June 1982, Senator Bernie Kilgariff, on behalf of the Governor-General, handed over the deed of grant for 6785 ha of land at Jabiluka to Toby Kangele representing the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land. This area comprised that part of the Jabiluka project area which was recommended by the Aboriginal Land Commissioner as a result of the Alligator River Stage 2 Land Claim. A small portion of the Ja Ja project area was not recommended by the

commissioner. The area granted does not represent all that part of the land claim which was recommended and a further deed of grant is likely to be handed over in due course.

The purpose of handing over part of the recommended area at that time was to formalise the right of the Northern Land Council and traditional owners to conclude negotiations with Pancontinental joint-venturers on the issue of a mining lease to the project area. The land in question - that is, the 6785 ha - is now Aboriginal land, administered by the Northern Land Council and subject to the entry provisions of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. It also comprises a mineral lease issued by the Minister for Mines and Energy and is subject to an agreement reached between the NLC, representing the traditional owners, and the joint-venturers. The implication of the change in status of the land is that the area concerned will become subject to dual control: that imposed because it is Aboriginal land and that imposed because it is a mining lease. Department of Lands officers have identified the Jabiluka, Ja Ja and Island Billabongs - all within the area recently granted. Magela Point does not appear on the maps and cannot be identified. A Leichardt Billabong falls within Kakadu National Park and therefore it is puzzling that the NLC would be interfering with that. The explanation is that Leichardt Billabong is a local name and it is most likely that all the billabongs in Magela Point fall within the 6785 ha recently granted as Aboriginal land. My officers have been informed by the manager of the Northern Land Council that part of the agreement with the joint-venturers is that notices be placed on all tracks within the mining lease which depart from the main Oenpelli Road informing travellers that this is now Aboriginal land and departure from the main road is prohibited. There is also mention of the fenced areas in the agreement and an accompanying map shows this as being along that part of the mineral lease boundary which abuts the main Oenpelli Road and Ja Ja. This would prevent access to the area east of the road within the project area but I doubt if the billabongs are on that side as it is getting close to the escarpment. I think it could be assued that the NLC would be within the letter of the law in undertaking the work which is the subject of concern by the Jabiru residents and, no doubt, other visitors to the area.

Nevertheless, the land council indulges in double standards. It is forever preaching the need for consultation if the support of the Aboriginals is to be expected by governments but it apparently considers that the feelings of non-Aboriginals mean nothing and their support is unimportant. It is not hard to understand the reaction of the people of Jabiru who have for several years been able to relax, picnic and fish on these beautiful billabongs when they are suddenly confronted with fences and provocative notices without any prior notification or consultation. It smacks of an arrogance which is becoming increasingly evident and which is alienating reasonable people who have wanted in the past to establish good relations with their Aboriginal neighbours. The public relations aspect of this exercise seems, in my opinion, to have been very ineptly handled by the land council.

Hospital Administration

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In this Assembly some time ago, he said: 'All the chief executive officers in our hospitals are doctors. We have not had a situation in the past where a hospital was not administered by medical personnel and it would be the policy of this government to continue that practice'. Can the minister explain the Gazette notice of 30 July appointing a person who is not a medical practitioner to be in charge of Gove District Hospital and does he intend this new practice to extend to other hospitals in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

This matter falls within the prerogative of the secretary of the department. I would expect that there is an explanation. I am happy to take that up with the secretary and obtain an explanation for the honourable member.

Ablution Block for Karguru Bush Camp

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What stage has planning reached for the provision of an ablution block east of the present Karguru bush camp at Tennant Creek as agreed to by the local council and government authorities and when will the project be completed?

ANSWER

I do not have details that the honourable gentleman seeks. I will certainly obtain the information and inform him later.

Sports Complex in Katherine

Mr VALE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can the minister give details of any proposal between the Northern Territory government and the Katherine Corporation regarding the possible purchase of a sports complex in Katherine owned by D. and K. Facaro?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was approached in February by the council to have a look at the facility built by Mr Facaro which at that time had been undergoing an unprofitable period. Mr Facaro had other businesses in the Territory and was finding it a bit hard to maintain them all. He had offered this facility to the council. At the time, the council was not really in favour of taking up the offer and of course the matter lasped. Last week, I received a representation from the Mayor of Katherine who had spoken to me and followed that up with a letter saying that the council had investigated the Facaro proposal again and now thought that it could be interested in taking over the facility if there was some government assistance in purchasing it. The Mayor of Katherine went away and she was supposed to come back to me with some final details of the cost. At that stage, it was in the order of some $700 000. She seemed to think that the figure she was putting forward might not be the correct figure, and needed a little bit more time to establish the correct figure that Mr Facaro wanted because there were building costs and some leasing costs regarding equipment within the building. She asked me whether the Northern Territory government would be interested in providing some financial assistance, presumably on a 2 to 1 basis. I told her at the time that I would have to wait until she confirmed the figure Facaro wanted and, once we had the established figure, I would only be too pleased to discuss it with my Cabinet colleagues in the budget context.

There was the announcement in the federal budget on Tuesday that Tindal will be upgraded and many millions of dollars spent to provide facilities for a fighter squadron. I believe that the council's interest in this matter certainly demands some attention by the government because we are building indoor sports stadiums in Darwin and looking at providing some indoor facility in Alice Springs. In Tennant Creek, a study will be commissioned on indoor, recreational facilities. It would only be a matter of time before the Katherine council, unlike the Darwin City Council, will want to provide some kind of facility for its residents. I will certainly canvass the proposal with my Cabinet colleagues and, in the meantime, obtain further information from Mayor Davies and her aldermen of their intention because I believe it has to be almost a unanimous decision of the council to proceed with that particular facility. I believe

that it involves some $700 000 at this stage and, if we were to agree to a 2-to-1 subsidy, ti would mean a $500 000 grant from the Northern Territory government and $180 000 from the Katherine council, which would certainly give the council some impetus in that recreation area. Of course, if Tindal is to proceed as it appears it will, in another couple of years, we will need those recreation facilities in Katherine. Of course, the townspeople will be asking for those facilities and it could end up costing the government a lot more. I will investigate the matter further on your behalf. Once the council comes back with the final information, I will take the matter up further with my Cabinet colleagues.

Median Opening in Telegraph Terrace

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

Has he considered my request to provide a median opening in Telegraph Terrace to allow access for traffic into the swimming pool car-park area?

ANSWER

I have received representations from the honourable member for Alice Springs regarding the problem. It is a problem because people coming up Telegraph Terrace are dropping children over the road from the swimming pool and letting their children negotiate Telegraph Terrace to get to the pool. I believe that the council is working out some kind of engineering plan to provide improved parking facilities in that area. I believe that, once funds are available and the council is in agreement, then we will proceed to open the median strip at that point.

Mosquito Eradication in Ilpapa Swamp

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Pursuant to an undertaking given in the Assembly during the last sittings, has the minister investigated the honourable member for Stuart's suggestion for dumping rubble in the Ilpapa swamp as a measure to assist mosquito eradication and, if so, what are the results of his investigations?

ANSWER

Several things have happened in that area. They have burnt off certain areas of the swamp to try to reduce the mosquito problem. I must be honest and tell the honourable member for MacDonnell that, at this stage, the department is still investigating the proposal to dump rubble in that area.

Eastern Seabord Shipping Service to Darwin

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Most honourable members will be aware that the Darwin Trader is likely to finish her run to Darwin in November. Could he advise what arrangements are being made for an interim shipping service between November and February when the new facility will be available?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at the outset, I will advise all honourable members that, in the federal budget, $1.5m has been made available for the continuation of an eastern seabord Darwin shipping service. I understand that the Darwin Trader will remain on the run until such time as our railroad is commissioned and in operation in the Darwin port. However, I believe that the Australian National Shipping Line is investigating an alternative vessel to make the run. At this stage, it is not sure which vessel will be used but, as I understand it, it has probably 3 or 4 vessels that would be suitable and could be put on the eastern seaboard service. Now that the federal government has made the commitment for

further funding of $1.5m, officers of the Department of Transport and Construction and ANL will take this matter up. I believe that ANL has said that the Darwin Trader could be a good vessel to ply between the eastern seaboard and New Zealand on certain types of cargo. Due to the downturn in the shipping industry on the eastern seaboard it could select one of several ships to provide a fortnightly service. We are asking for a fortnightly service and are very confident that we will be able to convince ANL that freight cargoes will be available as a result of development in the Northern Territory.

Management of Casuarina Coastal Reserve

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it still his intention to transfer the management of Casuarina Coastal Reserve from the Conservation Commission to the Darwin City Council?

ANSWER

Not at this time, Mr Speaker.

Tenancy System for Housing Commission Accommodation

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will government departments represented in remote localities such as Nhulunbuy be allowed to return to a system of head tenancy of Housing Commission accommodation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government's policy has been to rationalise the dual system of housing that we have in the Territory at present and have had for many years. I refer to the public service housing list and the public housing and construction program. Announcements have been made about amalgamating those lists over a period of time. However, there will be a continuing need, particularly in areas outside Darwin, for replacement officer housing to be identified separately and held separately for key officers of government departments. Those houses will probably be vested in the various departments concerned. There will be certain conditions attaching to them. They will not normally be for sale because, if the occupant leaves the job or leaves the town, accommodation will be required immediately for a replacement officer. Therefore, sales will be restricted. I advise the honourable member that, increasingly, departments will identify their specific needs. Once those needs are accepted by government, allocations will be made.

Identity Cards

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Recently the topic of identity cards has been raised in the media. Has Cabinet discussed the possibility of introducing identity cards into the Northern Territory and, if so, what has been the outcome of those discussions?

ANSWER

Cabinet has never discussed as far as I can recall the introduction of identity cards for citizens of the Northern Territory. Most of us are so notorious that we require no such identification. On a serious note, I personally would be disquieted by such a proposal. I realise it has advantages for people who are in the business of looking after credit lines in respect of credit cards. I dare say, if one had a licence that had a photograph on it, it could be an advantage in identification purposes for banks and retailers where one was attempting to charge something to a credit card. I would personally have a feeling of unease - I would not say it was grave unease - at the introduction of such a system. I realise that, in some countries, everyone

carries an identification card. In some countries, everyone carries a number that he has to quote. In the United States, everyone has a social security number. They seem to get by. This country has not found it necessary to bring in a system of identity cards. I would not do anything to further the idea. Let me put it that way.

Foreshore Policy

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the government announce its final foreshore policy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government's foreshore policy which it introduced as an interim policy some time back now will be going to Cabinet very shortly and I hope to make a statement on the subject during the second week of this sittings.

The honourable member for Millner has been critical in the press that the government has been tardy in this matter. Can I just remind him that, at the time that the government announced an interim policy and put on display that interim policy, we also announced that the foreshores would be protected broadly along the lines of the policy until such time as the matter was thoroughly reviewed and until we had time to assess public input. Indeed, I will be recommending some modifications to Cabinet in that regard and will be announcing the government's decision in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, the Planning Authority and the Department of Lands have been instructed for several months now not to entertain applications for development proposals on the foreshores as indicated by the plan that was exhibited. I do not see that the delay in this matter has been in any way detrimental. The situation is frozen, as it were, as far as the foreshores are concerned. I am not sure that it is holding up any development applications. Certainly, the foreshores are not under threat during the period of exhibition. Quite clearly it is in the government's and the Northern Territory's interests to have this matter thoroughly examined and exhibited so that we make decisions which are proper, having regard to the fact that, once such a policy is adopted, it will very likely be in force for a very long time and will have a significant effect on the way Darwin foreshores develop.

Armed Holdup of Nursing Sister at Maningrida

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can he advise the circumstances surrounding the recent armed holdup of a nursing sister at Maningrida.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, on 1 August 1982 at 10.45 pm at the Maningrida nurses quarters, an Aboriginal male person aged 16 years entered the room of a nursing sister residing at the quarters. It is said that he pointed an unloaded .44 calibre rifle at the nursing sister to force her to supply him with food. It is further alleged that he had been sniffing petrol prior to the commission of the offence. He was a resident at Maningrida and was not in urgent need of food. He was apprehended by Maningrida police and charged with a number of offences arising out of the incident: assault with intent to rob whilst armed, being unlawfully on premises, aggravated assault, possessing a firearm but not holding a shooter's licence, and being harmed with an offensive weapon. He appeared before the court at Maningrida on 9 August and was remanded to appear at Darwin. He appeared before the Children's Court at Casuarina on 10 August and a plea of guilty to the charge of assault with intent to rob whilst armed was entered. He was again remanded in custody and is due to appear before the Children's Court at Casuarina for sentence on Tuesday 24 August 1982.

Camping in Bynoe Harbour Area

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

He is aware that people are camping in what can only be described as shacks around the Bynoe Harbour area. Is his department preparing a plan of management for that area so that any progress will be orderly and for the benefit of all?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has been concerned for some time at the growth of illegal structures in the Bynoe Harbour area which have been put up willy-nilly over a period of years by persons frequenting the area on weekends for the purposes of fishing. It has been of some concern because the structures have become more and more substantial. I believe now some of them are worth considerable money yet are sitting on vacant Crown land and, in some cases, on sand dunes. This causes us concern. This development demonstrates a need for land to be released in this area so that people can formalise their occupation, not where they are at present but in a satisfactory location. Quite clearly, the community has established in this way in frustration at not having any alternative access to facilities in the Bynoe Harbour area. In this regard, we felt that it would be quite unpopular and probably unwarranted simply to move in with government powers to tear such shacks down. We are now working on a plan to have some land in the area released so that it can be sold and proper access provided into the area for the increasing numbers of Darwinites who are using Bynoe Harbour as a recreational facility. There are certainly some very nice beaches there and excellent fishing. These areas will be formalised and people will be able to build structures under some form of control. At that time, we will require the buildings that are there now illegally to be demolished.

Control of Casuarina Coastal Reserve

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Given that an offer was made to the Darwin City Council for the takeover of the management of Casuarina Coastal Reserve, what are the reasons for now withdrawing the offer?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Casuarina Coastal Reserve was offered to the council on certain conditions some weeks ago. The offer was conditional upon a satisfactory memorandum of understanding being negotiated so that the actual management of the reserve would remain with the Conservation Commission for some time. However, that offer was made before the council decided that it would not apply for any exemptions under the proposed amendments to the Summary Offences Act or the Liquor Act. As a result of that decision being taken by the council, the government decided to withdraw its offer for the time being. The Conservation Commission has a great deal yet to do at Casuarina and the timing of the offer was probably in advance of actual requirements. In due course, when the Conservation Commission has completed its work, no doubt the government will see if the council is prepared to accept the offer. I might say that I had a very guarded response from the Lord Mayor to the offer. I dare say that, in due course, the offer will be renewed.

Betting Systems

Mr LEO to TREASURER

Has the government investigated alternative betting systems such as TAB which may assist the 2 Territory turf clubs which are at present facing extreme financial difficulties.

ANSWER

The government is continually keeping a range of matters under review in regard to taxation and incentives to industry and sport. Certainly, we are continually monitoring racing and gaming. At present, the race clubs in the Northern Territory are receiving, if I recall correctly, 100% of the funds that are raised by the government through bookmakers' fees and turnover taxes.

Undoolya Connector Road

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

Is there any change to the commencement date of the work on the connector road between Scott Terrace Bridge and Undoolya Road as predicted last sittings?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have had forewarning of this question. The specific item is included as a component of the Sadadeen residential subdivision which is currently in the construction phase. The survey and final design work for the Undoolya connector road is scheduled to commence when the negotiations between the Department of Lands, the Central Land Council and the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority concerning the alignment are completed. I understand the contract is to be let and work commence approximately 14 weeks after the clearance for the proposed line has been obtained. The construction of this road is expected to be completed within 32 weeks of the commencement.

National Aborigines Day

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Would the Chief Minister consider the granting of a Northern Territory public holiday on National Aborigines Day which falls on 9 July of each year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am pleased that the honourable member has given me this opportunity to talk about a subject that is fairly dear to my heart and that is productivity. This country is in a very poor way at the moment because of lack of productivity. We see a general strike in Queensland at the moment in relation to working hours in the public sector. Whilst I might not perhaps want to see any strikes develop in this part of the world, the fact of the matter is that all Australians should realise that the country is in a pretty sick economic condition and it has been in a sick condition because, for too long, we have pampered ourselves with protection of industries that just cannot stand up in the open market, and we have recreated thousands of jobs ...

Mr Bell: That is not answering the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Any further questions?

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When does he expect to announce management arrangements for the East Point Reserve and adjacent land which has been under consideration for some time now?

ANSWER

I will obtain the information and provide it to the honourable member during the course of these sittings. It is certainly a matter of interest to most Darwinites and it is a matter in which I have taken a personal interest in so far as boundaries and future arrangements for staff are concerned. I would like to collect the information together and provide it in the course of the sittings.

Under-age Employment of Aboriginal Children

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I am aware that he has put out a press statement on this but I think it might be of use to make a statement to the Assembly on it. Could he report to the Assembly on the results of the investigation carried out by officers of his department into the recent allegations by the head teacher of Lake Nash School about under-age employment of Aboriginal children?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, when this matter first came to attention, I made a statement in the Assembly and, if I recall correctly, that was some 9 months ago. The circumstances could well have changed by now but the facts of the matter, as I understood them at that time, were that both children were of compulsory school age. The position now is that one is not and the other is. The parents live in Queensland. As you are aware, Mr Speaker, the station in question is very close to the Queensland border. The difficulty we face is this. In order to give dispensation under our Education Act for them to work, which I would do almost automatically in circumstances such as these, an application must be received from the parents. However, as they are within a Queensland jurisdiction, they are not in a position to make application to the Northern Territory minister for dispensation for the children. The only options are to arrest the children at the border and turn them back and tell them to go back to their parents - which is not in the children's interest because they will not get any education where they are anyway, - or hi-jack them to Lake Nash School - which is 200 km from where they wish to live or work - or place them in some sort of custody and bring them across to Kormilda. As you know, Mr Speaker, the children would be distraught if we did that. They would run away and be at far greater risk than they are working under the supervision of the station manager.

Mr Speaker, it is one of those situations which is less than satisfactory but it is a decision that was taken by the Department of Community Development in consultation with the Departments of Education and Law as being in the best interests of the children. One of the lads is now over the age for compulsory school attendance which would mean that, if we were to do anything, we would not only separate the children from proximity to their parents but also separate brother from brother. Certainly this would not be in the interests of the children concerned. The best solution is for us to contact the parents through Queensland agencies and perhaps seek some form of formal exemption from education for them, if for no other reason than to comply with the strictest letter of the law.

ADMA Efforts to Market Horticultural Produce

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

A very important aspect of any commercial venture is marketing. What efforts is the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority making to market Northern Territory horticultural produce?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member did give me some notice of this question. The ADMA organisation has been most successful in marketing the Territory's horticultural produce locally, interstate and overseas. As a result, there has been a strong demand. The problem now is not so much one of marketing but more one of assisting growers to meet demands. To date, a number of local, interstate and overseas promotions have taken place resulting in strong inquiries for our produce. These inquiries have been aided by the good response from Territory growers to a series of seminars hosted by ADMA to give advice on post harvest treatment, handling and presentation.

Due to the efforts of ADMA and a number of successful long-time Territory farmers, Northern Territory rockmelons are being marketed in Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane and negotiations are proceeding for shipment to Tasmania and New Zealand. Rockmelons supplied to Brisbane are currently achieving prices up to double that of Queensland fruit simply because of quality and presentation. Territory tomatoes are being supplied to the Adelaide market and are achieving premium prices, again because of quality and presentation. Papaws and cucumbers are also being shipped to Adelaide and strong inquiries are being received for more zucchinis. Territory rockmelons have received good response in South-east Asia. The placing of trial shipments has resulted in rapid recognition of the Territory as a source of high-quality produce. Numerous inquiries are being received by ADMA from interstate for a wide variety of products and, on the local market, Territory produce is being promoted and further promotions are planned. The next one will be later this month at Coles New World Casuarina. At the moment, at the peak of the season, some 35% of local demand is being met, although it must be borne in mind that, averaged over a full year, the Territory is still only supplying 10% of its own requirements. It is hoped that this overall supply figure will be substantially upgraded over the next 3 years. Clearly, these promotional efforts have been well established and are successful. The problem now is not so much one of more marketing being required but more advice to ensure that we do not run into problems with supply.

Security of Old-timers' Homes in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that, on the night of 6 August, 3 cottages were broken into in the old-timers' homes in Alice Springs? Would he therefore agree to assist the old-timers' homes with security arrangements to improve the safety of the badly frightened residents?

ANSWER

I was not aware that 3 old-timers' cottages had been broken into on 6 August, but I will bring the matter to the attention of the Commissioner of Police and ask him to speak to the responsible authorities at the old-timers' homes.

Territory's Bee Industry

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

I was delighted to hear his last answer so totally contradict his previous statement. The minister gave the Assembly an undertaking at the last sittings that he would take action to protect the Territory's bee industry. Could he advise the Assembly what action he has taken?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would ask the honourable member to place his question on notice.

Water Division Recommendation on Septic Tanks in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I understand a meeting was held a few weeks ago between Water Division officers and some people in the rural area. At that meeting, the stated intention of the Water Division officers was that a blanket recommendation would be put forward that all the people in the rural area would have to re-install spetic tanks which could place great financial burden on many of the people. Is that a fact?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am unable to confirm the likely outcome of the meeting. However, I would ask that the honourable member write me a letter. I will certainly try to find out what is going on. With regard to septic tanks, most members would be aware that they come under the province of the Minister for Health, and she should direct any further questions regarding that to him.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that, under the terms of the morgage debenture between the Buntine group of companies and the Northern Territory Development Corporation, the appointment of a receiver-manager renders the money guaranteed by the NTDC immediately payable?

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, if I might have the call.

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable Chief Minister.

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, the matter of the Buntine group of companies is presently subject to litigation before the Northern Territory Supreme Court. The whole matter of the Northern Territory Development Corporation's guarantee to the Buntine group of companies has been referred to me for my opinion on what action should be taken to protect the government's interests As Attorney-General, I ask honourable members to direct questions of a legal nature, such as the question the honourable member for Sanderson just posed, to myself.

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that, under the terms of the mortage debenture between the Buntine group of companies and the Northern Territory Development Corporation, the appointment of a receiver-manager renders the money guarantee by the NTDC immediately payable?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Buntine group of companies has been experiencing liquidity diffculties and creditor pressure for some time. The records in the Registrar of Companies Office disclose that the companies in the group - Buntine Roadways Pty Ltd, Buntine Terminals Pty Ltd, Buntine Freightways of Australia Pty Ltd and NT Trailer Sales Pty Ltd - are all registered in the Territory and have common directorships. The directors are Roy Charles Willoughby, Mark Hugh Newham, North Star Holdings Pty Ltd and James Roland Dalziel. East Kimberly Transport Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Buntine Transport Pty Ltd, is incorporated in Western Australia and has the same directors. The companies were originally controlled by Mr Noel Buntine and members of his family but control passed to the present directors in about May 1981. A notice under section 222 of the Companies Act demanding payment of a debt was given by Transport Tyre Sales Pty Ltd on 9 August 1982. The ANZ Bank, which has first priority security on assets of the group, appointed a receiver-manager on 23 August last. The receiver is attempting to establish the true financial circumstances of the group and, until a full evaluation of the books of accounts, inspection of assets and substantiation of liability have been undertaken, the receiver is unable to advise the course of action to be pursued. Preliminary investigations by Garraway and Partners, Chartered Accountants of Darwin, prior to the appointment of a receiver indicated that there were unsecured creditors in the order of $2m in addition to the secured borrowings from the ANZ Bank, ESANDA and Citibank, and lease commitments to Citicorp and ESANDA. The application for the winding up of the group of companies taken out by Transport Tyre Sales Pty Ltd is listed for hearing on 9 September next. I am informed that, in evaluating the action to be taken, the receiver is examining the prospect of the sale of the companies as a going concern and the sale of the various assets of those companies. It would appear that, if a compulsory winding up proceeds, assets remaining after secured creditors have been satisfied will not be sufficient to pay unsecured creditors.

The Northern Territory Development Corporation executed a guarantee in favour of Citibank intending to support advances to Buntine Roadways Pty Ltd. The advances were to be for the purposes of working capital, refinancing leasing

contracts and business development. The corporation has security by way of second ranking charges of assets of each of the companies in the group, excluding real estate. It holds a guarantee from North South Holdings Pty Ltd and personal guarantees from Messrs Willoughby, Newham and Dalziel. It also holds a charge of assets of Transport and Property Holdings Pty Ltd which is the shareholder of all the shares in the group.

Mr Noel Buntine is recorded as having a charge over the shares of that company. In addition to its charge, the ANZ Bank has mortgages on the real estate owned by the companies and its securities rank ahead of the Development Corporation to the extent of the first $1m. I understand though that the bank is owed about $800 000.

Citibank has informed the corporation that the advance of $750 000 has been fully drawn and the corporation's solicitors have written to Citibank requesting the dates and the amounts of the advances provided and to whom the advances were made. When this information is received, the corporation will be able to assess the extent of its contingent liabilities in the event - and I would ask the honourable member to listen to this - that Citibank calls upon it under the terms of the guarantee. The corporation has had notices of appointment prepared to enable it to inspect the company books of account and other records and to enable it to fully explore the extent of its liability under the guarantee. Mr Speaker, these inspections are proceeding.

Until such time as the receiver-manager and the corporation have established the true financial position, the extent of any exposure of the corporation is unknown. The book value of assets appears to be sufficient to satisfy any liability the corporation may incur. But what those assets will realise in all the circumstances is another matter. The corporation continues to be actively involved with the ANZ Bank and other interests with a view to determining the true position and to take such steps as may be necessary to protect itself. Whether or not the corporation will be called upon to meet the whole or any part of its guarantee commitment and, if so, the extent to which it could reasonably expect to cover its liability from assets, the subject of the charge and from the personal guarantees are not yet known. The corporation, Mr Speaker, is presently considering legal advice that it has received concerning its guarantee and securities and the courses of action that are open to it.

Health Services at Ti Tree Homestead

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of recent press reports indicating trouble at Ti Tree in central Australia, can he advise what steps, if any, his department is taking to provide health services to the residents at Ti Tree Homestead in central Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, much has been said in the last couple of days in the press about the situation at Ti Tree. At this stage, the department has kept a very low profile on it because I believe that the situation is not as bad as some people would have us believe. For the benefit of honourable members, I would like to give them the background on Ti Tree Station. It is a private station run by Aboriginals. The Health Department has had an involvement on Ti Tree for about 17 years. In fact, the area has been serviced by people such as Dr Whittenbury and Dr Kirke for at least 15 years and there has been a very close relationship between the department and the people on the station over that time.

Mr Speaker, I would also make the point that the station itself has a small clinic. It could only be regarded as humble. But it also has 2 Aboriginal health workers in situ on the station who are employees of the Department of

Health and who rotate in and out of the health workers training school in Alice Springs on a regular basis, as do all health workers in the southern end of the Territory.

Mr Speaker, the situation at Ti Tree is also supported by the presence of the clinic there which is staffed by 3 sisters. Although Ti Tree itself is very small and does not warrant a staff of that size, the mobile run from Ti Tree is pretty comprehensive and most of the activities of the lakes are taken up by the rural work. One of the sisters has been on our payroll for at least 10 years and the other 2 have been with us for some 3 or 4 years. All are regarded as very competent members of the staff and the community.

A situation arose a couple of weeks ago where, undoubtedly, there was a difference of opinion or a conflict between some people on the station and some members of our staff. As a result, a letter was received from legal aid asking the department not to go to Ti Tree anymore. It said that sisters were not required to visit the station by the people there and that there was a sister working on the station at all times. I understand that the sister alluded to, who would be available to work on the station, was a Mrs Edwards who is the wife of a gentleman working there. As far as we have been able to ascertain, Mr Edwards is not a trained sister and is not competent to call herself a trained sister in the Northern Territory. As far as the department is concerned, she would not qualify for the rural subsidy that is paid to trained sisters in remote areas. Nevertheless, if the people at Ti Tree do not wish the department to go there, that wish will be respected.

Mr Speaker, as a result of the situation that developed there, Dr Kirke in Alice Springs instructed the girls not to go to Ti Tree on the regular visits but to be certain they were available for emergencies. The people from Ti Tree who came to the clinic would be able to have treatment at the clinic. Over a period of a couple of weeks, several members of the community did present themselves at the Ti Tree town clinic for treatment.

Mr Speaker, I have been concerned that such a relationship should exist. Last week, I took the opportunity to visit Ti Tree Station and talk with the people. Regrettably, most of my time was taken up talking to Mr and Mrs Edwards. During the course of my interview with Mr and Mrs Edwards, they saw fit to make some serious allegations against the integrity and professionalism of the staff. These matters were of such concern that I believe they should be placed in writing and investigated. Mr and Mrs Edwards have promised that they will put their complaints in writing and, when I receive them, I will ask Dr Fleming to investigate the matters. The department is happy to provide services to the people at Ti Tree Station on the basis of need and desire. The matters that have been put before me by Mr and Mrs Edwards are serious and will be investigated fully.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Given the obvious conflict between the role of Mr Richard Allert as a member of the NTDC which is owed some $750 000 from the sale of the Buntine group of companies and his partnership in the firm Allert Heard and Co who have been appointed receivers and managers of that group of companies, will the minister remove this conflict by asking Mr Allert to step down from his position with the NTDC?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it was not the government's decision to appoint Allert Heard as receiver for the Buntine group. We do appoint members to the NTDC of course. I think that these people are professionals. I do not see that there would be any conflict in respect of that appointment.

Fog Bay Closure

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise the Assembly on the progress of negotiations for the closure of Fog Bay and the establishment of a fishery west of the Wessels?

ANSWER

Just before this Assembly adjourned the week before last, we had an interesting debate in relation to fishing and the Northern Territory economy. I was interested to hear the views of honourable members in that debate because some of their views bear little contact with the reality of the fishing industry in the Northern Territory at present. After the Assembly rose, I travelled to Perth where I met on the Friday morning with the Western Australian Premier and with the Minister for Agriculture, Mr Dick Old. I presented to them personally a submission in support of the west of the Wessels fishery which I had prepared and dispatched earlier to them through the mail. Both ministers were pleased at that time to assure me of their support. Consequently, after leaving Perth, and with their approval, the approval of the Queensland Premier and the approval of the federal minister, I met with Directors of Fisheries from the Commonwealth, from Queensland and from Western Australia in Brisbane on the Monday morning. Also present at that meeting were my colleague, the honourable Minister for Primary Production, and the Director of Fisheries in the Northern Territory, Mr Dick Slack-Smith.

Mr Speaker, we, of course, ran into much tougher weather when we actually encountered the officials who are, it seems to me, fairly determined to do all they can to protect the interests of their states. But as I pointed out to those gentlemen in speaking to the Northern Territory's submission, the facts of the matter are that, in each of the last 3 years, approximately the same tonnage of prawns has been landed out of the northern prawn fishery, and yet, in the same period, the number of boats working in the fishery has increased quite dramatically. Obviously, therefore, the northern fishery as it presently exists is not capable of providing a living, or even sustenance, for the number of boats that are now using it and there is a further prospect of vessels entering the fishery because there are a number of licence holders who have not yet taken up the option of fishing in the northern Australian prawn fishery.

Mr Speaker, at the meeting in Brisbane we were successful in reaching agreement with the directors of fisheries on the closure in effect of the Fog Bay area by a technical arrangement which will limit the size of the nets which are able to be used in the prawn fishery off Fog Bay. I would point out that the fishery itself is not in Fog Bay; it is off Fog Bay. It is beyond the 3-mile territorial limit. We have succeeded at present in coming to an arrangement on that point which will go forward I understand to the meeting of the Australian Fisheries Council which is a meeting of all fisheries ministers throughout Australia. That, I think, is being held in Hobart some time in October and I expect at that time there will be a formal agreement or endorsement of the closure of Fog Bay. The various technical details in relation to the regulation of that fishery are to be determined in the meantime.

As for the west of the Wessels fishery, I made it clear to the directors that the Northern Territory was determined to have its way and that the west of the Wessels fishery was going to come into being whether the fishing industry liked it or not. Quite frankly, Mr Speaker, the directors of fisheries are under intense pressure as you will have realised in view of the media coverage that occurred in the Northern Territory during my absence when fisheries organisations in Queensland and I think Western Australia leapt into the attack against the Northern Territory for daring to propose that we have our own limited entry fishery west of the Wessels. These people involved in the fishing industry are going to maintain that it is better in the interests of the

Australian fishing industry to continue with the fishery extending from Cape York to the Western Australian border.

However, I travelled to Cairns on Monday afternoon and in Cairns I met with representatives of the major Australian prawn fishing companies. I think there are about 10 of them. There was a meeting of about 15 to 20 people held in Cairns, which I was able to speak to. I was subjected to intense questioning by the representatives of these fishing companies who obviously have no liking whatsoever for our proposal and have, to some extent I think, been caught napping. However, they will now, no doubt, bring considerable political pressure to bear and, therefore, the fight is far from over. If these fishing companies say that our proposal is not a good one for the rational management of the north Australian fishery, then I want to know from them what is. I have given them 3 weeks to provide me with a submission in writing as to why the Northern Territory should not proceed further with its proposal for the closure or limited entry to the fishery west of the Wessels.

I should receive this submissions with 3 weeks of last Tuesday. There will be a further meeting of directors of fisheries with my colleague and myself before the Australian Fisheries Council meeting in Hobart. I am not quite sure of the timing of that as it will depend on a number of other events. I told the directors of fisheries that the Northern Territory is determined to proceed with this proposal and I conveyed the same message in exactly the same terms to the representatives of the big fishing companies. Although I do not expect that the proposal will necessarily come into operation within the next 3 months, or even the next 6 months, I am hopeful that, by maintaining fairly constant pressure, we should be able to bring it into operation within the reasonably foreseeable future.

NTDC Guarantee to North Clay Industries

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he inform the Assembly of the nature of the guarantee made by Northern Territory Development Corporation to the company North Clay Industries on 29 July 1982 to the value of $2.1m in conjunction with a merchant bank known as Amrol Australia? Can he inform the Assembly of the nature of the security demanded by the NTDC in relation to this guarantee of $2.1m?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government is not prepared to provide that information.

Handover of Land to NT Pensioners Association

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Some time ago approval was given for land next to Tracy Lodge to be handed over to the Northern Territory Pensioners Association. Is he able to inform me when title to that land will be handed over to the Northern Territory Pensioners Association?

ANSWER

I cannot give the honourable member for Port Darwin a specific date at this stage. However, I will attempt to obtain that information and pass it on to him. I can assure him that, some time ago, the government set aside land next to Tracy Lodge in the heart of Darwin for an expansion of Tracy Lodge in future years. It is part of the government's overall campaign to accommodate the needs of the aged in the Territory. I can assure him that that land is under no threat. I will investigate the procedure for issuing title and advise him of a date.

Transport Property Holdings Pty Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Were the company accounts of Transport Property Holdings audited before the NTDC committed itself to give a guarantee of $750 000 in favour of Citibank?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Chief Minister, as Attorney-General, has indicated to the Assembly that questions of this nature at this time should be directed to him.

Ms D'ROZARIO: Mr Speaker, may I draw the attention of the honourable minister to the provisions of section 19A of the Territory Development Act under which he sets the terms and conditions of the guarantee and signs the guarantee in these circumstances.

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable Chief Minister.

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): As honourable members of the opposition know, there is litigation pending in respect of this whole matter and the Northern Territory Development Corporation's position may well be prejudiced by answers given to questions in this Assembly. Therefore, at the beginning of question time, I did give honourable members opposite the courtesy of inviting them to ask questions of me in relation to legal matters. Since that time, we have seen honourable members of the opposition attempt to prejudice the Northern Territory Development Corporation's position in any litigation by the asking of 3 questions of a legal nature to other ministers.

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Speaker, I redirect my question to the Chief Minister. Were the accounts of Transport Property Holdings audited before the NTDC committed itself to a guarantee of $750 000 in favour of Citibank?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the original guarantee from the Northern Territory Development Corporation was for the companies that made up the Buntine group which I spelled out in some detail in my earlier answer to the question of the honourable member for Sanderson. If she had listened to my answer to that question, she would not have needed to ask this question at all.

Daly Street Fire Station

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is consideration being given to relocating the Daly Street Fire Station?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there have been rumours outside the corridors of the Chan Building regarding the relocation of the Daly Street Fire Station. These rumours are not correct. It is only a couple of years since we decided not to relocate the fire station in the Parap area and to upgrade the Daly Street station. In this year's capital works program, moneys will be made available to upgrade the Daly Street station. There could be a proposal at some future date - 1987 or 1988 - to upgrade or relocate the Winnellie Fire Station and bring it closer to the industrial areas of Winnellie and Stuart Park. However, at this time there is no intention to relocate the Daly Street Fire Station.

Palm Valley to Alice Springs Gas Pipeline

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it the intention of the government to offer the successful tenderer for the gas pipeline from Palm Valley gasfields to Alice Springs a guarantee in support of any money that the company may borrow to undertake this development?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member will have to redirect his question. At no stage has the NTDC nor myself been involved in the question of the pipeline.

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Program

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In relation to the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication program, can he explain the interaction between the Australian Agricultural Council, the Standing Committee on Agriculture, the Northern Australian Sub-group and the National BTB Eradication Planning Group?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Australian Agricultural Council is composed of all state and Territory Ministers of Agriculture and is chaired by the Commonwealth minister. It meets twice a year in various capitals and New Zealand. The Standing Committee on Agriculture is made up of the public service heads of departments of agriculture. That committee meets twice a year, immediately preceding the Australian Agricultural Council meeting and prepares the agenda items and supporting papers for consideration by the ministers.

At the recent July meeting held in Rotorua, New Zealand, the Northern Territory pressed the need for the Commonwealth to provide special funding and additional general provisions for the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaign for northern Australia to include the northern areas of Queensland, Western Australia and the Territory. The Northern Territory sees this area as having special problems for the eradication of the 2 diseases because of the difficult terrain and depressed cattle prices. This view was generally supported by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and the ministers' meeting and, as a result, a northern Australian sub-group was set up consisting of representatives of Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth to consider the problems and make recommendations to the AAC for its resolution, with special reference to additional recurrent funding support for such operations as mustering, holding costs etc, as well as for capital assitance for the provision of fencing, cattle grids and other essential items that are needed in the BTB program. This sub-group has already had a first meeting in Darwin and will report next month to the larger group; that is, the national BTB Planning Group which overviews the eradication campaign in Australia as a whole.

Transport Property Holdings Pty Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Were written inquiries made to the company Transport Property Holdings Pty Ltd in relation to its financial position at the time that a guarantee was made by the NTDC?

ANSWER

I am informed that inquiries were made of a company known as Transport Property Holdings Pty Ltd prior to the execution of the guarantee in favour of Citicorp. I am told that execution of the guarantee was deferred until the corporation was supplied with information that it had sought from the companies.

Mr Speaker, I will just refer to an earlier question by the Leader of the Opposition to my colleague, the Minister for Primary Production. I have inspected a register of guarantees kept by the Northern Territory Development Corporation and I am assured that those are the only guarantees that have been granted by the NTDC. In that register I can find no reference whatsoever to any such guarantee as mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition.

Kennon Holdings Loan

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the government guarantee a loan from Citibank to a campany called Kennon Holdings in October 1980? If so, was the value of that NTDC guarantee $820 000 and was the loan secured against the assets of that company?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question of confidentiality is one that the government is concerned about in its dealings with the public and people who seek support in their borrowings from the government. Mr Speaker, at this stage we are not prepared to bandy around names of those persons through the press unnecessarily.

Clearing of Land on Oolloo Station

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

He will be aware that ADMA ordered 300 acres of Oolloo cleared, which posed a severe erosion problem, and which was promptly ordered reafforested by the Conservation Commission. Given these facts, would he ensure that, before any clearing is ordered by ADMA on that station, the Conservation Commission's advice is sought?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the exact details to which the honourable member refers. However, I have been assured by the chairman that consultation with the Conservation Commission does take place on a regular basis. As far as I know, ADMA has never gone out of its way to cause conservation problems.

Large-animal Pound for Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the latest on the large-animal pound for the rural area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Tiwi has made representations to me on this matter. I have had the issue thoroughly investigated. It would seem that the present provisions of the Pounds Act are insufficient for us to establish a pound in the rural area. The Pounds Act was designed to provide for pounds within built-up or municipal areas. It was not envisaged that they would be located other than in municipal areas. Of course, the Darwin rural area is not so incorporated. As a result, I think it would be necessary to introduce legislation to facilitate the establishment of such pounds. I would propose at the same time - and Cabinet has already considered this matter - to strengthen the provisions of the existing Pounds Act in relation to pounds within the municipalities and also to allow for them outside, probably by ministerial direction.

However, I would remind the honourable member that, to establish a pound, someone has to pay for it. I suppose one can partially offset costs by increasing the fees for impoundment and fines for breaches of the act. Nonetheless, as we all are well aware, never has it happened to date that a pound breaks even, much less makes a profit. So, of course, someone has to pay for it. The rural people then should bear in mind that, while they are considering local government for their own area, when they make requests of this nature, they must consider the cost implications as well.

NTDC Loans Outstanding

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What action has he taken to recover the arrears in relation to total loans outstanding to the Northern Territory Development Corporation, which was stated by him as being in the order of $1.6m? Can he inform the Assembly as to how much of that amount has been recovered at this time?

ANSWER

The question of arrears to the corporation has been addressed and it is an ongoing process. The loans arrears comprise loans dating back to the Primary Producers Board and the Business Relief Loans Fund which were set up after the cyclone. Some of those arrears would be very difficult to get back in the security of the corporation. It is an ongoing process. The position is never particularly stable. It is an up-and-down position. I would be happy to talk to the honourable member about that particular situation on a confidential basis.

Review of NT Road Laws

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

At the present time, a review of the road laws in the Northern Territory is being carried out by the Northern Territory government. Can he inform me when this review is likely to be completed?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, I am unable to tell the honourable member for Port Darwin when the review will be completed because it is an ongoing review. It could take as long as 2 years. However, I am hopeful that a report will be made available early next year for government consideration regarding any amendment to legislation that may be required.

Assurances to Shell Company re Buntine Group

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What financial assurances did he give to the Shell Company in order to maintain fuel supplies to the Buntine group?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there were no assurances of finance given to the Shell Company in any respect to assist with the continuation of the Buntine operation. There was a liaison between my office, the NTDC and the Shell group which induced the Shell people to be very cooperative for which we thank them. The position is that most of the cattle are being transported throughout the Northern Territory to market. The Buntine group had some control formerly over about 80% of the actual movement of live cattle throughout the Territory. There is a growth of other operators moving into cattle transport activity which they were not in formerly and, at this stage, it is believed that there will be no dislocation resulting from the financial problems being experienced by the Buntine group. The only difficulty that may occur is the movement of cattle in large numbers, say, to go on a ship. That would be the only problem likely to be experienced. In future operations, it is clear that a general direction would need to be undertaken to expedite large movements of cattle throughout the Northern Territory.

Meatmeal Plant for Small and Mobile Abattoirs

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

If a fish silage plant is to be established in the Territory with money provided by the Northern Territory Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund, what is being done about establishing some simple form of meatmeal plant for small abattoirs and mobile abattoirs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is true that the assistance has been arranged for a Territory fisherman who will be loaned the necessary equipment to engage in fish silage production. The question of meatmeal and meatmeal products has not been addressed in this way. We understand that currently meatworks produce some of their own meatmeal. We have not addressed that side of the question.

Quickline Plant for Darwin

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has the NTDC made available a loan or a guarantee to a company - and I am not asking him to name it - that intends to develop a quicklime manufacturing plant in Darwin? What is the status of this proposal at present?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that some discussions and negotiations are being undertaken with a company to assist in the construction of a quickline plant. I do not have a position report in front of me but there has been no assistance at this time.

Rural Readjustment Funds

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise why only 16% of the rural readjustment funds that were available to the Territory last year were spent, given the present state of the Northern Territory's beef industry?

ANSWER

I do not have the precise information which the honourable member requires. From my experience in dealing with loans to primary producers, the difficulty has been in primary producers satsifying the requirements demanded of us by the Commonwealth in granting the Northern Territory those funds. I understand that this matter will be debated later this morning.

Department Store for Darwin

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he inform me whether the Northern Territory Development Corporation is negotiating with a major southern retailer to establish a department store in Darwin?

ANSWER

I understand that the Northern Territory Development Corporation has at various times talked to department stores in the states and I understand that those department stores have dispatched officers to Darwin at different times to determine the potential for the establishment of a department store in Darwin.

Channel Island Power-station

Mr LEO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is the role of the Northern Territory Development Corporation in the construction of the Channel Island power-station?

ANSWER

I am not aware of a close relationship between the Northern Territory Development Corporation and the Channel Island power-station at this time.

Rubbish on Private Land

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

There appears to be no way of forcing owners of properties to clear their land of rubbish and old building materials. What is the government doing to change this situation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will have to inquire into this matter further as a result of a claim by the member for Port Darwin that there are no powers to compel landowners to clean up their properties. When widespread freeholding was introduced in towns throughout the Territory by this government, the conditions were abolished whereby lessees of land had to maintain the property in a reasonable condition. However, there is in the Darwin City Council's bylaws a provision whereby the council can require landowners to undertake certain works on their land and clean it up. I appreciate that this bylaw is probably not as extensive as we would like. It may relate to the situation of the possible harbouring of vermin. I will investigate the matter further because it is of concern to myself and no doubt other members in Darwin that there is still the odd block throughout various suburbs which has not been developed since Cyclone Tracy. In fact, some of them are in appalling condition with

grass, trees, shrubs and rubbish. If the council bylaws are not strong enough to deal with this matter, we should speak with the council with a view to having the bylaws redrafted so that it does have such powers. Local governments in the states do have these powers. I am not sure that it is really the role of the state government or, in our case, the Territory government to promulgate laws to enable us to go onto private land in an urban area and demand that it be cleaned up. This is truly a matter that rests with the city council.

Howard Springs School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Now that there is sometimes a third policeman at the Fred's Pass Police Office and in view of the great increase in traffic on Whitewood Road where the Howard Springs School is situated and a recent accident involving a child after school, will the police return to their previous practice of a few years ago of sometimes being on duty outside the Howard Springs School for a short time after school comes out in the afternoon?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the number of school crossings in use in the greater Darwin area during the normal week days always exceeds the number of available police personnel. Some schools have not just one crossing, but 2 and sometimes 3. I am advised by the Commissioner of Police that crossings of this type cannot receive regular supervision. Nevertheless, police will attend them when other commitments permit. The recent accident alluded to by the honourable member was caused, I am informed, by a child alighting from and running from behind a school bus into the path of an oncoming vehicle. It did not relate directly to the use of the crossing. Consequent upon this question being asked earlier in this sittings, the adequacy of existing legislation and regulations in respect of school crossings is presently being examined by the police together with the Department of Education.

Water Storage for Alice Springs

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

Is the new water storage tank on the Sadadeen Range expected to be completed on schedule and could he assure the town of Alice Springs that it will not suffer water shortages in the immediate future except in highly unlikely circumstances?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is expected that the new water storage tank will be completed very shortly. The department will effect the final pour in the next couple of days and will then upgrade the rest of the water supply. There is an item of $2.7m for this in this year's capital works program and it should go to tender in the latter part of this financial year. This upgrading, with the new storage tank, should provide Alice Springs with an adequate water supply.

Costingan Report

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Northern Territory government investigated the effects, if any, of the Costigan Report on the Northern Territory and is the government carrying out any investigations as to the extent of tax avoidance schemes, such as the bottom-of-the-harbour scheme, in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, tax avoidance schemes such as bottom-of-the-harbour schemes have no relevance to the Northern Territory government as such. It has no

taxation legislation, that I am aware of, whereby bottom-of-the-harbour schemes would avail people one jot of benefit. The federal government's income tax laws are those that are claimed to be transgressed by bottom-of-the-harbour tax avoidance schemes and, therefore, it rests squarely in the court of the Australian Taxation Department and the Attorney-General's Department of the Commonwealth to investigate such schemes and decide whether prosecution should be launched or not.

I had a brief discussion with the Police Commissioner last week as a consequence of the tabling of portion of the report of the Costigan Commission of Inquiry. Of course, we have the section of the report that has been made available generally. We do not have any access to those portions of the report that have been kept confidential by the federal government, although I understand that those sections of the report have been made available to the Victorian government and also to the federal Leader of the Opposition for his perusal on a confidential basis. Nonetheless, that part of the report that we have is being studied by the Police Commissioner for any relevance it may have to the Northern Territory. He did tell me that, on a preliminary reading of the report - and I have not yet had time to read it myself - there appeared to be little of relevance in it for the Northern Territory.

Mr Speaker, the question of tax avoidance is a very topical one and the question of the establishment of a crimes commission is also a very topical one. It is believed in some quarters that the establishment of a crimes commission will do much towards the elimination of organised crime in this country. The Northern Territory is maintaining a very keen interest in the Commonwealth proposals to establish a national crimes commission. It is also maintaining a keen interest in a bill presently before the federal parliament called the Criminal Investigation Bill. As we see it at present, the Commonwealth government is engaged in what amounts to a collision course with itself. To establish the Crimes Commission as proposed will simply bring into the public forum matters capable of investigation by a commission which, in many cases, could not be brought, on the evidence available, before a court. Unfortunately, as I understand it, after the preliminary dredging and skirmishing has been done, it will then be incumbent upon the police force to launch and carry the necessary prosecutions. These police prosecutions will be subject to the normal laws of evidence in the court. I understand that it is now proposed that the police will be bound by the provisions of the proposed Criminal Investigation Bill. I might say that, when I refer to police in this context, I am referring to the federal police. As far as we can see, the Criminal Investigation Bill will virtually handcuff the police in their attempts to investigate organised crime. In fact, it will totally negate any benefit that might be derived from the establishment of a crimes commission. The Northern Territory is attempting to bring some rationality to the Commonwealth proposals. We have made representations at very senior levels of the federal government in this regard. We see absolutely no point in the establishment of this commission at this time if another piece of legislation is going through which will further hamper and dampen any work that the police might be able to do to combat organised crime in this country.

Illegal Fishing of Keep River

Mrs LAWRIE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I refer to a question I asked of him a week ago. Has he yet determined whether charges will be laid against 3 West Australians regarding alleged illegal fishing activities in the Keep River on 3 and 4 July?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not like to give an answer to a question of this nature off the top of my head although I do recall something on this subject coming

through my office last week. I think it was with the material from the Solicitor-General that I examined over the weekend and passed on to the Police Commissioner. I would rather take this question on board and give the member for Nightcliff a considered answer tomorrow.

Whilst I am on my feet, the honourable member for Nightcliff yesterday asked a question of the Minister for Industrial Development in relation to the clearing of certain land at Oolloo Station by ADMA. She asked the minister whether the Land Conservation Unit of the Conservation Commission, which of course comes under my administration, has had to require ADMA to reafforest 300 ha of land at Oolloo Station. The information that I have been supplied with by the Conservation Commission is as follows. Firstly, no such requirement has been sought by the Land Conservation Unit of the commission from ADMA. Secondly, the Land Conservation Unit has been working in close consultation with ADMA since the inception of the pilot project farms and has assisted in the delineation of the land suitable for arable agriculture. Officers are currently working in the field and advising on soil erosion control measures. Thirdly, regular interdepartmental committee meetings are held between ADMA, the Conservation Commission, the Department of Primary Production, the Department of Lands, the Department of Transport and Works and CSIRO to ensure satifactory liaison.

Single Officer Accommodation in Alice Springs

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

When will the Housing Commission single officer accommodation development in Bath Street, Alice Springs, be ready for occupancy and will this development assist with the accommodation problems of teachers in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Housing Commission expects the premises mentioned by the honourable member for Alice Springs to be ready for occupation by late November or early December this year. The development of the 18 units will assist the accommodation problem in Alice Springs and there is a possibility that 8 of the units could be offered to teachers. The figure of 8 is based on the Housing Commission's public service waiting list as at yesterday. Whilst the accommodation units are not being specifically set aside for teachers, teachers are public servants and are entitled to housing in accordance with a waiting list. Obviously, the evidence suggests that quite a number of those units will be occupied by teachers in due course.

All-weather Causeway Across Todd River

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I preface my question by reminding him of a petition containing 291 signatures of Alice Springs residents calling for an all-weather causeway across the Todd River. What action is the government taking to provide such an all-weather causeway over the Todd River, considering this request for a basic service by such a large group of Territorians?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I refer the honourable member to the budget papers released yesterday by the Treasurer. If my memory serves me right, funds are available in this year's capital works program for upgrading of the Heavitree Gap area. Presumably, the causeway could be included in that.

Harry Chan Ward

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Concern has been expressed that children in the Harry Chan Nursing Ward will be transferred to the new nursing home at Palmerston when it is completed. As this will isolate the children from the education resources of the Henbury Avenue Special School, and other resources available for handicapped children in Darwin, will he ensure that this does not take place?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think it would be fair to say that the new nursing home at Palmerston will be a much more appropriate environment for these children than is the Harry Chan Ward in the Darwin Hospital. The availability of educational facilities for these children is one that has not escaped my department's notice. There has been a great deal of discussion on this. I understand that my colleague, the Minister for Education, has been involved in some discussions too. The honourable member said that transfer to Palmerston would remove the children from the facilities of Henbury school. We are talking about children who are not particularly mobile and who have some rather severe handicaps. So far as their place of abode is concerned, being at Palmerston is not greatly different from being in the Harry Chan Ward at the Darwin Hospital. Mr Speaker, the important thing for my department to do in cooperation with the Department of Education is to ensure that children have the special education facilities available to them where they need them. My prime concern is to see that children are accommodated and nursed in the most suitable environment. I have great difficulty accepting the premise that the Darwin Hospital is a better environment than the rural setting that the children are going to be exposed to down at Palmerston. So I can assure the honourable member that I am aware of her concern. I do not share her concern at this time and I know my colleague the Minister for Education and I will be monitoring the situation very closely to see that the children to which we are referring receive any facility that we can offer them and in the best way.

Land at Myilly Point

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

He will be aware that an area of land at Myilly Point, formerly held by the Defence Department, was relinquished to the Northern Territory government. In fact, it was considered as a possible site for the future Parliament House. Is he aware that the Department of Defence is now actively considering building a defence facility on that area and that also a licensed restaurant is being considered for the area - I presume not with the defence facility?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware of interest being expressed by various parties in the portion of land the honourable member refers to. Until a firm proposal is made, no such comment can be made on the subject except to say that any proposal to develop the area would require a change of zoning. I think the area at the present time is zoned either 01 or 03 and, therefore, development would require rezoning. If the Commonwealth reached agreement with the Territory government that it should have the land for development, it would of course pay for the land because all land - other than land acquired by the Commonwealth at self-government under freehold - required by the Commonwealth is normally paid for at market rates unless some other pro rata arrangement has been agreed upon.

Citibank Guarantee of Government Funds

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did Citibank seek a guarantee from the Northern Territory government for funds that it was to make available to North South Holdings for the construction of the gas pipeline between Palm Valley and Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question should be redirected to the Treasurer.

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Did Citibank seek a guarantee from the Northern Territory government for funds that it was to make available to North South Holdings for the construction of the gas pipeline between Palm Valley and Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think it would be totally inappropriate for me to enter into any discussion publicly on the negotiations that took place following the close of tenders for the first time for the transport of gas from Palm Valley to Alice Springs. There has been 1 brief statement put out by myself very carefully worded as to the reasons for the government deciding to cancel tenders and recall them. Prior to that time, there was quite a lot of activity in assessing tender submissions. As those tenders were all cancelled and have been recalled, I think that it would be totally inappropriate for me to discuss the matter further publicly.

Motor Vehicle Licences for 16-year-olds

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the minister's recent attendance at the Australian Transport Advisory Council and its professed involvement in the uniform approach to vehicles and driver regulations, what is the position of motor vehicle licences for 16-year-olds who live in the country and who cannot attend high school courses on driving?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question of 16-year-olds driving was not discussed at the recent ATAC conference. However, it is present policy that the licensing procedures for various agencies be reviewed. At this stage, the ministers of the various states do not intend proceeding with the issue of licences for students under the age of 16. However, it has been left to the states to decide what particular course of action they will adopt. I would be prepared to ask my department to prepare a submission for Cabinet with a view to investigating the possibility of issuing driver's licences in certain cases to 16-year-olds. However, such a licence would not be able to be used in any other state at the moment. I will take it on board and come up with some kind of documentation for Cabinet consideration.

NTDC Audit Procedures

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a standard practice of the Northern Territory Development Corporation to request audits on the accounts of companies to which it is considering giving loans or guarantees?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the NTDC has a standard practice of obtaining all relevant financial information available to enable it to ascertain the extent to which

it should assist a borrower. I believe that the practice is being carried out in every case.

Government Blocks near Kahlin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

My question relates to 5 blocks of land which front the old Darwin Hospital area overlooking Kahlin. The government owns these blocks. Has the government considered selling these blocks for residential purposes?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the blocks are indeed prime blocks of land in the Darwin sense but the government has not proposed selling them at this stage, although some interest in purchasing the land has been expressed by at least 1 party. The government proposes for the time being to keep the parcel of land around the old Darwin Hospital site intact. At the present time, the site is being studied. In the meantime, the land is not available for public release.

NTDC Guarantee for Alice Springs Hotel Construction

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Is the proposal by the Central Australian Development Company to construct a hotel in Alice Springs to proceed and, if so, has the Northern Territory Development Corporation guaranteed all or any of the money required for the project?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the proposal the honourable member refers to in Alice Springs has some hurdles to overcome before it can be finalised, not the least of which is the area of land proposed to be developed in Alice Springs, which comprises at the present time the Alice Springs golf course - held under a special purpose lease. The development is constrained somewhat by claims of sacred sites in the area. In this regard, negotiations have been going on, though not very successfully, for some time. Apart from that, the financing arrangements for a major hotel in the area have been under discussion for some time by all sorts of interested parties. It is too early for us to say exactly when it will go ahead or the terms under which government assistance might be provided to that particular project because that will depend on where funds are to come from, who are to be the final owners of the project and how it is to be specifically financed. Certainly, as a matter of government policy, a major international-class hotel in Alice Springs would receive government support.

Top End Gun Club Application for Land

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has a final decision been made to grant a block of land, part of a section on Girraween Road in 100 of Bagot, to the Top End Gun Club?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Top End Gun Club was advised in April this year that application for the site had lapsed through problems that we had with the site. The site does not have adequate access at present. To provide access to the site would involve a crossing over the Howard River which could be very expensive. The department felt it would be inappropriate to give a substantial area of land to a gun club or any other club if it did not have adequate access to the property. Very shortly, there would be continuous pressure upon the government to assist with or provide access, no doubt at some considerable expense. An alternative area of land was offered to the gun club at Berry Springs. However, this was rejected out of hand by the club. It was informed in October

1981 that its original application had lapsed because it had been rejected for a particular purpose. It can be assured that, from the Department of Lands' point of view, the file on that matter had closed. Until solutions to the problem can be overcome, the matter will stay closed unless the gun club seeks to resurrect it and provide some more answers.

Buntine Group - Investigation by Garraway and Partners

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Who commissioned the preliminary investigation by Garraway and Parteners, Chartered Accounts, into the activities of the Buntine Group of companies and was this report commissioned and received?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the member to place his question on notice.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the published policy of the Northern Territory Development Corporation that it does not see as its role the provision of assistance to general transport operations, what was the justification for the provision of assistance by way of guarantee to the Buntine group? By way of a footnote, may I inform the minister that this published policy is to be found on page 6 of the Northern Territory Development Corporation Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 1981.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the policies of the Northern Territory Development Corporation need to be flexible from time to time. If there are serious economic conditions prevailing in which the government sees that assistance should be provided, the government would take a decision in that respect. Obviously, the board of the corporation is not the sole decision-making body in respect of those sorts of decisions.

Sewage Ponds near Gulnare Road

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has reconsideration been given to the decision to build sewage ponds at the end of Gulnare Road?

ANSWER

There are other options open to the government. One of those options is to construct a small sewage treatment plant in the vicinity of the Humpty Doo village which the sewerage system will service.

Palm Valley Gas Pipeline

Mr BELL to TREASURER

I refer him to his previous answer in which he suggested that there had been a lengthy contractual process associated with the construction of the Palm Valley to Alice Springs pipeline and his reason given in the Assembly and in the media that this was due at least in part to the protracted negotiations. Is he able to give a specific deadline to substantiate his allegation that the time involved was due to the protracted negotiations with the land council?

ANSWER

I can inform the honourable member that the documents have not been signed yet.

NTDC Assistance to Building Industry

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he inform of the progress made by the Northern Territory Development Corporation in assisting the Territory's building industry in gaining contracts in Malaysia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the NTDC has considered the question of assisting the private sector establish a relationship with Brunei in respect of the resettlement program being undertaken in that country. In recent weeks, the Chief Minister advised the Assembly of assistance he has provided to a company in its negotiations with that country. At this stage, there is no other information which I am able to report.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Mr LEO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Was the NTDC informed by the current owners of the Buntine Group of efforts to sell their operations to Sabah interests and of the Foreign Investments Review Board's objections to that proposal? If so, was the Territory government prepared to support such a move by Buntine's to sell their operation to interests outside of Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of any such information. In respect to the Foreign Investments Review Board, I am not aware what role it would have in the sale of an Australian company to Sabah. I have no information on that.

Bus for Jabiru School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the fact that 20 children travel to the Jabiru School by private vehicles from Mudginberri Station, Jabiluka and the Border Store, and that this will rise to 24 next month, will he endeavour to look into the question of providing a school bus for these children?

ANSWER

There are 2 criteria which are used by the department in making a judgment as to whether or not a school bus will be provided. Firstly, there must be sufficient numbers and the numbers must be sufficiently stable. As the honourable member would be aware, at the moment, there are about 25 Aboriginal children and 6 European children travelling from the Mudginberri area to Jabiru School. The problem is that it is an extremely unstable population. The children's families frequently move between Jabiru, Mudgingerri, Cannon Hill, Oenpelli and other places. That is one consideration which is to be taken into account. The second consideration is that the cost of providing transport subsidy to the parents should be more than the cost of running a bus. Those particular criteria have not yet been reached but the department is monitoring the situation and, when all those factors come together, certainly we would consider the provision of a bus.

Appointee to Gove District Hospital Board

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Given that applications for the position vacant on the Gove District Hospital Board closed on 4 June, could he give some indication when the new appointment is likely to be made?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I shall announce the name of the person who is to fill the position this week. In explanation as to why the matter took so long, there was an earlier applicant who agreed to undertake the job and subsequently withdrew. The matter then had to be reconsidered.

Accommodation for Psychiatric Patients in South Australia

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has final agreement been reached with the South Australian government regarding accommodation for some long-term psychiatric patients in South Australian institutions?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, so far as I understand, the South Australian government and the Northern Territory have had a long-standing relationship over some 15 years whereby South Australia has provided psychiatric accommodation for people from the Northern Territory. That relationship still exists. Over the years, South Australia has been very helpful to the Northern Territory government by helping to place psychiatric patients. We pay for the service that we receive from the South Australian government in this regard. I have no knowledge of any proposal to change the arrangement and I expect it to continue.

Game Fishing Industry in Northern Territory

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY

A discussion paper on the game fishing industry was distributed earlier this year. What action has the government taken to support the game fishing industry in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, a report called Game Fishing Prospects in Northern Territory Waters was brought down in April 1982. This was a discussion paper. It appears that there are prospects for game fishing in the areas west of Bathurst Island near the Cootamundra Shoal and, more significantly according to this report, the area about Cape Wessell and Truant Bank near Nhulunbuy. There has been much interest expressed to myself and to the department in respect of game fishing and talks are being undertaken at this present time to enable the government to plan just what its efforts during 1982-83 will be.

Nightcliff Dental Clinic

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it still his intention to close the Nightcliff Dental Clinic and, if so, is it a fact that that will result in the reduction of available Department of Health dentists in the Northern suburbs from 5 to 2?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I had intended to answer the honourable member's question at the end of question time this morning. The present position is that we have at Nightcliff Dental Clinic 3 dentists and at Sanderson Dental Clinic 2 dentists. After amalgamation at Casuarina Plaza, there will be 2 dentists. The explanation for that from the department is that the analysis of the monthly workload statistics for the Nightcliff Dental Clinic shows that the dentists there are underemployed and that a review of the total workload at Nightcliff and Sanderson Dental Health Clinics suggests that there is enough curative work for no more than 2 dentists.

NTDC Loan to Mode Office Services

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the NTDC make a loan or provide a guarantee to Mode Office Services and was this loan or guarantee secured by company assets?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of that company name.

Consultant for NT Prawn Fishery

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

This is a repeat of a question which I asked last week without getting an answer. The Department of Primary Production employed in February this year a consultant whose specific task was to develop a management plan for the Northern Territory's prawn fishery. Is he yet in a position to advise what progress has been made by that consultant?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the short answer is no.

School at Mudginberri

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will a school be re-established at Mudginberri for children who live there and who currently travel from there to the Jabiru School?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I answered that question in passing when I answered the question in relation to the school bus. The answer to her question at this stage is that it is not proposed to reopen the school at Mudginberri for the very reasons I have just given; that is, the student population of that area is extremely unstable. It varies from 5 to 30 and it would be quite impossible to establish a school given those circumstances. It is also to be borne in mind that children in a place like Mudginberri with a fairly close large school like Jabiru benefit very much from being transported to that school. They have the benefit of the better facilities which can be made available in a larger school as opposed to a 1 or 2 teacher school.

Mr Speaker, the subject is one for judgment from time to time. At this stage, it is not contemplated to reopen the school at Mudginberri which was closed in 1981. As at 27 July, there were 6 European and 25 Aboriginal children being transported but that number could so vary as to make provision of a school at this time unwise.

Territory Students Attending Universities Interstate

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for EDUCATION

During the March sittings, I asked him if the Education Department had any intention of assisting tertiary students who have to attend compulsorily university at odd times of the year? I have not had an answer to that yet. Does the government have any intention of assisting people who have to attend compulsorily university for a short period twice a year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there is no proposal currently before government in this particular matter. I would certainly be prepared to investigate the matter further and perhaps discuss the issue with the honourable member. It is worthy of examination.

Investigation into Movement of Teachers within the NT

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the much publicised problems at Katherine High School in respect of turnover of staff recently, has the department commissioned an investigation and report on the movement of teachers within the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there have been many inquiries held at regional superintendent or regional director level and by the Teaching Service Commissioner in conjunction with principals. As I have indicated to the Assembly before, the reasons vary greatly. Just as an aside, there is a lot of fuss in relation to housing procedures in Alice Srpings and the belief in some people's minds that it is one cause for the instability of teachers in that area. It is interesting to note that, of all the teachers who have left the Alice Springs High School this year, not one has given accommodation as the reason for leaving. As I indicated, the most common reason for teachers leaving is that they obtain a position in one of the states having merely used the NT as a stop-gap employment. There can be family reasons. A teacher may decide to teach in the Territory for a couple of years and then use the Northern Territory as a stepping-stone to South-east Asia or England. The reason given is very rarely dissatisfaction with our system. That happens but it is extremely rare. Most teachers leave for family reasons or because they used us as a source of employment for a short-term period.

Mr Speaker, the Teaching Service Commissioner, the secretary of the department and I are particularly concerned about the matter, as indeed is the government. It is for this reason that the Treasurer announced yesterday the scheme that the government is to introduce by way of scholarships to try and bring stability into the Teaching Service principally through training our own teachers as far as we have the capacity to do so, and encouraging people to train in the southern institutions with a specific intention of coming to the Northern Territory. As the Treasurer announced, we are going to provide financial assistance for that.

Housing Commission Units in Fannie Bay

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Some 24 Housing Commission home units were completed in Fannie Bay near Kurringal about 2 months ago and have been vacant since that time. In view of the difficulties being experienced by the Housing Commission in selling these units and the shortage of low-cost accommodation in Darwin, how long will the minister wait before making these units available for rental accommodation?

ANSWER

The honourable member is obviously aware that it is government policy to sell these particular units rather than rent them. We feel that Kurringal has enough persons renting accommodation without renting more in that area. However, I will inquire into the matter of how long they have been vacant and whether they have been actually handed over. I am not quite sure about that. They have certainly been finished for a while. Sometimes it takes a while for contractors to finalise units to the degree that the commission is prepared to formally accept them. I will inquire also as to the level of interest from persons the Housing Commission has approached - firstly, existing tenants and, secondly, prospective tenants. I will then report to the honourable member.

Medical Staffing in Barkly Region

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the level of medical staffing at present offered in Tennant Creek and the Barkly region? How does this compare with staffing a year ago and what are the future plans for staffing health services for Tennant Creek and the Barkly region?

ANSWER

I would think that there are some 200 people with the responsibility of delivering health care to Tennant Creek and the Barkly region. I do not carry the information about all of those positions in my head. I ask the member to place his question on notice and I will answer it in detail.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

On the basis of his recent statement in a government press release that the Buntine group had been provided with a guarantee at mid-1981, can he inform the Assembly whether a guarantee was in fact given in mid-1981 and, if so, was that guarantee replaced by a mortgage debenture entered into by the NTDC in February 1982?

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable the Chief Minister.

ANSWER

This is quite clearly a question of a legal nature and I reply with the question: how can a guarantee be replaced by a mortgage debenture?

Access to Alice Springs Pool

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

Has he received any response yet from the Alice Springs Town Council regarding the proposed one-way access from Telegraph Terrace into the swimming pool car-park?

ANSWER

The answer is no. However, I expect officers of the Department of Transport and Works and members of the council to discuss this proposal some time this week.

Low-cost Housing Display for Central Australia

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HOUSING

Has he considered sponsoring a low-cost housing display village for central Australia along the lines of the low-cost housing display at Karama?

ANSWER

The answer is no. I can refer the matter to the Housing Commission which keeps a constant eye on the initiatives that government might take in regard to the construction of low-cost housing. The exercise undertaken at Karama was really to see what the private sector could come up with in terms of low-cost housing. It was a proposal assisted by government financially but, primarily, it was to give designers and builders the opportunity of building such accommodation to see what public support such designs received. The intention was that it would lead to the construction of those houses on a bigger scale, not just for their display to the public. However, I will refer the matter to the Housing Commission to consider what low-cost housing initiatives it might take in centres other than Darwin.

Promotion of Territory Fruit and Vegetables

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has he any plans to promote Territory fruit and vegetables in centres other than Darwin?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government plans to promote Territory grown fruit and vegetables in other centres. It may not be possible to do so in 1982 but planning for displays will take place in 1983.

First Year Apprentices

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What arrangements have been made for the trade training of first year apprentices in the fields of electronics, TV and radio repairs and small business machines whose employers were notified yesterday that their second semester bloc release due to start on Monday has been cancelled?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this matter was first brought to my attention by the honourable member this morning. As I understand the matter, the Industries Training Commission was informed by the Darwin Community College on Friday 27 August that the course would not be conducted this year. The consequences to employers and employees alike would be obvious. If they were to pick up the time missed in that course next year, there would be something like a 4 months' absence from employment by those apprentices. The information I have been given is that the college uses - and I use that word deliberately - the excuse that it has been unable to employ an appropriate lecturer. I have been told by the college that it expects to employ an appropriate lecturer on 13 September. Whether that happened this morning as a result of the fuss between my office, the member for Nightcliff, the ITC and the community college, I do not know. Nonetheless, I am told that a lecturer will be employed on 13 September. As a result, the course will be conducted this year.

I make the observation that, on a number of occasions, I have spoken in this Assembly on the question of ministerial control over the activities of the Darwin Community College. It is quite clearly the view of this Assembly that autonomy should attach to the community college and that political interference should not apply. I wonder where one's duty starts and where one's duty ends. It seems to me that, every time there is a problem in the delivery of courses in the Darwin Community College, the people who are affected are trade trainees. I rarely, if ever, get a problem with the dreamy stuff of advanced education, desirable as it may be. Surely the essential duty of that college should lie with TAFE and trade training. Mr Speaker, I give notice here that I intend calling a full meeting of the Darwin Community College Council to thrash this matter out once and for all. Quite frankly, Mr Speaker, if I am not satisfied with the outcome of that meeting, and not satisfied as to improved performance as far as these young people go, then I will go back to Cabinet with a proposition to change the act.

Children Taking Work Experience with Police Force

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the position regarding children taking work experience with the police force whose parents are required to sign an indemnity form? How does this affect normal third party insurance?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question of the honourable member for Tiwi apparently relates to children engaged in work experience with the police force by riding in police cars and whether, having signed some form of indemnity in respect of compensation cover in relation to the general activities they might engage in with the police force, they are covered by the provisions of the Motor Accidents (Compensation) Act. The situation is that children who ride in police cars are not excluded from obtaining benefits whether under the general provisions of the Motor Accidents (Compensation) Act, allowing lump sum compensation, or from bringing an action for pain and suffering or loss of amenities. Nor would the indemnity prevent the parent bringing a claim or action as next of kin of the child.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

It was stated in a recent press release from the minister that the Buntine Group had been provided with a guarantee in mid-1981 by the NTDC. Will the minister now confirm that this is the case?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government at the time undertook to provide a guarantee in the middle of 1981.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr Speaker, I ask a supplementary question. Will he now inform the Assembly of the amount involved in the 1981 guarantee, the current position of that guarantee and the relationship between that guarantee and the guarantee given by the NTDC to the Buntine Group in February of this year.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

Fishing Legislation Exemption of Tiwi People

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

I would like to ask him if an exemption can be granted to the Tiwi Islanders so that they can take barramundi in the closed season - this is with an Al licence - because of their reliance on fish in their diet?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am advised that past experience shows that relatively few barramundi are taken in fish traps. The closed season applies only to professional fishermen and does not apply to fish traps. There are 3 licensed fish traps on Melville Island and interest has been expressed by the Garden Point Progress Association for a licence for a fish trap.

Public Service Home Loans Scheme

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Is the minister aware that, on ABC television last night, the Secretary of the ACOA, Rod Ellis, criticised the government's decision to increase the public service staff home loans scheme interest rate by 1% in the budget? Is he further aware that the Secretary of the ACOA claimed this was grossly unfair because, under the government Home Loans Scheme for the public, there were many examples of people securing $100 000 loans at an interest rate of 4%?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I did not see the particular program. However, I was advised of the contents of the program and I regard the comments made by the union official as mischievous and outrageous. Even officials of the TLC and, more particularly, union officials of the ACOA, know that the government Home Loans Scheme applicable to the public has an absolute maximum of $50 000. It is only public servants who can obtain government loans in excess of that figure. A claim on television that people have obtained $100 000 loans at 4% is clearly nonsense and I challenge the officials to name one such person so that we can conduct an investigation, although it would be a rather fruitless investigation. Mr Speaker, only public servants in the Northern Territory can obtain government loans in excess of $50 000 and some have had loans in the vicinity of $100 000 under the very concessional interest rates which were outlined in the Assembly

yesterday when I announced that the government had decided to increase interest rates by 1% on those loans. The comments last night on the radio were a very poor attempt to try to show public servants in a poor light, following the government's decision, by claiming that the Northern Territory government's public loan scheme is somehow vastly more generous, which it certainly is not.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to his answer on Tuesday to a question on the position of the NTDC and the Buntine group. On the basis that the Chief Minister has examined the financial and legal aspects of the transaction concerning the NTDC's guarantee, can he assure the Assembly that there are no irregularities involved in the transfer of company shares from the Buntine group to Mr Dalziel?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I certainly would not like to pass an opinion on the nature of the transfer of shares from the Buntine family to Mr Dalziel and his cohorts as new owners of the Buntine group of companies. That is not something for me to venture an opinion on at this stage. In any event, Mr Speaker, you would be aware that Standing Orders preclude the asking of a question that seeks a legal opinion. Should this matter have to go further, then obviously it is going to be subject to litigation. One point I would like to make very clearly is that there is no suggestion at this stage that the NTDC has been called on by Citibank, under the guarantee, and so there is no suggestion, at this stage, that the NTDC will have to expend one penny. The NTDC has already sought legal advice from the Department of Law as to what the situation would be if it were called on by Citibank. I do not know if Citibank will, in fact, be able to call on it until such time as the receiver has arrived at some firmer stage of the affairs in relation to what is to be the future of the Buntine Group: whether it is to be sold as a going concern or whether it is to be sold for its assets. At that time, obviously, the likelihood of creditors being paid out of the assets of the group will become a lot clearer. I guess Citibank's course of action will become clearer to it and observers. At that time, obviously the Northern Territory Development Corporation will have to make known its attitude to Citibank in respect of any guarantee that may have been made.

At this stage, I am not prepared to disclose the nature of the legal advisings that are presently being given to the NTDC in respect of the whole transaction. Suffice to say that the government legal advisers, with whom I have been discussing this matter, and I have decided to adopt a very conservative attitude at this stage. I believe it is far too soon to make any prognosis as to whether the government will have to pay or the NTDC will have to pay one penny in respect of the Buntine group's problems.

A number of aspects of this whole affair concern me. The opposition has indicated, by a press release issued by the honourable member for Sanderson, that it does not question the granting of the guarantee to the Buntine group. It is only concerned with the veil of secrecy that shrouds the whole affair. If the opposition does not question the granting of the guarantee to the Buntine group, why are we in receipt of all these questions that relate specifically to financial matters, dates etc? If it is only interested in the veil of secrecy, then why not realise that the government and the NTDC are certainly not going to show their hand at this stage as to the attitude that will be taken in respect of the guarantee. Guarantees are always subject to certain conditions. In our view, we have to examine the whole transaction - and it may be that a court will have to examine the whole transaction - to see that all conditions of the granting of the guarantee are met. I think it is far too early to begin to make any definite statements, one way or the other, about these matters.

I consider that the opposition is doing the Territory taxpayer a grave disservice by attempting to weasel out on fishing expeditions the sort of facts that can only help people who want to take money from the taxpayer. Mr Speaker, if the opposition is genuinely interested in Territory development, it will realise that commercial transactions require a degree of confidentiality. I said yesterday, and I have said before, that anyone who wants to know about most commerical transactions can at least find out the bare bones of them by walking round to the Titles Office and the Companies Office. Unfortunately, a lot of people who walk round there cannot read the things or understand them when they get them.

The situation is that, if we are seeking to attract investment to the Territory, businesses, companies and investors like to believe that there is a degree of confidentiality attaching to their transactions. Whether that is in fact true or not is not the case. These companies, these investors, like to think that they will not be all over the front, back or middle page of the paper. It happens here in the Northern Territory at the drop of a hat. Every single issue in this Territory and every matter of Territory development is sought to be politicised by the opposition and sought to be politicised by the tuppenny rag that we have that circulates as a newspaper in Darwin. If that sort of thing continues, we will drive potential investors away. In this time of world recession, I would have thought that Territorians would have been glad to be getting money, so long as it is clean money, from wherever it can in the world. I have no objections to the Russians or the Chinese investing in the Northern Territory. We have been advised by the opposition in the past to send delegations to China. But apparently, money coming from a member of the British Commonwealth, Malaysia, is suspect although money coming from China would not be. If we want jobs and development in this Territory, then we will have to be prepared to meet some of the requirements of the people who want to invest here. The people who want to invest here want to do it quietly without newspapers being sold and opposition politicians' egos being gratified every time they want to carry out some transaction which is creating jobs for Territorians.

Soil Sampling Surveys on Oolloo Station

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What soil sampling surveys were carried out on Oolloo Station prior to its acquisition and what were the results of these surveys?

ANSWER

I understand that soil sampling has been undertaken in that Daly River basin since the early 1960s. In the debate that will ensue this morning, some of the details of the earlier relationship between Oolloo and the government of the day will be mentioned. I am assured by the Chairman of the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority that sufficient soil samples were taken to ascertain the extent of arability of Oolloo in respect of government plans and I am satisfied with that information.

Sporting Complex in Katherine

Mr VALE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Can he advise if the Northern Territory government has yet reached any agreement with the Katherine Town Council over the proposed purchase of the sporting complex in Katherine owned by D. and K. Fracaro?

ANSWER

Last week, I was asked a question in regard to the sporting complex in Katherine and the government's attitude to Katherine council's proposal for 2

to 1 funding. I mentioned that I would be discussing that proposal with my Cabinet colleagues. Since making that statement, I received a telegram from the Mayor of the Katherine Town Council saying that, unless the Northern Territory government were able to purchase the facility outright and presumably hand it to them on a plate, they would be unable to proceed with the proposal. I spoke to the Mayor and tried to ascertain the council's final position. There was a council meeting during the week. I would like to read this into Hansard so that we can put this matter to rest once and for all:

> *Re the Katherine Sporting Complex, the following motion was passed with a 4-3 majority on Monday 30 August 1982: that the Council seek full funding for the purchase of the Katherine Sporting Complex and ongoing annual operation deficit funding for the sporting complex.*
> *Regards,*
> *The Mayor, Pat Davies.*

I am unable to proceed with this particular proposal because, when I first started discussing this with the Mayor and other people in Katherine, it was with the view that the Northern Territory government would provide some financial assistance, presumably the 2 to 1 funding. In light of this recent decision made by the council, I am unable to proceed with it. As far as I am concerned, the matter will rest.

Buntine Group

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he prepared to make available to me, on a confidential basis, the preliminary investigation into the financial state of the Buntine group of companies conducted by Garraway and Partners?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would be prepared to make that document available to the honourable member on a confidential basis so long as it is confidential to her, personally, alone, and no copies are made or taken of it.

Arafura Hostel Site

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The large area of land formerly occupied by the Arafura Hostel at Parap, which has been vacant for 4½ years, was passed in when offered at auction earlier this year. The government subsequently called for expressions of interest from possible developers. What is the current state of proposals to develop this land?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have an up-to-date brief on this subject before me. However, I can recall that, subsequent to that auction, we received a number of expressions of interest from persons who felt that, if some arrangement could be entered into between developers and the government over payment for the land, other than the full cash price up-front as is the case at auctions, there may be parties interested in taking it up. As a result, I formally withdrew the land from sale over the counter, where it automatically goes after an auction if it is passed in. It is then vacant Crown land in the city and can be applied for by virtually any party which can meet certain requirements. The government can then negotiate with any party on the sale of the land. Negotiations are proceeding with developers on this particular proposal and I hope, in the near future, to be in a position to come to an agreement to sell the land to a developer for the original purpose of subdividing and developing it.

Darwin Rural Plan

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the Darwin Rural Plan be adopted?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think that there is some confusion in the rural community about the rural plan. There is in fact a rural plan that was adopted some time ago. However, there has been some action on substantial amendments to the plan of late. I think that that has created some confusion in the minds of people who presently think they do not have a formal rural plan when in fact they do.

However, an amendment to the rural plan went on display for 42 days on 21 October 1981. This was to extend planning control into that part of the 32-square-mile acquisition area outside Palmerston and also to reduce the number of consent uses for which advertising and environmental impact statements were required. The instrument and submissions received were considered by the Rural Planning Authority in February this year. As a result, various further amendments were made. At the same time, because of the proposed village centre development at Humpty Doo, it became necessary to make further amendments to the zoning tables into varied clauses of the plan. Consequently, the Rural Planning Authority at its meeting on 17 June 1982 resolved to recommend rejection of the draft planning instrument - that was DR2 - and to seek a more comprehensive amendment to the rural plan. This more comprehensive document, DR4, went on display on 4 August 1982 and will be displayed for 56 days.

I can assure the honourable member that there is a formal rural plan at the present time. It could certainly do with the amendments proposed in the draft amendment that is on display at the present time. I do urge people in the rural area to take a keen interest in this amendment. It is comprehensive and it makes submissions to the Rural Planning Authority.

Advertising Campaign on Land Rights Act

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to his national advertising campaign regarding proposed amendments to the federal Aboriginal Land Rights Act. Which firm provided the artwork and composing of the advertisements? I understand that no expressions of interest were sought from local people in the Territory skilled in this trade.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the position in relation to this national advertising campaign in respect of the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments' proposals - and I emphasise that they are the Commonwealth government's proposals as well as the Northern Territory's proposals - for amendments to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act is that there is at present no advertising agency as such established in the Territory. For that reason, it was necessary to seek expressions of interest from advertising agencies elsewhere. The Territory government sought proposals from 2 agencies in Sydney which were selected for us by southern people with some experience in this field. We are not professing to have a great deal of experience in the area ourselves.

I cannot remember the names of both agencies. One was a particularly large agency whose name is almost a household word and, unfortunately, I forget it. The other was a small agency and the proprietor's name is Rodney Silver. In fact, both agencies came to the Territory to submit their proposals to the government. We elected to accept the proposals of the Rodney Silver agency. It of course handles its artwork in house and the whole thing was prepared in the submission and it was simply a matter of converting the submission into newspaper ads. I really do not think that, in the circumstances, there was any

possibility of the artwork being handled in the Territory because it was a package of 1 advertisement. It is pretty hard to split that up too many ways.

Mt Ebenezer School

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer him to my comments about the problems at Mt Ebenezer in a previous adjournment debate. Will he undertake to investigate as a matter of urgency, firstly, the provision of a second school caravan and, secondly, adequate transport for children at that school?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the matter is currently under review.

Use of Water in Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of water restrictions a couple of months ago in Jabiru and in view of the Territory campaign to use water thriftily, can he tell me if the Jabiru Town Development Authority or its contractors will continue to wash down the Jabiru roads after they have already been swept?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, even though I would not have thought that the roads at Jabiru are in need of resealing, nonetheless, I am told that the answer to this question is that the Jabiru Town Development Authority is embarking on a road resealing program as part of its final construction of roads in the town. Before resealing with bitumen, it is essential to remove from the road surfaces all dirt, clay etc which, in some places, is now deposited as a very hard layer. In many areas, it has been impossible to remove this clay with a rotary broom and it has been necessary to wash the material from the roads to be resealed. The authority does not intend to wash roadways in the town as a continuing practice and intends to economise on the use of water to the maximum extent possible. There are no water restrictions in the town.

Child Welfare Legislation

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We have now been waiting for the new child welfare legislation for 4 years. Can he indicate when it will be ready for presentation in the Assembly?

ANSWER

Cabinet has now settled the drafting instructions which are with the legislative draftsman. I hope to be able to introduce both of these bills at the next sittings.

Oolloo Station

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is it a fact that the majority of Oolloo Station is limestone country which is excellent for grazing and hopeless for cropping?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not know if that is a fact or not but certainly there is a lot of limestone country in that general area. Certainly, it would be useless for cropping. Like all the land in that area, the arable parts have to be selected, as we found in the case of the other acquisition to provide the first 2 farms.

Permissible Blood Alcohol Level

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the minister given any consideration to reducing the permissible blood alcohol level from 0.08 to 0.05?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the answer is no. I wonder why the honourable member for Port Darwin has asked me that question. At the moment, the legislation we have regarding 0.08 or random breath-testing is due for consideration some time next year regarding continuation, reintroduction or amendment. At the moment, such a reduction is not under consideration.

Development in Bees Creek Area

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In reply to a question I asked earlier in the week concerning a proposal to build sewage ponds at the end of Gulnare Road, he advised that Gulnare Road would eventually become a distributor road. At present, Gulnare Road is about 20 m wide and a distributor road is normally 30 m to 35 m wide. Does this mean that there are likely to be further excisions or easements on properties along Gulnare Road and what proposals for development are envisaged in the Bees Creek Area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was under the impression that I gave the honourable member for Victoria River a comprehensive answer because I had some forewarning of the question. Since the last sittings, I have received representations from the Bees Creek area regarding water and road problems there. I will undertake to set up a meeting between officers of the Department of Transport and Works Water and Road Divisions with residents to discuss the problem. I understand officers are already making the necessary arrangements.

Gulnare Road will eventually become a major service road. At present, the department is only taking the necessary steps to allow future widening and development of the road. I would be pleased to take the point up with the honourable member after the sittings. Maybe he could discuss with officers of the Department of Transport and Works the future development.

Role of NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the NTDC is a lender of last resort to assist the establishment of new industry and can he further confirm that it is not the purpose of the NTDC to assist businesses to compete with those already established in the Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think it is an established fact that the NTDC judges every application on its merit. It is clear that, in respect of hotels, there might be a need to support additional hotel-motel accommodation.

Racing and Gaming Commission

Mr LEO to TREASURER

Does the Racing and Gaming Commission assess the accuracy of bookmakers' declared turnovers and, if such assessments have been done, what are the results?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as honourable members would know, it is virtually impossible to accurately assess the accuracy of turnover that bookmakers declare to the government. As is the case with a number of other industries, the information received by the Racing and Gaming Commission from bookmakers is in the form of returns on their weekly turnover. The Racing and Gaming Commission keeps as close an eye as it can on this matter. Indeed, there have been prosecutions of late. Honourable members would know of a particular bookmaker who was found to be not declaring all the turnover he was receiving. In addition, the Racing and Gaming Commission does have a close liaison with interstate policing agencies who keep an eye on bookmakers' activities and illegal punting activities interstate. Certain information is exchanged between those bodies which is very useful to the Racing and Gaming Commission in keeping an eye on bookmakers' turnover in the Northern Territory.

It is one of those situations that could be related to the SP operations interstate. It is an area that governments and police forces have found very difficult to police properly. Estimates of SP operations interstate are quite enormous. We had a recent report that estimated the SP operations in Victoria, for example, as equivalent almost to the legal TAB operations in that state. I am not sure what the government particularly could do further to keep this matter under close control. It was suggested to me by a gentleman the other day that we could legalise phone tapping of bookmakers' phones. This would not be very popular not only with bookmakers but also with many people in the community who would see such moves by governments spreading to other areas.

Sewerage Lines in Millner

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will a program of sewerage line rehabilitation be undertaken in the suburb of Millner in this financial year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have had some forewarning of this question. The advice I have is that it is necessary continuously to rehabilitate sewerage systems. There is a $500 000 item on the 1982-83 capital works program for stage 1 of the rehabilitation of the Darwin sewerage system. It is still necessary to determine the area which needs the most attention and the Department of Transport and Works is investigating that at the moment. Therefore, I am unable to say whether any work on the sewerage system in Millner will take place this financial year.

However, there will be some upgrading of sewerage headworks in the Millner area. Until the Water Division can satisfy me that there will be very little disruption caused by upgrading sewerage services in that area, I find it very difficult to proceed. The proposal, at this stage, is that it will upgrade the sewerage right throughout Millner, Tiwi and other parts of the Northern suburbs. Virtually this will involve entry to every house block and digging up swimming pools and chidken runs which have been placed on easements illegally. I have asked my department to make a survey to determine how extensive the work will be in that area. When land is issued for sale for residential use, easements are put there for a particular reason. When the time comes to upgrade sewerage lines in any area, there will be problems. Therefore I have asked my department to undertake a survey to find out how extensive the interruptions will be on those easements. We will take it from there.

It is a very sensitive area. I believe that a good public relations exercise must be entered into. I think every householder should be consulted. As the law stands at the moment, the cost of upgrading sewerage works on a particular property is borne by the owner of that block. The main sewerage

lines are placed by the government but expenses involved with the sewerage line to a residence should be borne by the occupier. It is very sensitive. I assure honourable members that I will not proceed until I am quite sure that there will be very little disruption to the people living in the area.

Farm-fuel Projects

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is the government giving any encouragement to farm-fuel projects and can he give brief details?

ANSWER

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

Central Zone Sewerage Plant at Ludmilla

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

No money has been allocated in the capital works program to upgrade or modify the central zone sewerage treatment plant at Ludmilla. What decision has been taken with regard to this plant following a study of problems associated with it conducted by his department earlier this year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there is an upgrading taking place right now. Most members living in the northern suburbs who drive along Dick Ward Drive will see that a new facility has been constructed alongside the old facility. As far as the treatment plant itself is concerned, the study is continuing. It was complicated by a proposal by an entrepreneur in Darwin to develop the area and provide a residential housing estate. The proposal would have involved moving the treatment plant, converting it to a pumping station or even putting in another sewerage line probably to come out somewhere in the Berrimah area, which is where the new treatment ponds have been established. Because of the delays regarding that particular development proposal, the department has conducted a very low-key operation. We understand the developer will not now proceed and the department has rethought possibilities for upgrading the Ludmilla treatment plant.

Road Improvement Requirements in Central Australia

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to a public statement made by the Chief Minister regarding a meeting at Ayers Rock on 7 and 8 June between central Australian outstation groups and the Aboriginal Development Commission Chairman, Mr Charles Perkins. Has the minister sent a questionnaire to all major Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory seeking information on their requirements for road improvements, according to an undertaking contained in the Chief Minister's statement?

ANSWER

I made an announcement supporting the Chief Minister's approval at the recent meeting held at Kormilda College with Aboriginal land councils. I sent a letter to all these organisations requesting information on their needs regarding the upgrading of roads and other problems that they have had with roads. I am starting to receive some replies to those letters.

Tanning of Hides in the Northern Territory

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has any interest been expressed in tanning cattle hides in the Territory instead of sending the raw hides down south. Would the minister undertake to

have his department investigate the possibilities of such an enterprise and promote the same if it seems feasible?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Northern Territory Development Corporation has called for expressions of interest in the establishment of a tannery in northern Australia. Some of the difficulties facing such a venture are the quality of hides, the distance from markets, the actual markets themselves and the damage to hides due to infestation of parasites. I will bring the honourable member up to date on the proposal when the information comes to hand.

Poll on Health Services in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Did the Health Department commission a poll on health services in Nhulunbuy and other places and, if so, will he make the results of that poll available to the Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to confirm that one of the polling organisations is currently taking a sample in the Northern Territory and collecting information for the Health Department. I understand that the organisation concerned is also asking questions other than those commissioned by the Health Department. I cannot give him any indication as to whether that information would be available to us, but certainly the information that is coming to us so far as the Health Department is concerned would be freely available to him.

I would just like to put honourable members in the picture concerning the information we are seeking because it is quite important. Honourable members would be aware that about 62% of our population is entitled to free health care in the hospitals; that is, they qualify under the Department of Social Security's guidelines for free medical health. Therefore, the taxpayers of the Northern Territory foot the bill. That percentage is very much higher than any other state in Australia and it is one of the things that the Commonwealth considered in granting us the extra $4m. We really need to know about the other 38%. It is important that we get an understanding of how many people in that area are in health funds, what level of health care they are taking, what age groups they are in, where they live and why.

Let me just give honourable members a bit of background on this. After 9 months of the new system, we have already written off as a complete loss $200 000 to $300 000 worth of disputed hospital accounts. That is not a bad effort for the first 9 months and it is not unreasonable to assume that it will climb considerably. What we need to know is why people are not in health funds. Do they have financial difficulties? Don't they believe they will get sick? In the event of those people not being in health funds, what responsibility will fall on the taxpayers in general? We need to know the answers to those questions.

It is also important for the department to know where the people live. There may be a group in one particular town. Perhaps a special age group can be identified. It might be single parents or school leavers. It could be a whole range of things. We would like to identify where those people who are not in funds live, ascertain why they are not in funds and implement an advertising policy that would encourage people to take hospital cover. The risks are very great for the person who is not covered and the burden is also great for the taxpayer who has to pick up the bill.

The other important thing for us to know is what level of cover people have and why. Do people take a higher level of cover in the Northern Territory

expecting to have private accommodation in our hospitals? If they do, are they aware that private accommodation is not available on demand? Alternatively, should we try to provide private accommodation in our hospitals?

Another consideration is in relation to the level of health care that people take. Do they take the minimal level of health care because that is all they can afford or do they have other reasons for doing that? The department is also keen to find out how often people in that 38% bracket use services, if they are happy with the services and, if they are not, what is their area of dissatisfaction. Is it the transportation? Is it the care? Is it the food, the medical service, the manner etc? What is it that people find unsatisfactory for the money that they have spent?

The Morgan Gallop poll people said to the department that they did not regard the information we were seeking important enough to justify a special poll and that they would include it when they were doing one some time. Also, they did not ordinarily go outside the metropolis of Darwin to obtain their information. On that basis, we undertook to pay the extra expenses in getting the information that we wanted in other towns because it is absolutely essential that we know what the patterns are in each of our communities.

Mr Speaker, I would just say to the honourable member, as I said a moment ago, the information is of a general nature. He is quite welcome to peruse it when it is all available and I think members generally would find it interesting to see what the attitudes of the community are towards health insurance and the levels of cover that they expect and we give.

Sewerage Pipes

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

Is it the intention of his department to specify the long-lasting plastiline pipes in new and replacement sewerage lines?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is very difficult to answer the honourable member. However, I would imagine that the department, in deciding its specifications, would have a variety of options regarding sewerage pipes. I will undetake to obtain from the department further information and supply it to the honourable member later.

Marina in Sadgroves Creek

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

A newspaper report in May said that the government hoped within 2 months to have a firm proposal for a marina in the Sadgroves Creek area. What is the current state of that proposal?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would have to check on that newspaper article to see whether I was quoted correctly if, indeed, I am quoted as saying 'a firm proposal within 2 months'. When one starts looking at a new area not formerly looked at for a project as complex environmentally as a marina, it would be very unusual for me to say that a firm proposal would be around one way or the other within 2 months. Certainly, the government has been proceeding. Preliminary investigations indicate that the area is indeed suitable for a marina. Indeed, it may be suitable for a couple of developments that are marina related but complement each other.

Whilst that may sound a little confusing, the government proposes to collate more information, take these studies a stage further and, at a suitable time when firm decisions can be made, move to release them publicly. We will

be discussing the matter with interested parties, including yachting people and those who have expressed interest in the subject. We will discuss their needs. The Port Authority, which has general jurisdiction over this area, will have an input. We will consider the systems of mooring which might be designed to enable Frances Bay and Sadgroves Creek to accommodate many more yachts than they do at the present time because of the long mooring system which is used at the present time. We will have regard to the size and strength of the tides. Systems have been recommended which would enable close mooring and that could increase greatly the mooring capacity of Sadgroves Creek.

As information which is firm enough to be released to the public becomes available, the government will be releasing it. At this stage, it is a bit premature to say a great deal about the detail of what is evolving.

National Aborigines Day

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

This is a repeat of a question from a previous sittings. Would he consider granting a Northern Territory public holiday on National Aborigines Day which falls on 9 July each year?

No answer given.

Water Accounts

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

After the recent increases in water charges, has he considered the introduction of twice-yearly water billing?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, honourable members would be aware that the Water Division employed a consultant by the name of W.D. Scott and Co to investigate how we could upgrade our services and save money. One of the recommendations from Scott was that half-yearly bills be implemented. At this stage, I have not addressed myself to that matter but will do so in the new year.

Infant Mortality Statistics

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In the past, following meetings of the Maternal and Infant Mortality Committee, infant mortality statistics for the Northern Territory used to be separately published by the Northern Territory Department of Health. Now that the department has ceased the habit of producing regular statistical bulletins, will he undertake to publish those statistics for the past year or table them in the Assembly?

ANSWER

Yes, Mr Speaker. I will take it up with the secretary of the department and see what we can do to obtain the information for honourable members.

Causeway at Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What progress has been made in negotiations with the Alice Springs Town Council regarding the promised causeway at the RSL crossing in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

From memory, the budget papers indicate that a figure of $200 000 has been set aside for the construction of that causeway. It is not a government-

controlled road. The council will now be required to put forward an application for those funds in the normal way under the Financial Administration and Audit Act. Once it has drawn up the engineering specifications to its own satisfaction, the money can be paid by way of a special purpose grant to the council and the causeway will be constructed.

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service *857
Aborigines -
  community work program *861
  education allowances 889
  employment in Conservation Commission 895
  employment of under-age children 936
  health services 925
Adelaide River Farmers' Cooperative *863
ADMA -
  grain receival depot 905, 917, 921
  horticultural produce, marketing 936
Air fares, increase 893
Alice Springs -
  causeway 975
  drinking law exemptions 921
  Old Timers' Homes 937
  pool access 961
  recreation lake 880
  single officer accommodation 952
  transfer of police 904, 917
  water storage 950
Amaroo and Utopia Stations, teachers 896
Apprentices, first-year 963
Arafura Hostel site 967
Ayers Rock -
  community adviser 884
  school 884
Banka Banka Station, education staff *862
Barkly area, medical staff 961
Beef industry, trade with South-east Asia 885, 886, 897
Bee industry 937
Bees Creek area -
  development 970
  sealing of road 892
  sewerage and electrical installations 900
Bellenger, Geoffrey Peter * 860
Betting systems 934
Billabongs, access to 928
Blood alcohol level, reduction of permissible 970
Brinkin and Northlakes, government land purchase 880
Brunei, housing contract 911
BTB campaign 897, 905, 945
Buffaloes *865, 894, 895
Buntine Group and NTDC 939, 941, 956, 957, 961, 964, 965
Buntine Group, investigation by Garraway and Partners 956, 967
Bynoe Harbour -
  access road *865
  camping 934
Casinos, dress standards 918
Casuarina Coastal Reserve, management 932, 934
Central Australia, road improvements 972
Children taking work experience with police force 963
Child welfare legislation 969
Channel Island Power-station *863, *864, 949
Citibank, guarantee of government funds 954
Collia Tin Mine *858
Costigan Report 950
Cox Peninsula 920
Daly Street Fire Station 944

Dangerous Goods Act, commencement 879
Darwin -
City Council, town planning controls 924; houses *861
department store 949
High School, overpass 906
Hospital, former site 901; pathology laboratory * 858
Hostels 924
new airport 922
Rural Plan 968
shipping service 931
water supply 904
Department of Education, computers 877
Department of Health -
Northern Region Office, cost of transfer 890
internal reviews *859
specialist medical staff 917
Department of Mines and Energy, occupational hazards 893
Department of Primary Production, advisory services 896
Department of Transport and Works, sewerage pipes 974
Doctor patient ratios in NT *860
Drinking law, 2 km *865
East Point Reserve 935
Education, isolated children 910
Elliott, power plant *864
Farm fuel projects 972
Federal budget, health grant 914
'Fellow Territorians' circular *860
Females, emergency accommodation 867
Fish silage 897
Flagpoles on NT buildings 883
Fog Bay, closure 942
Foreshore policy 933
Free trade zone *865
Game fishing industry in NT 958
Golden perch 891
Gove District Hospital Board, appointee 957
Government departments, liaison between *860
Grumman Trackers 901
Gulnare Road, sewage ponds 956
Gunn Point, recreational plan 912
Harry Chan Ward 953
Horticulural promotion in Territory 962
Hospital patients, security for belongings *858
Hospitals -
administration 929
pharmacy services 903
Housing Commission -
home loans 896
loan statistics 905, 908
sale of units 883
tenancy system 932
units at Fannie Bay 960
Howard Springs School 950
Identity cards 932
ILO conventions 869, 870, 872, 875
Ilpapa Swamp, mosquito eradication 931
Infant mortality statistics 975
In vitro fertilisation research 878
IPTAAS 884

Jabiru -
  administration staff 889
  ambulance service 900
  development costs 888
  Health Clinic services 902
  rating system 888
  school bus 957
  shop leases 886
  supermarket lease 887
  Town Advisory Council, vacancy 909
  use of water 969
Juvenile crime in NT 876
Kahlin, government blocks 955
Kalano, medical staff *864
Karguru Bush Camp, ablution block 930
Katherine -
  Aboriginal camping area 867
  assistance for meatworks 923
  building regulations 898
  electricity supply *857
  High School 928
  horticulture 890
  meatworks *865, 886
  sports complex 930, 966
  town boundaries 868
Keep River, illegal fishing 915, 951
Kennon Holdings, loan 946
Koolpinyah Pastoral Lease *862, 878
Land Rights Act, advertising campaign 968
Leanyer Dump, relocation 902, 903
Life sentences *862, *863
Liquor campaign *858
Litter campaign 868
Low-cost housing display for Central Australia 961
MacDonnell Ranges National Park *861
Magellan Petroleum, drilling and exploration *862
Malak Pre-school, caretaker 907
Maningrida, armed holdup 899, 933
Meatmeal plant 948
Millner, sewerage lines 971
Mode Office Services, NTDC loan 959
Motor vehicle licences for 16-year-olds 954
Motor vehicle registration 924
Mt Ebenezer School 969
Mt Wells battery *862
Mudginberri, school 959
Myilly Point, future of government land 953
Nathalie Gorey Pre-school 903
National Aborigines Day 935, 975
Newcastle Waters, power plant *864
Nhulunbuy -
  grants-in-aid to sporting bodies 879
  poll on health services 973
Nightcliff Dental Clinic 917, 958
North Clay Industries, NTDC guarantee 943
Northern suburbs, youth needs 920
NTDC -
  assistance to building industry 957
  audit procedures 954

guarantee for Alice Springs hotel 955
loans outstanding 947
role 970
NTEC, motor vehicles *861
NT Pensioners Association, land 943
Nursing and administration of medicine, report *859
Oolloo Station -
land clearance 946
soil sampling surveys 966
suitability for agriculture 969
Palmerston, garbage disposal 906
Palm leaf beetle 920
Palm Valley, gas pipeline 914, 944, 956
Pastoral leases, roll-overs 892
Pastoral properties, roads *864
Peel Creek, bridging 923
Petrol sniffing workshop 885
Pintubi people, relocation 885
Prawn fishery, consultant 959
Prawn resources, management 925
Prison farm, central Australia 918
Psychiatric patients, accommodation in SA 867, 958
Psychiatric services *860
Public housing in NT, applications *859
Public servants, male *861
Public Service Home Loans Scheme 964
Quicklime plant for Darwin 948
Racing and Gaming Commission 970
Rape in the southern region *857
Rapid Creek Primary School, repairs *861
Rapid Creek water gardens project *863
Road laws, review 947
Rice growing, assistance from Singapore 907
Roxby Downs, Bulletin article 907
Royal Flying Doctor Service, tender for hangar 879
Rubbish on private land 949
Rum Jungle, rehabilitation 902
Rural area -
animal pound 946
fire control 914
old timers' village 920
septic tanks 937
subdivision 917
Rural readjustment funds 949
Sadadeen Hills, blasting *862
Sadgroves Creek, marina 974
Salt and lime supplies 889
Sanderson high school 914
School councils, incorporation 900
School crossings 921
School leavers, apprenticeships 877
Security guards, firearms *862
Sexual assault cases *858
Shell Company, assurances re Buntine Group 947
Single-parent families, accommodation 883
Sorghum and maize production 898
South Australian Public Examinations Board 916
Stuart Building, demolition tenders 905
Subdivision at 34-mile 923
Subdivision conditions 909

Tanning in Territory 972
Teachers -
  housing 919
  movement within Territory 960
Telegraph Terrace, median opening 931
Tennant Creek meatworks, NTDC loan 924
Territory tertiary students, assistance 959
Text book allowance *863
Ti Tree Station, health services 940
Tiwi people, fishing legislation exemption 964
Todd River, causeway 952
Top End Gun Club, application for land 955
Tradesmen visiting remote areas *857
Traffic Act, implementation of section 26A 893
Transport Property Holdings Pty Ltd 944, 945
Tuberculosis *858
Undoolya, connector road 935
Water accounts 975
Water consumption *864
Yipirinya School 868
Yulara Publicity Officer *863
Yulara Tourist Village 910

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.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 18 November 1980

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?

From 24 February 1981

Electricity 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 sub-divisions on the Gorge road, and to Katherine Gorge?

From 2 June 1981

Interest rate on Loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

195 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What rate of interest is being charge on the $1.4m special assistance loan granted to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd?

From 9 June 1981

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service

198 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the present staffing of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Centre? Are there plans to increase the staffing levels and, if so, what positions?
2. What are the functions and duties of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service?
3. During the 6 months to 31 May 1981, (a) how many Aboriginals have been treated per week by AIMS, (b) what are the major categories of illness, and (c) where do the Aboriginals, in the main, come from?
4. How many Aboriginal liaison officers are attached to Casuarina Hospital; what hours do they work; and are there plans to increase the numbers?
5. Are any Aboriginal liaison officers to be employed at Darwin Hospital?

From 18 August 1981

Rape in Southern Region

210 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. (a) How many rapes have been reported in the Southern Command region since 1 July 1980 to 10 June 1981, (b) how many have resulted in charges being laid, (c) what is the state of these charges, and (d) have any reports of rape been false?
2. What facilities and resources are available for the psychological counselling of women raped in (a) the Alice Springs region, and (b) the Tennant Creek region.

3. Has he received any representations from women's organisations regarding the level of rape counselling services in the Territory?

4. If so, (a) what organisations have made representations, (b) what has been the basis of these representations, and (c) what has been his response?

Darwin Hospital Pathology Laboratory

224 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can he inform me as to the fate of the pathology laboratory at the Darwin Hospital?

2. Has he considered the future of the laboratory in the light of a lack of such scientific facilities in the Department of Primary Production?

Security for Belongings of Hospital Patients

225 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are made to ensure the security of the belongings of hospital patients, for example psychiatric and geriatric patients, who are unable to care for themselves?

From 24 November 1981

Sexual Assault Cases

379 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many sexual assault cases have been seen at the major Territory hospitals in (a) 1980-81, and (b) 1979-80?

From 1 December 1981

Liquor Campaign

500 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is being spent on the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign?

2. For what reason was the contract awarded to a southern firm?

3. Has any contact been made with the liquor industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

Collia Tin Mine

512 Mr B. COLLINS 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 in NT - Applications

513 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for general public housing were received during (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81, and how many applications were outstanding at (c) 1 July 1980, and (d) 1 July 1981 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Katherine, (v) Nhulunbuy, and (vi) Pine Creek?

2. How many outstanding applications were there for general public housing (a) at 1 July 1980, and (b) at 25 June 1981?

3. How many applications for general public housing were received in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

4. How many applications for general public housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

5. How many tenants were accommodated in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

Internal Reviews of Health Department

517 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. He stated during the June 1981 sittings that his department had reviews taking place on all aspects of medical services offered to the public, and referred to an internal review of community health services. What were the details and outcome of this review?

2. In regard to other internal reviews conducted during the past year, (a) in which areas were they conducted, (b) who have the committees comprised of, (c) how many times have they met, and (d) what has been the outcome of these reviews?

3. How many internal reviews are being conducted at the moment?

Psychiatric Services

534 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what reason is psychiatric services included in the general administrative expenditure for health services?

2. For what reason has the level of funding for psychiatric services been reduced from $510 000 to $475 000? Where will this cut be felt?

Doctor-Patient Ratios in NT

538 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the current ratio of doctors per patient at each hospital in the NT?

2. What are the duty rosters of doctors and nurses? How does this compare with last year?

3. Is the percentage that salaried doctors can earn on top of their income to be increased from 25%? If so, to what level?

From 9 March 1982

'Fellow Territorians' Circular

564 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the cost of a circular letter dated October 1981, addressed to 'Fellow Territorians' and signed by the Chief Minister?

Geoffrey Peter Bellenger

611 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the hardship suffered by Geoffrey Peter Bellenger, who was injured by a truck on a pedestrian crossing in Alice Springs on 23 May 1975 and who has not yet received any compensation for his injuries or costs?
2. Was the driver of the truck involved in the incident charged with any offence?
3. Is any of the almost 7 years delay between the injury and compensation attributable to any shortcoming or congestion in Northern Territory courts?

Liaison between Government Departments

618 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is there liaison between the Department of Lands, other departments and statutory bodies such as Telecom on the provision of services such as electricity, water, sewerage and telephones for new private or government subdivisions?

From 16 March 1982

Male Public Servants

640 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

As at 30 April 1981, what was (a) the average male earnings in the Northern Territory Public Service, and (b) what were the numbers and levels of the males?

Motor Vehicles - NTEC

645 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. How many motor vehicles are (a) owned by NTEC, (b) what classes of vehicles are they, and (c) in what numbers?
2. To which designations of NTEC employees are these vehicles allocated and allowed to be driven to and from work?
3. Is it a fact that a lawyer retained by NTEC has an NTEC vehicle assigned to him for his personal use?

Houses, Darwin City Council

649 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of (a) the number of houses owned by the Corporation of the City of Darwin, and (b) to what use these houses are put?

From 25 May 1982

Repairs and Maintenance, Rapid Creek Primary School

657 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What plans does the department have to (a) repair and cyclone proof the roof of the older part of the Rapid Creek Primary School, including the covered way area, (b) paint, (c) replace furniture, and (d) repair gutters in the older part of the school, and (e) bituminize the school carpark?

National Parks, MacDonnell Ranges

663 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to question No. 586 regarding the gazetting of a MacDonnell Range National Park and ask:

What other 'acquisition proposals are proceeding satisfactorily in the Central and East MacDonnells', and for what purposes is the Conservation Commission seeking to acquire such land?

Drilling and Exploration, Magellan Petroleum

667 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What are the details of the current drilling program being pursued by Magellan Petroleum in central Australia?
2. What is the (a) registration number of, and (b) nature of exploration on each E.L. held by the company?
3. What funding has been committed to the exploration program either (a) in general, or (b) for each E.L.?

Education Staff, Banka Banka

670 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many staff positions does his department fund at Banka Banka?
2. Of these, (a) how many are members of the community, and (b) how many were recruited from outside the community?

Blasting, Sadadeen Hills

675 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What consultation took place, if any, with Aboriginal traditional owners and other citizens before officers of his department commenced blasting a section of the Sadadeen hills to enable erection of a water tank?

From 3 June 1982

Mt Wells Battery

697 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is the area of the Mt Wells Battery still part of the Ban Ban pastoral lease?
2. If so, is this the reason for the delay in full payment of Jingellic Minerals to the government for the Mt Wells Battery and associated leases?
3. If so, when will this be resolved?

From 17 August 1982

Publicity Officer, Yulara

707 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

What (a) qualifications were required by the Conservation Commission of applicants for the recently-advertised position of Yulara Publicity Officer, (b) how many applications were received, and (c) how many applicants were interviewed?

Coal-fired Power Station, Darwin

719 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

1. Will a crushing mill for converting lump coal into powder for use in the proposed coal-fired power station be constructed in Darwin?
2. If so, (a) where will it be constructed and (b) what is the anticipated cost?

Power Plant, Newcastle Waters

723 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

1. When was Newcastle Waters (a) provided with a public power supply, and (b) what was the cost of the provision of that power supply?
2. What is (a) the capacity of the Newcastle Waters Power Station, (b) how many consumers are using the power, and (c) how many people from Newcastle Waters township signed a petition seeking the provision of a public power supply in October 1980?

From 31 August 1982

Roads - Pastoral Properties

727 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

On how many pastoral properties (a) does the government maintain roads from the station boundary to the homestead, (b) what is the longest length of road maintained under this system, (c) what is the average length of road maintained, and (d) what was the cost of maintaining these roads in the 1981-82 financial year?

From 2 September 1982

Access Road, Bynoe Harbour

728 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Further to his answer to question 652 (a) what future development does he envisage for the small community at Belyuen which he said generates traffic volumes warranting upgrading the road to the standard presently being constructed, (b) to what additional development in the pastoral, mining, fishing and recreational industries is he referring, (c) fishing and mining by whom, (d) what amount of capitalisation, (e) mining for what, (f) what type of pastoral and recreational development, where, when, by whom and at what capital outlay, and (g) where does the road through Bulldog Pass lead to, or is it part of the main Bynoe Harbour access road?

Loan - Katherine Meatworks

729 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Was a government loan made available to the operators of the Katherine

meatworks?

2. If so, (a) was this loan to the value of $1.4 million, (b) what is the current status of this loan, and (c) is it being serviced correctly?

2 km Drinking Law

731 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was (a) the cost of preparation and distribution, including postage, of the 2 leaflets, (b) the cost of the recent TV advertisements, and (c) the cost of recent newspaper advertisements regarding the 2 km drinking law?

Buffaloes

732 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. How many buffaloes have been received at the government's facility at Annaburroo Station?

2. Have the suppliers met the conditions required in terms of buffalo type and age?

From 12 October 1982

Essential Services, Aboriginal Communities, 1982-83

735 Mr BELL to TREASURER

1. What amount is being allocated for (a) essential services in 1982-83 and for which Aboriginal communities, (b) what are the proposed projects, and (c) what projects have been completed?

2. How many Aborigines (a) have been, and (b) are employed with the essential services program, (c) what training are they receiving, and (d) from whom?

3. 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 airstrips?

Radio Station Costs

736 Mr BELL to TREASURER

What was the cost of establishing radio stations (a) 8CCC-FM, and (b) 8 TOP-FM, and what is the budget allocation for each in (c) 1981-82, and (d) 1982-83?

'High Rise' Development, Alice Springs

737 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for 'high rise' development - that is, for buildings of more than 3 storeys - in Alice Springs have been received by the Planning Authority in the 12 months to 1 August 1982?

2. Has the Planning Authority rejected any such applications outright considering the height constraint currently imposed by the 1980 Alice Springs Town Plan, or has the authority advised developers to put their plans 'on ice' until it has considered more carefully the issue of high rise development in Alice Springs?

3. What is the nature of the Planning Authority's consideration of the issue of 'high rise' development in Alice Springs?

Industrial Subdivision, Alice Springs

738 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is the government considering any alternatives to the Sadadeen East location for its planned Alice Springs industrial subdivision, bearing in mind the disputed nature of the Sadadeen East site?

Access Road, Beetaloo

741 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Bearing in mind that the route for the realigned section of the access road to Beetaloo Station has been determined in consultation with traditional owners and that large numbers of stock are expected to be turned off in the near future, when will work to upgrade the access road be completed?

Stormwater Canal, Tennant Creek

742 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Does the government plan to upgrade the main town stormwater canal located adjacent to a motel, caravan park, residential areas and a school in the northern and eastern areas of Tennant Creek?
2. If so, when is the work likely to commence?
3. If not, why not?

Roads, Plenty-Sandover Region

743 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to his press release of 28 July and ask what are the details of the government's 'plans to improve pastoral roads' in the Plenty-Sandover region?

Causeway, Alice Springs

744 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When does he expect the extent of residential development east of the Todd River and south of Heavitree Gap will be sufficient to justify reviewing the location of the existing causeway, which is a government undertaking revealed by him in his latest communication to me on the subject?

Solar Power, Yulara

746 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he detail his department's plans for using solar energy as a means for supplying power to Yulara Village, described in 'The Age' of 11 August 1982, as a 'solar power tower'?

School, Lake Nash

747 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to an advertisement lodged by the manager of Lake Nash Station in the 25 March edition of 'Queensland Country Life' seeking the services of a mechanic in which conditions of employment listed included the phrase 'no school' and ask will be take steps to inform or convince the manager of Lake Nash Station that the Department of Education does indeed operate a school on that station?

Community Government, Borroloola

748 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Does the majority of the Borroloola community oppose the introduction of community government?
2. If so, will the government continue to negotiate the introduction of community government despite the fact that the community generally opposes it?
3. If the government concludes negotiations, what is the likely date for the introduction of community government at Borroloola?

Alpurrurrulam Community

749 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Following receipt of a letter sent to his department dated 28 May 1982 from the Alpurrurrulam community at Lake Nash which states: 'We want to tell you that we do not want to move to Bathurst Downs. We want to stay here in this country, Lake Nash, that we call Alpurrurrulam.', does he acknowledge that the Aboriginal community wants to remain in its present location at Lake Nash?

Tourist Operations Standards

750 Mr BELL to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. As a rule, does the NT Tourist Commission critically assess the standard and quality of a tourist operation before it offers the operation promotional support?
2. If so, what general procedures are followed to make such assessment?
3. If consumer opinion indicates a tourist operation is sub-standard in any respect, does the Tourist Commission consider withdrawing its promotional support from this operation?

Parkinsonia Eradication

751 Mr BELL to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Does the government offer incentives to pastoralists and other persons to control and eradicate the noxious species *Parkinsonia* before it affects access to stock-watering places, and, if not, why not?

Grants-in-aid, Community Service Organisations

752 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

In 1981-82, under the grants-in-aid scheme to voluntary community organisations working in the youth, sport and recreation fields, how much money was given to organisations for (a) administration, (b) equipment, (c) facilities, (d) salary subsidies, (e) special projects, (f) training-coaching, and (g) travel subsidies?

Grants-in-aid, Community Service Organisations

753 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money under the grants-in-aid scheme was given to community service organisations in 1981-82?

Farm-fuel Projects

754 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is the government giving any encouragement to farm-fuel projects and, if so, can he give brief details?

BCF Fire Extinguishers

755 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Is he aware that some state fire prevention authorities recommend against the use and installation of Bromochlorodifluoromethane (BCF) fire extinguishers in confined spaces, and in hospitals, nursing homes and child care centres?
2. Is it proposed to replace BCF fire extinguishers in hospitals in the Northern Territory?
3. Is it proposed to discontinue the use of BCF fire extinguishers in any other types of public buildings in the Northern Territory?

From 14 October 1982

Residential Tenancies

756 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In regard to residential tenancies:

1. What is the average bond paid in respect of (a) 1 bedroom units/flats, (b) 2 bedroom units/flats, (c) 1 bedroom houses, (d) 2 bedroom houses, and (e) 3 bedroom houses?
2. In respect of categories (a) to (e) above, how many leases are there existing at present?
3. What is the average term of residential leases?

System-wide Testing in NT Schools

757 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What steps have been taken to introduce system-wide testing into NT schools?
2. (a) How many people will be involved in the implementation of system-wide testing, (b) how much will it cost, and (c) how much time is it likely to take on the part of the professional people involved?

Loan to Government Printer

758 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

1. Why were the terms and conditions of a government loan of $3.5 million to the Government Printing Office not established at the time the loan was made?
2. Have the terms and conditions of this loan yet been settled and, if so, when did this take place?

Book Purchases - NT Library Service

759 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What was (a) the value of books purchased by the Northern Territory Library Service since 1 January 1982, (b) from which suppliers or book-sellers were these purchases made, both Territory and interstate, (c) is

the library service still purchasing books direct from publishers, and (d) what was the total expenditure by the library service on book purchases in the financial year 1980-81?

Incidence of Tuberculosis in 1979-80

241 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What was the incidence of tuberculosis in 1979-80 in (a) Australia, and (b) the Northern Territory?

2. Is his department undertaking any program to eradicate tuberculosis in humans similar to the program being undertaken to eradicate tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle?

ANSWER

1. Australian tuberculosis statistics are prepared on a calendar year basis. The incidence of tuberculosis per 100 000 population for 1980 was, (a) Australia 9.97, and (b) Northern Territory 21.43.

2. The Health Department is continuing a long-standing tuberculosis control program. This program is based on BCG vaccination, tuberculin skin test screening, active case finding, strict follow-up of cases and their contacts, together with surveillance of community groups known to be especially vulnerable to the disease.

   The 1980 results for the Northern Territory continue the steady decline in incidence, which was approximately 9 times the Australian rate in 1950.

Report on Nursing and Administration of Medicine

527 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When does he expect the report on manpower requirements for nursing and the administration of medicine to be completed?

ANSWER

An investigation is being undertaken into the nursing manpower and education needs of the Northern Territory for the 1980s. The report should be available by December 1982.

There is no investigation of 'administration of medicine' being conducted at the present time.

Rapid Creek Water Gardens Project

596 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Given that the Rapid Creek water gardens project already had 2 signs, 1 being a conventional Transport and Works sign and the other a pictorial representation of what the gardens will look like, what was (a) the purpose of erecting a third much larger sign identifying the project, and (b) what was the cost of the third sign?

ANSWER

(a) The sign was erected to give an artist's impression of the appearance of the gardens when completed along with a list of many of the features to be included in the project.

(b) The cost of the sign was $3000.

Aboriginal Community Work Program

641 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. The Northern Territory government initiated the Aboriginal Community

Work Program for a pilot period of 3 years, which was to conclude in January 1982. Has this occurred?

2. Has a report been compiled for consideration by the government agency reviewing the program?

3. If so, when is it anticipated that the government will table this report?

ANSWER

1. The program has not concluded but following a review at the end of the 3 year period is continuing to operate on a limited scale while supervisory methods are re-structured and tested with a view to equipping workers with higher levels of operational skill.

2. Following the above review a comprehensive report was presented to the Minister for Community Development. The decision to continue the program was based on this review.

3. The departmental report was an internal document and will not be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Firearms, Security Guards

692 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What, in general terms, are the regulations governing the use of firearms by private security guards, and what type of training and level of competence in the use of firearms by private security guards is required in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

There are no regulations governing the use of firearms by private security guards specifically.

Private security guards have no greater authority, privileges or powers than that of private citizens, and are required to comply with all laws.

The government has considered the introduction of legislation for the registration of security firms and or security guards. Special legislation would not provide any special protection to the public, especially as the firearms legislation is flexible enough to control the issue of firearms licences to persons of acceptable character and to provide for the endorsement of licences of special conditions. The real problem is not so much competence in relation to the carriage and use of firearms as it is the circumstances under which firearms may be improperly carried or used thereby contravening the criminal law.

Section 164 of the draft criminal code now before the Assembly should remove much uncertainty now surrounding the use of force.

The relevant parts are as follows:

"164. CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH FORCE CAUSING DEATH OR GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM CAN BE USED

"In the circumstances following it is lawful to use force, not being unnecessary force, that will kill or cause grievous bodily harm and if, in such circumstnaces, death, grievous bodily harm or bodily harm results, that killing or that causing of grievous bodily harm or bodily harm is lawful -".

[(1) to (5) not relevant to security guards].

"(6) In the case of any person when acting in self-defence or

in the defence of another, where the nature of the assault being defended is such as to cause reasonable apprehension of death or grievious bodily harm.".

No specific type of training or standard of competence in the use of firearms by private security guards has been determined but before such a licence is issued the person must satisfy police that he (a) is a fit and proper person to possess, carry and discharge firearms; (b) has an adequate understanding of the laws in force in the Territory relating to firearms; (c) has adequate training and experience in the discharging and safe handling of firearms and ammunition; and (d) if the application relates to a firearm class 'C', i.e. a pistol - has a sufficient reason to possess, carry and discharge a firearm class 'C'.

The existing practice is to issue, in most circumstances, a temporary licence which contains special conditions. The firearm legislation is flexible enough to permit any other conditions which might be appropriate to be added. In regard to competence in the use of firearms, all applicants are required to complete a questionnaire in which a theoretical knowledge and their use has to be demonstrated.

Negotiations are under way with security agencies to formulate a policy under which there would be a requirement for their employees to undertake firearms training under the auspices of appropriate organisations such as pistol clubs, etc.

This requirement could then become a condition of the permit or licence.

Life Sentences

693 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In relation to life sentences imposed in the Territory, (a) how many persons are presently serving life sentences, (b) what is the average length of the actual sentence served, (c) are there any administrative procedures for the review of life sentences, and (d) if so, what are they?

ANSWER

(a) Two. One Northern Territory offender is presently serving life imprisonment in the Northern Territory whilst one is imprisoned in South Australia. An additional 2 Northern Territory offenders who were sentenced to life imprisonment were removed to South Australia but escaped lawful custody and have not been recaptured.

(b) No average length of actual sentence served by life prisoners can be given. The 4 persons referred to in (a) represent all offenders sentenced to life imprisonment by Northern Territory courts since 1964. As at 9 August 1982, the offender serving life imprisonment in the Northern Territory had just commenced her term of imprisonment whilst the Northern Territory offender serving a life sentence in South Australia will have served 5 years 11 months imprisonment. No other life sentence prisoners have gained release since 1964.

(c) There is an established administrative procedure for the review of life sentence prisoners held interstate. The development of administrative procedures for the review of life sentence prisoners held in the Northern Territory is still in progress.

(d) The release of life sentence prisoners held in South Australia pursuant to the Removal of Prisoners (Territories) Act is the prerogative of the Governor-General. The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department has not yet requested that the Parole Board of the Northern

Territory review the case of the one life sentence prisoner held in South Australia and no advisory recommendation in regard to his possible release has been supplied.

When procedures for the review of life sentence prisoners held in the Northern Territory have been adopted I will inform the Assembly of their nature.

Boundaries, Koolpinyah Station

696 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

On 9 March 1982 he advised the Assembly that the matter of redrawing the boundaries of Koolpinyah Station was under consideration. Is he yet in a position to provide further information on this matter?

ANSWER

The advice of 9 March 1982 referred to in this question was provided by the honourable Minister for Primary Production. Nevertheless, I can advise the honourable member that the matter is still under consideration.

Farmers' Co-operative at Adelaide River

699 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. How many people has the farmers' co-operative at Adelaide River employed on average over the last 5 years?
2. Have continuing accumulated debts from earlier years contributed to the fact that the co-operative is not now solvent?
3. Does the government have any plans for land development north of Adelaide River, or is it content to see blocks sold for real estate value as is occurring at the present time?

ANSWER

1. The NT Producers' Co-operative Ltd at Adelaide River has employed, on average, between 5 to 7 persons on a full-time basis over the last 5 years.

   During busy periods, up to 4 additional casual employees were employed by the co-operative at any one time.

2. The NT Producers' Co-operative Ltd has experienced trading difficulties for a number of years, despite government attempts to assist.

   Portion of the total liabilities of the co-operative are a result of the co-operative being an agent of the government, administering schemes of assistance prior to the establishment of ADMA.

   The co-operative is in a position where it is unable to trade its way out of its financial difficulties even if portion of the existing debt to government was written off. This situation has developed for a variety of reasons, including:

   - The lack of adequate management control, particularly over debtors.
   - Inconsistent quality control on stockfeeds, leading to a decision by its major customer to undertake its own feed milling operation.
   - The failure of the co-operative to cater for the expanding market for products required in the rural area close to Darwin.
   - The loss of fertilizer sales to a competitor based in Katherine.

   The co-operative failed to respond to the growth now being witnessed

in the agricultural sector of the Territory, due to financial and managerial restraints, with the result that a substantial proportion of its business has been lost to competitors.

The co-operative's problems are a result of accumulated debts and inflexible management.

3. At present the government does not have any plans for land development north of Adelaide River, however, farmers who wish to participate in cropping activities in this area will be eligible for the normal types of assistance currently available.

Secondary Text Book Allowance

700 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many people received the secondary text book allowance during the period 1 July 1981 to 31 May 1982?

ANSWER

189 students received the allowance during the period.

Dingo Baiting

714 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of the concern of cattlemen that aerial baiting of dingoes with the poison 1080 is being scaled down and that the potency of the poison is being reduced?

ANSWER

The commission's policy has been and continues to be to assist with dingo control whenever necessary.

In reference to poison potency, the 1080 concentration being used in meat baits is continually monitored to ensure that only the target species is affected and is in line with most other states. Reductions in concentration done recently have been as a result of checks into continuous effectiveness.

Life Imprisonment

718 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the effective sentence served by persons receiving life sentences?
2. What review procedures, if any, exist for the periodic review of life sentence detainees?
3. How many people are presently serving life sentences in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

1. No effective sentence served by persons receiving life sentences can be calculated because, of the 4 Northern Territory offenders sentenced to life imprisonment since 1964, none have gained lawful release. As at 9 August 1982, the longest serving Northern Territory life sentence prisoner had served 5 years 11 months imprisonment.
2. The release of Northern Territory life sentence prisoners held interstate pursuant to the Removal of Prisoners (Territories) Act, is the prerogative of the Governor-General. The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department has not yet requested that the Parole Board of

the Northern Territory review the case of the one life sentence prisoner held in South Australia and no advisory recommendation in regard to his possible release has been supplied.

The procedures for the review of life sentence prisoners held in the Northern Territory are still being developed and I will inform the Assembly of their nature when they have been adopted.

3. One. An additional Northern Territory life sentence prisoner is serving his imprisonment in South Australia.

Coal-fired Power Station, Darwin

720 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

What is (a) the expected daily consumption of coal, (b) what is the expected waste, and (c) what is the anticipated cost of waste disposal for the proposed coal-fired power station for Darwin?

ANSWER

(a) Consumption of Coal - Daily coal consumption, dependant on average daily generation, would range between 400 tonnes per day (1 x 50MW) to 2500 tonnes per day (6 x 50MW).

(b) Expected Waste - It is assumed that the question refers to ash which results from combustion of coal rather than to waste of coal which may occur before passing into boilers.

The quantity of ash which results from the combustion of coal is an important characteristic which varies with different coals from different mines. Ash production would range from 30-80 tonnes per day (1 x 50MW set) to 180-500 tonnes per day (6 x 50MW sets).

(c) Cost of Waste Disposal - It is assumed that this question refers to capital cost for works - (a) precipitator - in the order of $1.2M per unit; (b) ash disposal - in the order of $3M; and (c) ash lagoons - in the order of $3M. In addition to the capital cost there will be ongoing operating and maintenance costs for the ash disposal plant.

Power Plant, Elliott

722 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

When was the power generating equipment currently servicing the township of Elliott (a) installed, (b) has there been any major upgrading of the plant since its installation, (c) what is its capacity, (d) how many consumers are serviced by the plant, and (e) what is the level of demand for power from the community?

ANSWER

(a) The power generating equipment currently servicing Elliott was installed in 1974 and 1980 -

(i) 2 Scania 130 kW sets in 1974; and
(ii) 1 Cummins Dunlite 200 kW set installed in 1980.

(b) Major upgrading, apart from installation of the third set (Cummins) in 1980, involved installation in 1981 of (i) automatic switchboard; (ii) increasing fuel storage capacity threefold; (iii) H.V. (11 kV) reticulation; and (iv) upgrading of surrounds.

(c) Total installed capacity is 460 kW, firm capacity is 260 kW.

(d) Number of consumers serviced by plant is 50.

(e) The community level of demand is 210 kW.

Doctor and Nurses, Kalano

724 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the government paying the wages of the Kalano doctor and nursing sisters?

ANSWER

Recently, the Kalano Association employed a Dr A. Beattie. His salary is the responsibility of Kalano although the Northern Territory government has included 50% of this cost as a grant-in-aid to the association.

One nursing sister is located by the Northern Territory Department of Health at the health centre run by the Kalano community Association. As a member of the department's staff, her salary is covered by the department. Kalano do not employ other nursing sisters.

Water Consumption

726 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What was the total water consumption in (a) 1980-81, and (b) 1981-82; total revenue raised from water rates in financial years (c) 1980-81, and (d) 1981-82; and what percentage of water used was unmetered in (e) 1980-81, and (f) 1981-82 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, and (iv) Katherine?

ANSWER

Total Water Consumption (kL)	1980-81	1981-82
Darwin	21 070 000	23 837 009
Katherine	2 041 910	1 871 277
Tennant Creek	1 250 530	1 185 828
Alice Springs	8 593 860	6 776 922

Total Collections - Water Supply	1980-81	1981-82
Darwin	$2 653 660	$2 405 897
Katherine	157 446	220 343
Tennant Creek	161 179	219 607
Alice Springs	666 593	823 396

Unmetered Water	1980-81
Darwin	18%
Katherine	50%
Tennant Creek	21%
Alice Springs	33%

It is not possible at this time to provide 1981-82 figures as annual meter readings were completed only on 31 August 1982. Statistical totals of metered consumptions will be extracted during the billing process but are not likely to be available before November 1982.

Free Trade Zone

730 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In relation to the proposal to establish a free trade zone in Darwin, has he requested the Commonwealth government to exercise its power under Section 122 of the Commonwealth Constitution to enable such a

free trade zone to be established?

2. If so, what has been the Commonwealth government's response?

3. Would the establishment of a duty-free zone in the Northern Territory create a customs barrier that could concomitantly interfere with trade, commerce and intercourse between the Northern Territory and the states of Australia?

4. Has the Commonwealth government indicated that it would agree to the removal of customs duties?

5. What, if any, specific financial incentives are intended to be offered to potential investors?

ANSWER

The Territory government currently has in preparation a detailed submission on the establishment of a free trade zone in Darwin.

No approach will be made to the Commonwealth until the submission has been completed and all aspects of the proposal have been covered in detail.

The submission will cover such aspects as constitutional and customs arrangements, and whether particular incentives may be appropriate to support the establishment of the zone.

A free trade zone would not create a customs barrier between the Northern Territory and other Australian states.

Recreation Lake, Alice Springs

733 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Have alternative site to Walletje Terre for the construction of a recreation lake in Alice Springs been examined by his government?

2. If so, when will he release comprehensive details of the suitability of alternative sites and any plans to develop them as a recreation lake?

ANSWER

1. Yes. Details of alternative sites were provided in answer to Question No. 661, to which answer was appended a comparison of 3 sites selected for closer examination namely the Old Telegraph Station (Todd River), Birthday Gap (Hugh River) and Ildjarabada (Jay Creek).

2. The information supplied with the answer to Question No. 661 gives details of the suitability of alternative sites. The matter remains under consideration.

Alligator Rivers Monitoring

734 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Was money allocated in 1974 or subsequently for NT government monitoring of the condition of the estuarine region of the Alligator Rivers?

2. If so, (a) has this monitoring program commenced, (b) if so, is it current, (c) has any data been collected and or published, (d) if not, why not?

3. If a monitoring program of the estuarine region of the Alligator Rivers has not commenced, will the government take steps to introduce such a program?

ANSWER

The time mentioned precedes self-government and any activities of this nature would have come under Commonwealth's Department of the Northern Territory.

Following the recommendations of the Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry the Commonwealth established the Office of the Supervising Scientist. In August 1978 a workshop was held at Jabiru by this organisation to implement the proposals in that report in relation to environmental matters.

An extensive water quality program which included an element dealing with water quality in the estuarine area, was set our for the Magela and Cooper Creek systems and approved by the Commonwealth. This program was considered at the workshop and with the method of water management at Ranger developing to a 'no release of contaminants' system, it was decided that the resources available would be engaged in the baseline data gathering of Magela and Cooper Creeks only. The estuarine study was given a low priority as not being of sufficient environmental importance in relation to other aspects of the program to warrant the immediate application of resources. (Refer Supervising Scientist First Annual Report 1978-79 Appendices 9 and 10).

The Northern Territory government is now responsible for these environmental programs through funds made available by the Commonwealth.

Home Loans, 1981-82

739 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In relation to the 488 loans advanced under the Northern Territory Housing Commission home loans scheme during 1981-82, what was (a) the average deposit, (b) the median deposit, (c) how many borrowers required second mortgages, (d) what was the average amount of second mortgages, and (e) what was the median amount of second mortgages?

ANSWER

(a) $11 976.

(b) $8 500 (range $5 000 to $97 000).

(c) 133.

(d) $16 828.

(e) $15 000 (range $2 576 to $40 400).

Rents for Pensioner Tenants

740 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Does the Northern Territory Housing Commission increase rents payable by pensioner tenants in situations where the tenant earns income in addition to the pension?

2. If so, what is the relationship between income, in addition to the pension, and rental increases?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. Full details were supplied to the honourable member in a letter of 7 September 1982:

Minister for Lands and Housing
P.O. Box 4396
Darwin
Northern Territory 5794

7 September 1982

Mr N.R. BELL, MLA
Member for MacDonnell
P.O. Box 2115
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Dear Mr Bell,

On 6 August 1982 you wrote to me concerning the level of rent payable to the Housing Commission by pensioner tenants.

The current formula for calculation of rental rebate provides for rent payable to be assessed as follows:

- *Single pensioners or pensioner couples in receipt of age, invalid, widow, service or other similar type pensions and additional income of less than $16.00 per week are assessed at 15% of total gross weekly income.*
- *Supporting persons in receipt of a Commonwealth supporting persons benefit with one child, six years of age and over and receiving additional income of up to $22.00 are assessed at 18%. The allowable additional income varies according to the number of dependents.*
- *Single pensioners, married pensioners or supporting persons whose additional income exceeds the allowable rate are assessed at 20% of their gross weekly income up to and equal to the Northern Territory minimum wage and then 28% of any additional income in excess of the Northern Territory minimum wage.*

Under the terms of the 1978 Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement a uniform approach has been agreed upon for the calculation of rental rebates.

The rent payable calculated under the Rental Rebate formula is assessed as a percentage of gross weekly income, it bears no relationship to the Department of Social Security's procedure in assessing the level of benefit received by pensioners. It is noted however, rent payable by pensioners is usually lower than that of wage earners.

Using the Rental Rebate formula the following are examples of rentals which would apply:

- *Single pensioner on standard pension of $74.15 per week with no additional income, rent payable is $11.10.*
- *Single pensioner on standard pension of $74.15 plus $10.00 additional income, rent payable is $12.60.*
- *Single pensioner on standard pension plus $50.00 additional income, rent payable is $24.80.*
- *Married pensioner on standard pension of $123.60 per week rent payable is $18.60.*
- *Married pensioner on standard pension of $123.60 plus $50.00 additional income, rent payable is $36.70.*
- *Supporting parent plus one child (under 6 years of age) receiving $92.15 per week, rent payable is $16.60.*
- *Supporting parent with two children (under 6 years of age) receiving*

$102.15 plus $75.00 additional income, rent payable is $37.70.

I trust that the above answers your enquiry.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) MARSHALL PERRON

Medical Staff, Tennant Creek and Barkly

745 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the current level of medical staffing in the (a) Tennant Creek, and (b) the Barkly regions?
2. How does this number compare with staffing levels as at 2 September 1981?
3. Will his department (a) maintain, or (b) increase the staffing level in the Tennant Creek and Barkly regions?

ANSWER

1. There are currently 3 medical officers employed at the Tennant Creek Hospital and 1 medical officer employed for the Barkly region.
2. This number is the same as at 2 September 1981.
3. There are currently no moves to change the medical staffing levels in either the hospital or the region.

Investigations of Breaches of the Companies Act

Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

My question follows an answer by the Attorney-General regarding the ramifications for the Northern Territory of the disclosures to date by the Costigan Royal Commission. The Attorney-General stated in response to that question: 'Of course tax avoidance schemes such as the bottom-of-the-harbour schemes have no relevance to the Northern Territory government, as such. It has no taxation legislation that I am aware of. The bottom-of-the-harbour schemes would avail people of not one jot or tittle of benefit'. Given the abuse of the provisions of the Companies Act - and that that abuse is ancillary to the activities of the taxation avoidance industry - is the government investigating breaches of the Companies Act related to tax avoidance?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, of course the honourable Leader of the Opposition has not provided me with any notice of this question. Nor has he provided me at any time with complaints of breaches of the Companies Act. It is very difficult to investigate alleged breaches unless one is pointed in the right direction. It is an ongoing task of the Registrar of Companies to ensure that annual returns of companies are lodged and that all the normal statutory requirements are complied with. As far as I am aware, the Registrar of Companies in the Northern Territory carries out those requirements of his office. Recently, the Attorney-General of New South Wales wrote to me as a result of inquiries carried out by him. He indicated to me that, following interviews with promoters of bottom-of-the-harbour schemes in Sydney, he was able to provide me with a list of Northern Territory incorporated companies. That does not mean that any persons connected with the operations of the companies actually live in the Territory. I was provided with a list of companies, which I personally found very interesting from the point of view of some of the mnemonics, if I can describe them that way, of the names of the persons involved in the companies and the way they have changed the order of lettering of their usual surnames apparently to incorporate these companies. There are so many companies registered these days that it is very difficult to come up with fresh names. Some unique and original devices are used at times to secure a fresh name which the Registrar of Companies will register. Although there are only 6 or 8 companies on the list, when I received this correspondence, I immediately forwarded it to the Solicitor-General. I requested that he ask the Registrar-General to inquire particularly into the situation in relation to these companies which the Attorney-General of New South Wales believes - and I do not think that I can put it any stronger than that - may have been used as vehicles in bottom-of-the-harbour schemes. That investigation is still going on because the correspondence from the Attorney-General of New South Wales was received only last week. I look forward to the results of those investigations with a great deal of interest. I am indeed deeply grateful to the Attorney-General of New South Wales for sending this list of company names to me. When the investigations have been completed, the findings may contain revelations that will be of considerable surprise to a great number of Territorians.

Grumman Trackers

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Given that there are 13 Grumman Trackers sitting idle at Nowra and the existing contract for coastal surveillance in the Northern Territory expires in March, has he made an approach to the Minister for Defence for the transfer of these Grumman Trackers to Darwin or any other northern base and, if so, what has been the response since the last time I asked the question?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Nightcliff knows that I have made a number of approaches to the honourable Minister for Defence, previously Sir James Killen and presently Mr Ian Sinclair. I have made representations to Mr Sinclair in the course of the last month or two. To the best of my knowledge, correspondence has gone from my office within the last month. On Friday morning I received a letter from the honourable Minister for Defence who advised me that the question of the Grumman Trackers has been referred to a committee on naval fixed-wing aircraft once again. I think I spoke about this at some earlier sittings when we tried to divine whether perhaps there was a naval committee on blimps, balloons and other types of aircraft as well.

Mr Speaker, I was also informed, in the latest letter from the honourable the Minister for Defence, that it appears that no decision will be taken in relation to the final disposition of these aircraft pending a decision by the government on the acquisition of an aircraft carrier for the Royal Australian Navy. Because of the relative obscurity with which the final paragraph of the honourable minister's letter was phrased, I have taken steps to attempt to find out what he actually meant. I feel considerable regret for these naval airmen if they are to remain at Jervis Bay or Nowra pending Australia actually taking delivery of an aircraft carrier. Even if the decision were taken today, there are no longer any good, used, second-hand aircraft carriers available for sale around the world unless they be Argentinian. I think it would be several years before Australia could expect delivery of an aircraft carrier, probably from sources in the United States.

To add my little contribution to the debate on whether Australia should have an aircraft carrier I say, if we are to have an aircraft carrier I pray that it will be an American aircraft carrier because our fleet, in almost any conflict, will be cooperating with units of the American fleet in the Pacific. I believe it is much more rational and logical that we should have American equipment that is compatible with the units it will be working with rather than British equipment which, although proven relatively satisfactory in tough circumstances in the South Atlantic, nevertheless has been proved to be wanting in several respects. That is the one prayer that I would lodge in the aircraft carrier debate. I can assure the honourable member that I will maintain pressure on the Minister for Defence. In fact, I hope to see him this weekend. I will take the matter up with him again and perhaps be able to give the Assembly better news at the next sittings.

Buffalo Domestication Program

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What progress has the government made with its buffalo domestication program?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the subject of buffalo domestication was fairly much in vogue before the beef crisis at which time it was dropped. With the momentum of the brucellosis and the tuberculosis eradication program, it is fairly important that further domestication programs be undertaken to avoid complete destruction of the buffalo herd in the Top End. By the end of this year the program will involve the passage of some 700 to 1000 buffalo through the Annaburoo marshalling yards, which have been installed and funded by the Department of Primary Production and the Conservation Commission. Some 16 properties, including small farms, will be involved with the program resulting in around 5000 domesticated buffalo by the end of this year. In view of current progress, we hope that next year we can look at a further 8000 buffalo in the domestication program.

Mr Speaker, the policy of the NTDC is being expanded to support this program and we are looking at a special package for buffalo domestication farmers. It is clear to me that, in the long haul, buffalo will be a very important part of a mixed farming concept and I believe we are on the right trail with this program.

Management Committee for Darwin Performing Arts Centre

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Given recent publicity in the media regarding the management committee of the Darwin Performing Arts Centre, has a final decision been made as to the structure of such a committee and, if not, what options are being considered?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as the honourable member would be well aware through publicity on this matter, an arrangement was entered into by the government with the Darwin City Council. That agreement, in the form of a memorandum of understanding, was signed on 14 April 1981. As far as the government is concerned, contracts entered into with a semi-government or local government organisation ought be honoured. The provisions of the memorandum of understanding are still existent and the intention is that the title to the performing arts centre will be vested in the city council. Needless to say, the government will honour its undertaking for continuing assistance to the operations of the performing arts centre. Certainly the government is not of a mind to abandon its responsibilities; it merely wants the city council to honour its undertaking in relation to the operations of the performing arts centre. Mr Speaker, much has been said about the desirability or otherwise of various forms of management for the performing arts centre. A view is widely held that a trust, similar to the Araluen Trust, ought to be established. I think people should bear in mind the vast difference between the establishment of a single performing arts centre, as part of a private building, and an operation like the Araluen Trust which has a large tract of land and has, as part of its corporate structure, many diverse users not just the performing arts. It involves static arts, visual arts, museums and the like. Such an operation is quite different from the operation of a single theatre. By its very nature, such a theatre is a very expensive undertaking and deficits can become severe. We believe that maximum accountability ought to be provided to the taxpayer for this facility. In my view, that should be provided directly by those people who purport to represent the taxpayer and the ratepayer - in this case, the Darwin City Council. It is not sufficient simply to establish a body, either by act of this Assembly or otherwise, responsible solely to the performing arts and not to the taxpayer. It is not sufficient for me to agree to a proposal whereby these people simply carry out the functions that they see to be in the interests of the arts and then send the bill to the taxpayer or ratepayer at the end of the year. A greater degree of responsibility and accountability is necessary and, for that reason, this government intends that the council shall honour its agreement.

Road Closures for NTEC Works

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

My question relates to the NTEC extension to the tunnel system in the main city area. Is he aware that hardship is being experienced by business operators in Daly Street and Mitchell Street and that it is caused by these road closures, and is he able to indicate when the Mitchell Street-Daly Street intersection will be reopened?

ANSWER

I am aware that there has been some disruption to business as a result of major works being undertaken by NTEC in Darwin at present. It is an unfortunate fact of life that major earthworks in a built-up area create disruption for various businesses. I guess most businesses have been affected at one time or another in the past. The work being undertaken by NTEC at the present time is an extension of the underground tunnel system throughout Darwin. This project is designed to give Darwin modern electricity distribution until the year 2000 and beyond. Honourable members who have been around the Territory for a long time will know the very distinct improvement in the visual appearance of Darwin since the city's electricity has been placed underground. This causes special problems in rapidly growing areas where electricity distribution systems have to be upgraded continually to take account of major developments that occur. The work under way now will take about 6 weeks. I am hopeful that the intersection of Daly Street and Mitchell Street will be completed earlier than that but I cannot give a specific date at this time. It seems that it is that intersection that is causing most of the disruption mentioned by the honourable member for Port Darwin. However, I ask businesses which are affected in this way to bear with us. Once the job is done it will accommodate the distribution system until at least the year 2000. The work has to be done prior to the coming wet season to minimise disruption.

TIO Investments

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Who decides the nature of investments undertaken by the Territory Insurance Office and what forms of control are exercised to monitor the investment program?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the board of the TIO makes decisions on its investment portfolio and the mix of investments that the TIO has. To date I have not directed the TIO in any way in this regard although the act provides - if I recall correctly - as most statutory authority acts do, that the body is subject to the direction of the minister. The board of the TIO has been established to make these decisions itself. I am informed of the decisions made by the TIO from time to time in regard to investments. It follows generally accepted insurance principles in its portfolio of investments and also has regard, of course, to the needs of the Northern Territory. The TIO is not allowed to invest in projects outside the Northern Territory and this limits to some degree the range of securities it can invest in, as it were, that are open to other insurance companies which operate on an Australia-wide basis and perhaps even a world-wide basis. But, aside from the fact that the TIO must keep its money in the Northern Territory, the decisions are made by the board and I believe they are made in a prudent manner.

Gate on Bynoe Harbour Road

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that the new Bynoe Harbour Road now has a gate across it and a sign saying 'private property keep out'?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of such a gate across the Bynoe Harbour Road. However, I will have the department provide me with information and furnish the honourable member with that information at a later date.

Child-care Facilities in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What help is the government prepared to extend to private individuals who want to set up child-care facilities in the rural area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I suppose the members of the rural community would like as wide a range of child-care facilities as is possible. They range from family-day-care to small, private, child-care facilities to large, private, facilities such as we have in Darwin. People in the rural area who wish to establish private child-care centres can certainly seek the assistance of the department in such matters as regulation requirements, methods of establishing the centre, options for management, the equipment required and the like. They can also seek the advice of the Small Business Advisory Bureau of the Northern Territory Development Corporation. I dare say that if such a private facility were regarded as a unique, highly desirable and private industry non-existent in that area the owners could seek the advice and assistance of the NTDC itself.

Other than that there is no direct government financial assistance to private child-care centres. It is private business after all. Nonetheless, the federal government has set aside $200 000 in this year's budget to provide for a pilot study on the possibility of providing subsidies to families in need who choose to use private child-care facilities. I do not know whether that will lead to a decision of the Commonwealth to provide a subsidy which now is available only at such institutions as day-care centres and community-based organisations.

Distinction between Static and Visual Arts

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer him to his answer to a previous question about art centres. What is the distinction between static arts and visual arts?

No answer given.

High Voltage Powerlines

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

On 10 March I raised the problem of high voltage powerlines close to high rise buildings in my electorate and the minister undertook to investigate the matter. Could he advise the result of any such investigation?

ANSWER

Yesterday I approved a letter addressed to the honourable member in response to her inquiry. An investigation was carried out and it was found that the statutory requirements for distance between buildings and powerlines have all been met in Nightcliff. However, buildings are erected from time to time without NTEC's complete knowledge. Action is being taken to ensure that approvals issued through the Building Board include a specific advice to builders that they need to pay heed to the statutory requirements of distance where erecting high rise buildings. They must stay away from existing powerlines and consult with NTEC if there is a need to have any of them moved. The honourable member will receive this letter within a day or so.

Outbreak of Golden Staph at Alice Springs Hospital

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he assure the people of Alice Springs that every possible precaution is being taken to control and hopefully eliminate the outbreak of golden staph at the Alice Springs Hospital?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am grateful for a few minutes notice on this question from the honourable member. I will relay to him, the constituents of Alice Springs and honourable members, the advice of Dr Edgar, the Medical Superintendent at Alice Springs Hospital. He advised me that, as soon as the case of golden staph was located, immediate and intensive measures were taken to deal with the situation. The current position is that one patient has been identified as having golden staph and cannot be discharged. Present indications are that the patient is now clear. One staff member has been found to have MRSA and is presently off work. At the present, there appear to be no known organisms in the hospital but investigation and preventative work is continuing. It is hoped normal surgery at the hospital can recommence shortly. I emphasise that the early and strict preventative measures taken when the outbreak was first identified appear to have been successful.

TIO Investments

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Is he willing to make available to this Assembly a complete list of all investments undertaken by, or on behalf of, the Territory Insurance Office?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I believe that some such information is provided in the annual report of the TIO. However, I will examine the matter and report to the Assembly during these sittings.

Fire at Jape Building

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

On the assumption that the fire department issued a certificate of compliance prior to occupation of the Jape building, can he explain the obvious breaches of the terms of that certificate brought to light, so to speak, as a result of the recent fire in that building?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have asked for a complete report on the Jape Arcade incident. I believe the fire was started by a cigarette butt being thrown into a plastic bin. I understand that in future metal bins will be provided. However, the fire chief is to provide me with an up-to-date report and I will provide it to the honourable member as soon as I have it.

Proposed Closure of Kitchener Drive and Hughes Avenue

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

A proposal is being put forward by the Port Authority to the Darwin City Council to close off Kitchener Drive and Hughes Avenue. Is he aware of this proposal and, if so, what guarantee can he give that these roads will not be closed to the public permanently?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this matter is new to me as minister responsible for road closures. I usually learn of such proposals quite late in the piece when they are in the statutory form ready to go to Executive Council. In this particular case, I do not have details of the sections of Kitchener Drive, or the whole of Kitchener Drive, which it is alleged the Port Authority would wish to close off from being a public road. I will bear the honourable member's concern in mind when this matter comes to my desk, if indeed it does. The public interest will be taken into account fully in the assessment of any proposal presented by the Port Authority.

Statements attributed to Member for Elsey

Mr BELL to Mr SPEAKER

Mr Speaker, I seek clarification of Standing Orders. Is it in order to ask a question of yourself? I believe that it is.

Mr SPEAKER: You are right.

Mr BELL: Mr Speaker, do recent statements in the press endorsing strongly racist ideas attributed to the member for Elsey threaten the good conduct of business in this Assembly?

No answer given.

Vacant Position on Gove District Hospital Board

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he yet advise me when a vacant position on the Gove District Hospital Board will be filled? I believe it has been vacant since June.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I believe the instruments for the appointment to the Gove Hospital Board are on my desk at the moment and I will be signing them within the next few days. I might even sign them today.

Domestic Dogs in Parks

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the position regarding control of domestic dogs in parks that are managed by the Conservation Commission?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Conservation Commission's real attitude to dogs in parks is summed up in a pamphlet it circulated particularly amongst Northern Territory schools some years ago. The pamphlet was prepared and illustrated by an Alice Springs cartoonist called Peverill. The title was 'Parks are for People' and displayed dogs making a nuisance of themselves amongst people using parks. The actual legal position is that dogs are allowed in most parks controlled by the Conservation Commission but only if they are suitably controlled or on a leash. In some parks, such as Katherine Gorge, dogs are restricted to areas near public access points and not permitted in the rest of the park. Dogs are not permitted on the walking tracks for instance. In other states, with few exceptions, dogs are generally banned from parks although I think that rule may be honoured more in the breach than in the observance. Whilst I was in Queensland recently, I took the opportunity to inspect a few of the parks under the control of the National Parks and Wildlife Commission of Queensland. I observed quite a number of people camped in some parks and they certainly had dogs and other pets with them. Mr Speaker, in the Territory, because of the long distances people travel before reaching parks, the general lack of suitable kennel facilities near many park entrances and, in some cases, lower visitor numbers, it has been considered that it would be somewhat unreasonable and arbitrary to ban dogs outright. However, it is an objective that the Conservation Commission will eventually be working towards and hoping for.

Education Advisory Council

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Given his public commitment to do so, can he advise approximately how many times in the past year he has met with the Chairman of the NT Education Advisory Council on official business and how many times he has met with the council itself on official council business?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have details of that. I will look into the matter.

Port Charges

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I understand that port charges are currently under review. Is he able to indicate when a new scale of fees is likely to be struck?

ANSWER

Port charges are under review and a comparison is being made at the moment with port fees elsewhere in Australia. I have not had a copy of the review forwarded to me from the Chairman of the Port Authority. Once it is available, and before any decisions are made, the Port Authority will advertise its intention to see what reaction there is. We will probably have a look at that over a period of a couple of months. I understand from discussions with the Chairman of the Port Authority that some increases may be necessary.

Aviation Licences

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he outline the procedures he intends to follow in considering whether new aviation licences should be issued when the government moratorium on the issue of such licences expires at the end of this month?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in November last year the government announced that the policy on the issue of aviation licences in the Northern Territory would become much more liberal than it had been. In fact we referred to it as an open skies policy. I believe this policy will be a good move in that it will provide the consumer community with a better infrastructure of air charter operators. At the same time, it is not the intention of government to license willy-nilly charter operators who will not play a role in the development of that industry. For example, if someone residing outside the Territory, say in Melbourne or Sydney, purchased an aircraft as an investment and wanted a charter licence, we would not be interested in making that licence available. We would provide licences to those people who were going to help develop the Northern Territory aviation industry.

In answer to the honourable member's question, the government Aviation Advisory Council is temporarily in limbo because the aviation industry itself has set up its own advisory association. The Northern Territory government will accept the recommendations of that aviation advisory council, provided that its membership is a little broader than just aviators themselves. I understand that, when this aviation association is set up, it will try to encourage private enterprise to join the association so that it will not be one-sided. I will put a further paper to my Cabinet colleagues in the next month or so in relation to the steps that the Department of Transport and Works, through its aviation section, will take to provide information to people who seek licences in the aviation industry. Two circulars have been sent out by the aviation association. I understand a third is being prepared this month and will be sent to people in the industry. I would like to reiterate that, when we issue licences in an open skies policy framework, we will still seek to ensure that the holders of those charter licences will play a very important role in the development of the industry and will not try to put other established aviators in the Territory out of business.

Registration of Members' Interests

Mr D.W. COLLINS to Mr SPEAKER

When will the appropriate forms be available for members to register their interests?

ANSWER

Draft forms are being printed at present but there is no definite date for the legislation as yet.

Funding of Territory Superannuation Scheme

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he any information on the likely amounts of Commonwealth payments to the Territory with respect to the introduction of a Territory superannuation scheme and for subsequent transfer of Territory contributors from the Commonwealth scheme?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in relation to the transfer of funds from the Commonwealth superannuation fund to the proposed Northern Territory superannuation fund, negotiations have been continuing for quite some time with the Commonwealth government and the trustees of the superannuation fund. There have been discussions between officials of the Northern Territory Treasury, the Public Service Commissioner's office and, latterly, officials of the pro tem organisation established to gear up for the establishment of the Northern Territory superannuation fund.

A number of options have been canvassed. I think the Commonwealth proposed that we simply go along with it on the basis that it would not make any transfer of funds immediately but would provide funding on what might be described as an emerging cost basis. As payments made by the Northern Territory superannuation fund to superannuants build up the Commonwealth would be billed for the proportion rightfully due from it in terms of number of years served as against salary, contributions and so on. These funds would be paid into the Northern Territory superannuation fund to make good the Commonwealth's share of disbursements to superannuants.

I hope that I am correct because it is not something I have dealt with in the last couple of weeks and it is a fairly technical and complex situation. The Northern Territory government took the view that really the Commonwealth superannuation fund should pay the total amount of all contributions paid in the past by current members of the Northern Territory Public Service. That amounts to several millions of dollars. I cannot remember exactly how many but it is in the order of $20m or $30m. It is not as much as one might imagine but it is still quite a large sum of money and one that would not go astray.

The Commonwealth superannuation fund has tied up its money in all sorts of long term investments, property, government securities, debentures and all the rest of it, many of which are not worth their face value at the moment. I understand there would be some dubiety as to its status, were it to be registered on a stock market. The Commonwealth superannuation fund is rather unwilling to have to find this fairly large amount of money in one hit and hand it to us in one cheque. It has been resisting that proposal - not strenuously but it certainly has not been rushing into our arms. Therefore, we suggested to the Commonwealth superannuation fund that a compromise might well be that the Commonwealth invest an amount equivalent to the total contributions of Northern Territory public servants in projects in the Northern Territory and that we would perhaps accept those investments as representing the amount of funds transferred. The projects would be chosen by the Commonwealth super-

annuation fund and presumably would be of benefit to the Northern Territory and would return income for the new Northern Territory superannuation fund. At this stage, the matter lies there. There has been no firm conclusion in respect of those negotiations. I believe that I will be asked to raise the matter with ministers in Canberra when next I am there to attempt to seek some conclusion without too much more delay. The Commonwealth government has had other matters on its mind over the last month or two and I dare say that has not hastened the conclusion of arrangements such as this.

Access to Alice Springs Swimming Pool

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

What was the outcome of the September meeting between the minister's department and the Alice Springs Town Council over the proposed one-way access from Telegraph Terrace to the town swimming pool?

ANSWER

Preliminary discussions have taken place between the Department of Transport and Works and the Alice Springs Town Council but, at this stage, nothing has been accomplished. The council is looking at other avenues of providing the infrastructure the honourable member requires. I believe that a report will be ready at the end of October. Once that report has been forwarded to us, we will be able to evaluate it and receive a recommendation from the department either to proceed or not to proceed.

Mental Health Act

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

A review of the Mental Health Act has been undertaken by his department this year. Can he advise the outcome of that review and does he anticipate amendments to the Mental Health Act being introduced in the Assembly?

ANSWER

About 6 months ago, I sought expressions of interest from anyone in the community concerned with the operation of the Mental Health Act. I asked for suggestions on how the administration of the act could be improved if that were thought necessary. Given that the act had been passed only a year or 18 months earlier and that the area was very sensitive, I wanted to ensure that it was operating in the best possible way. Regrettably, I have to advise honourable members that I received only 2 submissions from the whole of the Northern Territory community about the operation of the act. Both of these had very valid points that we had picked up from the department's side. There are some small administrative aspects of the act that we would like to correct. I would be more than happy to discuss these with the honourable member for Fannie Bay because I know she has a genuine interest in them. There will be some small amendments to the act. I cannot give her any detail on the timing but I reiterate that I am happy to discuss them with her and listen to any propositions that she may have.

Applications for Registration of Non-government Schools

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many applications for the registration of non-government schools has he received since self-government?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I cannot give any information on that at the moment. Certainly, all the schools which were operating under the Commonwealth system received registration. I think I already have an application from the committee which is proposing a Catholic high school in Alice Springs.

Demolition of Stuart Building

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the investigation into the letting of the contract for the demolition of Stuart Building been completed and, if so, when will the government announce what action, if any, it intends to take?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, if my memory serves me right, a contract was let to John Holland for the demolition of the Stuart Building. John Holland subcontracted part of the contract to Whelan the Wrecker, who was also a contender for the job. Whelan the Wrecker missed out on the contract by some $5000 or $6000. The total contract was about $170 000. The government does not intend to take any action because John Holland won the contract on a fair basis in a tendering system. It had won it by more than $5000 on Whelan the Wrecker's price and associated works were also related to the exercise: the upgrading of the area by the provision of trees, planting grass, water reticulation and fencing. Whelan the Wrecker's main involvement was pure demolition. The whole contract was won by John Holland on a fair basis, and I do not intend to take any further action.

Interstate Trucks

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What surveillance is put on interstate trucks working in the Territory as regards their registration in the Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, constant surveillance is undertaken by transport inspectors and also by members of the Police Force. However, it is very difficult to pin down somebody from interstate because between 60% and 70% of our goods come in by road freight. If an organisation is moving goods between capital cities and Darwin, the only time we are able to find out whether vehicle registration meets the requirements of the state of origin is when an infringement is involved. However, yesterday I sent a letter to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles because we are concerned that not only interstate trucks but also interstate cars are being driven in the Territory for longer than the 3 months which owners are allowed before they must register here. We are losing a lot of revenue as a result.

I have asked the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to step up surveillance on those vehicles which appear to have been in the Northern Territory for more than 3 months. In fact, the Chief Minister reminded me of a prominent journalist in central Australia who has been there for quite some time and whose vehicle currently has eastern Australian plates on it. It is up to the community as well to ensure that it does the right thing by the Northern Territory. After all, we spend a lot of money maintaining and building roads.

I will send the honourable member a copy of the letter that I am forwarding to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles asking him to step up the surveillance and ensure these vehicles are registered as they should be.

Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Part of the submission made by the Department of Finance to a Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Government Operations earlier this year reads: 'The submission confirmed that the Northern Territory government and a number of its authorities had not contributed to the Commonwealth scheme since gaining independent status in 1978'. Could the Chief Minister confirm or deny that report?

ANSWER

Whilst we are all still holding our breath, could the honourable member for Nhulunbuy, if he wishes me to confirm or deny the accuracy of this statement, tell me to what Commonwealth scheme it is alleged we have not contributed?

Mr Leo: The Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme, Mr Speaker.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, I would have to seek details of that because I believe it is compulsory for every member of the Northern Territory Public Service - and there are probably some people around here who could tell me if I am right or not - to be a member of the superannuation scheme. I think, therefore, that the employee contributions would certainly have been made. I understand that our Treasury puts in the money direct rather than getting it from departments. I think a sinking fund is involved. As I understand it, at present funds are paid across on an emerging cost basis.

System-wide Testing in Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What steps have been taken by the department to introduce system-wide testing in schools? Has he been advised yet of approximately how many people will be involved in implementing a system-wide testing system? How much extra will it cost the department and how much time is likely to be taken on the part of the professional staff involved?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I could deal with the first part of the question but I think it would be better if it was dealt with as a whole, so I request the honourable member to put the question on notice.

Tennant Creek Abattoir

Mr BELL to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Will the Tennant Creek abattoir operate again this season?

ANSWER

From the information available to us, I do not believe that the meatworks will open and operate again in 1982. Certainly, we would expect it to be operating by March 1983.

Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Is it a fact that the Northern Territory has not paid employee contributions into the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme since self-government in 1978?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not recall that the contributions that have been held in the Territory date back to July 1978 although that is a possibility. Certainly, those figures could be obtained for the honourable member. I understand that, by arrangement with the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme and the federal government, the Northern Territory has generally retained employee contributions to the scheme. Of course, the funds are invested and that is part of the arrangement we have been working on for the last couple of years. Rightly, the funds should be transferred to the Northern Territory holus-bolus, including past contributions by employees.

NTDC Loan to North Brick Industries Pty Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the government's failure to address this issue in the debate yesterday, will he inform the Assembly whether there is any other security for the $600 000 loan by NTDC to North Brick Industries Pty Ltd apart from a fixed grant dated 27 July 1982?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will be happy to provide that information. I will seek it for the honourable member.

Seminar on Horticulture in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has he plans to organise a seminar on horticulture in Alice Springs involving ADMA, the Department of Primary Production, the Department of Lands, the Water Division and interested members of the public with a view to selecting and setting up a horticultural area for the Centre?

ANSWER

A horticultural workshop will be held in Alice Springs on 28 and 29 October. This is to devise a plan for the early development of horticulture in central Australia. Participants from DPP, the Department of Lands, the Water Division, the Department of Transport and Works, ADMA and the NTDC will discuss industry potential and take a hard look at the major constraints of land tenure, suitable soils, water availability, development funding and marketing services. I believe there is some potential for expansion of horticultural production in central Australia but the preparation of an industry development package requires close coordination between these arms of government and, consequently, a workshop of this type is most necessary. I shall await its findings with great interest.

Mr Roy Willoughby

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has Mr Roy Willoughby represented at any time either the NTDC or the government abroad, either formally or informally?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no knowledge of Mr Roy Willoughby representing the government in any way, shape or form.

Inscription of Speakers' Names on Mace

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr SPEAKER

Mr Speaker, have you given consideration to the introduction of the practice of inscribing the names of Speakers on the Mace as is done in some parliaments in Australia?

ANSWER

No.

NTDC Loan to North Brick Industries Pty Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the stated purpose of the loan to North Brick Industries Pty Ltd include the purchase of plant and equipment for the proposed clay brickworks?

ANSWER

I have already indicated that I will provide the information that the honourable member requested. If she cares to add that to her questions, I am prepared to provide the additional information.

Poisons Act

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the review of the Poisons Act been completed yet and when will amendments to it be introduced into this Assembly?

ANSWER

The review has been completed. A consolidated bill has been approved by Cabinet for presentation to the Assembly in November and we should dispose of the matter in the new year.

Mr Roy Willoughby

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has Mr Roy Willoughby received any payment or compensation of any kind from the NTDC or the Northern Territory government? If there have been payments to Mr Willoughby, will the minister inform this Assembly of their exact nature and precisely when they were made?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any payments made to Mr Roy Willoughby on behalf of government or on behalf of any statutory authority of government. There has been no Cabinet instruction for the employment of Mr Willoughby. I am not aware that he has offered his services to the government. As far as I know, we have never employed him and never paid him.

Rates for Palmerston

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has a rate been decided for the Palmerston area and, if so, what is it and how does it compare with rates paid in Berrimah?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would point out that the operation of the Palmerston Development Authority is not within my jurisdiction but, for comparative purposes, I have the information the honourable member seeks. A rate has been struck by the PDA at 0.75¢ in the dollar. The rate struck by the Darwin City Council, which is also the rate applicable to the outer Darwin area, is 1.02¢ in the dollar.

Once again, I think it is important to remind people - not so much people in this Assembly because they would be aware of it - that the rate in the dollar is irrelevant in terms of the rate actually paid. It is, of course, the unimproved capital value of the property which determines the amount that the ratepayer has to write on the cheque form. While there is a comparison between the Palmerston Development Authority's struck rate in the dollar and that of the Darwin City Council and therefore the outer Darwin area, that does not mean that people in the outer Darwin area would pay, in monetary terms, less than those who will buy land in Palmerston.

Representation of NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has Mr Dalziel represented either the NTDC or the government abroad, either formally or informally at any time?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no knowledge of Mr Dalziel purporting to represent the government. Certainly, there has been no formal arrangement for him to represent this government.

Connector Road in Alice Springs

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

Why is the long-planned connector road from Stott Terrace Bridge to Undoolya Road being delayed? Can he estimate when the problems will be resolved and undertake to refund the project as soon as possible after the resolution of those problems?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can provide some information which the honourable member may care to transmit to his electorate himself. The Stott Terrace Bridge over the Todd River was built, obviously, to service both the east and west sides of the town of Alice Springs, particularly during times when the Todd River is flowing and there is no alternate access as a result. The roads giving access to the bridge have been planned but details of the design have not been completed because maximum protection of the box trees is important to Aboriginal people. Mr Speaker, those who are not familiar with Alice Springs will not be aware that there are a number of areas of claimed significance to Aboriginals on the side of the river to which the honourable member refers where the road is yet to be completed. Negotiations by the Department of Lands have been going on for a very considerable period of time concerning a group of trees in the area. Those trees are registered as a sacred site by the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority.

It is not possible to estimate when and if Aboriginal organisations will confirm that the road is acceptable. Last week the protection authority proposed a new alignment which avoids most of the trees in question but apparently introduces significant engineering costs and requires the acquisition of private land. These implications are being investigated by the Department of Lands. The road in question is on the capital works program and funds can be made available immediately a resolution is found. I believe that this matter has been going on for such a long time that funds were actually diverted from the project 18 months ago to be used elsewhere because resolution was not obtained at that time. We seem only slightly further ahead than we were then.

The second road in the area is also being delayed by sacred sites problems. That is the road to provide sealed access to the Alice Springs power-station and the southern end of the Sadadeen subdivision. It is impossible to say exactly when resolution will be found to these problems so I cannot give the honourable member a date for the construction of the roads in question.

Appointment of Mr Koh to NTDC

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the fact that the Chief Minister chose to release a letter by him to Mr Koh regarding his appointment to the NTDC, which of course is under the control of the Minister for Industrial Development, will the minister now make available the previous correspondence referred to in that letter and any

other papers and details of the negotiations leading up to Mr Koh's appointment and advise this Assembly when the terms and conditions of Mr Koh's appointment were settled by Mr Simpson on behalf of the Northern Territory Development Corporation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that a paper was prepared for Cabinet to examine the suitability of Mr Koh's appointment as a representative of this government in South-east Asia. Cabinet subsequently decided to agree to an appointment and the decision was taken at that time. That is the position.

District Allowance for Aged Pensioners

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

He has been endeavouring to persuade the federal government to provide district allowance for aged pensioners in the Territory. What is the present position with that request?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member is perfectly correct. I have been endeavouring to have the district allowance extended to pensioner benefits in the Northern Territory. I guess that would apply to all northern Australian pensions received from the Commonwealth. The last letter I wrote to Senator Chaney on this matter was on 21 September and, in response to that letter, the senator has undertaken to keep the matter under review, which of course is a fat lot of good to Northern Territory pensioners. It seems that the Commonwealth has the attitude that it should not subsidise pensioners to come to the Northern Territory. Of course, that is not the issue. We are talking about pensioners who live here already. The higher wages paid in many respects to people who work in the Northern Territory obviously do not apply to people who are on a pension.

It is not that we want to use this sort of federal assistance to bring pensioners here. We want additional assistance for those who already reside here, have spent their working lives here and want to retire here. Any question of encouraging pensioners to come here is one for the Northern Territory government. Indeed, this government has done more than any other government in Australia towards the assistance and benefits made available to pensioners. Those benefits range from assistance for government accounts to motor vehicle registrations and fares for air, bus, rail and sea travel.

If the federal minister wants to examine our attitudes to bringing people here, it is quite clear that we have spoken with everyone from Jennings Industries to the Baptist Trust to try to establish pensioner villages. Through the Department of Health, this government is providing assistance for the establishment of a pensioner or old timers' village in the rural area. The question of zone allowance recognition of the difficulties pensioners must face by living in the Northern Territory, or in remote areas of Australia, is something for which we will continue to press the Commonwealth. We cannot understand why the Commonwealth does not recognise it. Honourable members can be very much assured that the government will continue to press this matter with full vigour with the Commonwealth.

NTDC and Mr Dalziel

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has Mr Dalziel received favours from the NTDC or the government, or any other type of compensation for assistance he may have provided? If there have been such payments to Mr Dalziel either from the NTDC or from its chairman, will the minister inform the Assembly as to their exact nature and when they were made?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I know of no payments made to Mr Dalziel by government, by the authority or from any other source.

Housing at Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the position regarding the Housing Commission building reasonably-priced houses to let at reasonable rents to the private sector of the community at Jabiru?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the situation at Jabiru in regard to housing is interesting and certainly different to that in other areas of the Northern Territory. In most towns of any size in the Northern Territory, the Housing Commission has a program of purchasing land, or subdividing land in some cases, and constructing houses to house applicants for accommodation. Jabiru is in the Kakadu National Park. The covenants for the sublease on which the town sits require the provisions of the Plan of Management of Kakadu National Park to be applied to the town. I understand that the covenants stipulate that people are not permitted to live in the town unless their business is associated directly with mining or government or in providing services to people so involved. That presents a completely new situation for the Territory and possibly a new one for Australia. We have a limitation on Australians living in a particular town. They have to fulfil certain criteria before being allowed to live in the town.

The infrastructure at Jabiru has been funded largely by the Commonwealth and by other parties to the mining operations. The houses constructed by the Commonwealth are rented under a formula laid down by it. For any houses provided to the private sector there, the rent is established at an economic level. This is Commonwealth policy. The economic rent is very high as a result of construction costs in a place like Jabiru. Some people in the honourable member for Tiwi's electorate are concerned that, whilst public servants and staff of the mining companies have houses rented to them for a nominal amount, any other business in Jabiru that has to obtain accommodation for its employees is faced with a very substantial rental bill. There is clearly seen to be some inequity there.

To date the Northern Territory government policy is that it will not expend funds on capital works projects at Jabiru because it has an agreement with the Commonwealth that, as control over uranium mining has not been transferred to the Northern Territory, all infrastructure in the town should be funded by the Commonwealth. There would have to be a change in NT government policy before we would allow the Housing Commission to move into Jabiru and build up a stock of general public housing. If we did so, it would be leased out under the formulae which apply to rental of general public housing in the Territory. We will have to monitor demand in the area. This applies almost anywhere in the Northern Territory. The Housing Commission keeps an eye on demand for housing by monitoring applications. Whilst we are not always able to move to fulfil those housing needs in all small centres, we monitor the pressure by the numbers of applications received.

Apart from negotiating leases to build houses at Jabiru, there appear to be no other constraints on the Housing Commission moving out there. The cost of building would be very high and the costs would have to be amortised over a 40-year period because that is a condition of the sublease the town is sitting on. It is an unusual situation and I thought honourable members might find it interesting to learn those few facts about Jabiru.

Citibank Loan to Buntine Group

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Has NTDC been advised by Citibank as to dates and the amounts provided by Citibank to Buntine Roadways Pty Ltd so that he is now able to assess the extent of the NTDC liability in the event that Citibank calls upon it under the terms of the guarantee?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this matter is complex and, as the Chief Minister advised the Assembly in the last sittings, such matters are of a companies nature and these questions should be directed to him. The situation has not changed. The matter is still complex. A receiver is assessing the situation surrounding the Buntine group and gathering more information each day. I understand that, to date, there has been no payment by the Northern Territory government of any government funds whatsoever under guarantees offered to the group.

NTDC's Appointment of Mr Koh as a Consultant

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

It follows a question I asked him just a few moments ago to which I did not receive a reply. I ask again whether he will agree to supply the Assembly or the opposition with a copy of the correspondence referred to in the letter the Chief Minister made public regarding details of Mr Koh's appointment as a consultant to the Northern Territory Development Corporation? In view of the clearly audible instruction to keep talking that we just heard from the Chief Minister to the Treasurer - obviously to restrict the questions that can be asked during question time this morning - perhaps he could keep his reply brief. Yes or no will do.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, before I could consider providing such information, I would have to examine the exact nature of the papers he is talking about. Therefore, I cannot provide a simple yes or no answer. Certainly, I will be looking at the papers that he asks about.

Alice Springs to Darwin Rail Link

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the present position in relation to the Alice Springs to Darwin rail project?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I could keep talking if it were not for the constant interjections of my ill-mannered friends on the other side of the Assembly. The honourable member for Port Darwin is interested no doubt because the rail link from Alice Springs will have a tremendous impact on his electorate, comprising as it does the Port of Darwin. As I understand it, at present the Northern Territory government, working with Australian National Railways, has prepared a submission which will go forward to federal Cabinet in the course of the next 6 weeks seeking, at this stage, a firm commitment for funding from federal Cabinet towards the commencement of construction of the rail link during the course of 1983. I understand from the Chairman of Australian National Railways, Mr L. Marks, with whom I conferred yesterday, that if funding can be allocated during 1983 towards construction then it will be quite feasible to complete the rail link to Darwin by the bicentenary year, 1988. As you would know, Mr Speaker, the federal government's present commitment is for completion of the rail link by 1990. It has always been the position of the Northern Territory government that we should aim to seek completion by the bicentenary year and

the studies undertaken by ANR indicate that this is possible. In relation to the preliminary work, surveys are well on the way. A corridor has now been identified, I understand, all the way from Alice Springs to Darwin and more detailed surveys have taken place between Alice Springs and, I think, Tennant Creek and perhaps even somewhat to the north of Tennant Creek.

Mr Speaker, while this project is vital to the Northern Territory, it will also benefit the rest of Australia. It will facilitate the development of the hinterland of the Northern Territory in a way that has never previously been possible. It will also be important for the whole of this country at the present, particularly in view of the economic malaise. BHP, of course, has been laying off workers at its steel plants. I understand something in the order of 0.25 million tonnes of railway line will be required for the project. Obviously, that would bring a considerable number of people back into employment. You can imagine the tremendous amount of ballast that will be needed. Construction of the sleepers, which I understand are made of concrete these days, will obviously provide employment for a considerable number of people here and probably in South Australia from whence other supplies will be drawn. The project is very important for this Territory and for Australia. I repeat that I think that its cost, in the order of $500m, is more meaningful to this country than the acquisition of a new aircraft carrier, even in strictly defence terms.

In view of the fact that the matter is to go before Cabinet in the course of the next few weeks, whilst I am down south later this week in connection with the Australian Fisheries Council meeting in Hobart, I shall arrange to meet with the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Transport, Minister for Industry and Commerce, Minister for National Development, the Treasurer and the Minister for Finance to raise the matter with them again to ensure that the Territory's point of view is put squarely before them. I hope that, with a united effort on the part of everyone, we can lobby sufficient support to get an out-of-turn allocation of funding so that construction can commence during the course of the next year.

Citibank Loan to Buntine Group

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

In the matter of a guarantee provided by NTDC to Buntine Roadways Pty Ltd, is he now in a position to assess the extent of NTDC liability in the event that Citibank calls upon the NTDC under the terms of the guarantee?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that the Solicitor-General, who has the carriage of this particular matter at the moment, is seeking additional information. I have not had a report from him lately but my understanding is that it is not clear at this moment whether either the Territory government or the Northern Territory Development Corporation will, in fact, be liable under the guarantee. This, of course, will depend on the opinion of the Solicitor-General and perhaps the opinion of a court of law based on the information that the Solicitor-General can obtain and, of course, based on evidence given in relation to any action that is taken. I am not in a position to state that the Territory has any fixed liability under this guarantee or any liability at all. I do not deprecate the questions that have been asked this morning in relation to other matters, although obviously it is a fishing expedition, but I strongly deprecate questions such as this one from the honourable member for Sanderson which seek, in fact, an admission or denial of Territory liability from me in relation to a matter where the interests of Territory taxpayers are concerned. Whilst I am quite happy for taxpayers to know exactly what is going on, at this stage, it is certainly not in their interests that I, or anyone, on the part of the

Territory admit any liability whatsoever under any guarantee that we or the Northern Territory Development Corporation may have given in respect of the Buntine transaction.

Costs and Expenses of Mr Hagen S. Steher

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Were the professional costs and personal expenses of Mr Hagen S. Steher on all his trips to the Territory to investigate the tuna fishing industry paid for from the Northern Territory Fisheries Research and Development Fund or were those costs met directly by NTDC?

ANSWER

I do not have that information before me but I will obtain it and let the honourable Leader of the Opposition know.

Fuel Tank Farm in the City Area

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The tank farm in the city area occupies a very valuable piece of real estate. Has the government given consideration to moving the tank farm to another location to allow that area to be developed for housing and other purposes?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question the honourable member raises has a series of complications to it. The tank farm, which adjoins his and my electorates, is on freehold land. I understand the land is owned by at least 3 fuel companies, possibly 4. It has been recognised for some time by government planners that, in the long term, quite obviously it is not desirable to leave a fuel tank farm in the heart of the city. It occupies what is clearly very valuable land for other purposes and plans should at least be laid so that over a period of time such an installation can be moved further away from urban development. I have issued instructions that the matter be investigated closely as to potential alternative sites for a fuel tank farm in Darwin having regard to a number of matters which have become clear of late. One is the siting of the new power-house for Darwin which will involve additional wharf facilities to take large vessels. Questions of this kind bear on the siting of a tank farm because it has to be within reasonable proximity of tankers that are brought in so that the fuel cargoes can be transmitted. Other questions which need to be addressed will be taken up with the fuel companies. These include the timing of a possible move, and expansion in the meantime assuming a move will take some years to complete. Expansion of a fuel tank farm needs to be considered. Already, at least one application is in for an additional tank or 2 to be constructed to meet the present demands of Darwin and the Northern Territory.

The whole question that the honourable member raises is being examined. In principle, we accept that the fuel tank farm should be moved out, having regard to reasonable lead times. In the near future I will be proposing to my colleagues a course of action to achieve that end over a period of time.

Home Loans Scheme

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to his answer to a question on notice in which he said that a person with a $97 000 deposit received a loan through the concessional Home Loans Scheme. Does he consider this an appropriate use of such concessional funds?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not recall the particular answer the honourable member refers to. The general theme of his question is whether concessional funds should be used to assist people who are possibly building very grandiose and expensive housing in the Northern Territory. There are 2 lines of argument on this matter. One is that, quite clearly, the intention of the loans scheme is to encourage people to buy houses, or land and houses, and settle in the Northern Territory. Irrespective of the sums involved, if the loans scheme is encouraging that to happen - and it certainly is - then it should be a success. The other line of argument, of course, is that if persons can afford to put up a very substantial deposit - in the vicinity of the $97 000 that the honourable member mentioned - then they have sufficient funds to settle themselves in the Northern Territory without government assistance.

I point out, Mr Speaker, that the loans scheme is a graduated one. Persons on the higher levels of income are entitled to a lesser sum from the government scheme and are required to pay a higher interest rate on it. At the upper level, only $25 000 is available for persons under a second mortgage at a fairly high interest rate, as distinct from low-income earners. The scheme at present allows for persons building quite expensive homes to be accommodated within it. The government has not moved to restrict that in any way at present. My answer obviously has to be that such use of funds is supported.

Holmes Jungle

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise what action is being taken to protect Holmes Jungle?

ANSWER

The Conservation Commission, for which I am responsible, is taking steps to formalise the reserve status of Holmes Jungle. Recently, I received a submission from the Conservation Commission to establish a reserve over the area. I referred that submission to Cabinet and it was approved at a recent meeting. A reserve should be proclaimed in respect of Holmes Jungle in the very near future. Then it will come under formal Conservation Commission management whereas to date this has been on an ad hoc basis.

There are a number of other areas around Darwin in which the Conservation Commission has a hand. One is a forestry reserve in the honourable member for Tiwi's electorate. Preparation of a plan of management for a recreational reserve over this forestry area will be completed soon and that reserve, together with its management plan, will be proclaimed and made public. Black Jungle, another area in the Adelaide River region, is also under the eye of the Conservation Commission. It believes that this area must be protected and steps are being taken to attempt to acquire the land and prepare a submission so that a reserve can be proclaimed over it and, in due course, a plan of management promulgated. Areas of rain forest in the Northern Territory are not that common and it is government policy, wherever possible and bearing in mind the practicalities of each particular situation, to extend formal protection and management over such areas to ensure their preservation.

Stuart Highway Bus Depot Site

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the proposed establishment of the Darwin bus depot at Armidale Street, what are the government's plans for the future use of the land on the Stuart Highway presently occupied by the bus depot?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, some alternatives were discussed as future potential for this land. I cannot remember the specific details for the honourable member. However, I will seek to have the matter examined and advise her.

Resignations and Dismissals of Executive Public Servants

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he provide the Assembly or the opposition with a list of employees in the E division of the Northern Territory Public Service who have been dismissed or have resigned in the last 2 years, together with a statement of public money spent in associated payments to each individual concerned with these resignations and dismissals?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at this moment I am not in a position to answer in relation to various employees in the executive division of the Northern Territory Public Service who have resigned or whose services have been terminated, nor whether various payments have been made in respect of superannuation, golden handshakes or whatever. I will certainly take this matter up with the Public Service Commissioner. I will ask him for a complete report on the total number of employees who have resigned over the past couple of years. I will also ask for a report in relation to payments, if any, that have been made to these people. If I consider it to be in the interests of the people concerned that those reports should be made available to the Assembly, then I will do so. There is an element of privacy to be considered in respect of payments of superannuation etc made to people. I cannot see why public servants who receive payments to which they are entitled under the Superannuation Act from time to time should be pilloried in the press, even if these payments are relatively large. Judging from the opposition's fishing expedition yesterday in respect of the superannuation legislation, the Opposition Leader is trying to drive a further wedge between public servants and the public generally in relation to Superannuation entitlements of public servants which they have campaigned for over a considerable period of time. If the public is entitled to know about these payments, I will certainly make the information available. I am prepared to make the information available on a confidential basis to the Leader of the Opposition but I emphasise that it would be on a confidential basis.

Gunn Point Recreational Area

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

My question refers to the Gunn Point recreational area. On 17 August, the Chief Minister said he expected a document soon from the Conservation Commission on the plans for that area which he would make available to members. Is it available yet?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, it is not yet available. I took the matter up with the Conservation Commission only a couple of weeks ago. I am assured that that paper should come to Cabinet very shortly. It consists of a management plan for the Gunn Point Recreation Reserve for approval by Cabinet and I assure members as soon as it is approved I will make it public even if the Assembly is not in session. I believe it will be of considerable interest to all people in Darwin and even further afield in the Top End.

Sadadeen Subdivision

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

Is he aware that Sadadeen subdivision stage 1 is filling up and has he any plans to call tenders for stage 2 in the near future?

ANSWER

We have been monitoring the situation. There are some 50 allotments left for sale in the Sadadeen subdivision and it is anticipated that these will last only a short time with the degree of interest in Alice Springs. The Department of Lands has had discussions with the Housing Commission on its future needs for land in Alice Springs for the construction of additional accommodation. In planning future lot turn-off in Alice Springs, it had to take into consideration the fact that there have been considerable delays in the expected turn-off of land as a result of a proposed private development over the Alice Springs Golf Course. Negotiations concerning alleged sacred sites have caused these delays.

At this stage we propose to call for any interest in further subdivision of the Sadadeen area. Documentation is being prepared for release for this purpose. This policy has been successful in the past and we will continue with it.

May I say that it is of concern that the development of Alice Springs has been slowed somewhat in certain areas. Construction of arterial roads has been deferred in the Sadadeen area because of problems in reaching a resolution over sacred sites, more of which seem to be identified each time negotiations are held. A few years back the Sadadeen area was examined by the Planning Authority and other people as far as sacred sites were concerned and negotiations were held with Aboriginal groups at the time. There were 2 or 3 sacred sites identified in the area of the Sadadeen subdivision. These were taken into consideration by government planners and engineers as far as roads were concerned. However, successive negotiations revealed more and more of them. The last map I saw of the area had sacred sites dotted right across it. This has caused many difficulties. Sacred sites identified fairly recently in the golf course area have caused many problems as far as that private subdivision is concerned and a holdup in the reconstruction of Barrett Drive in Alice Springs. Recently, the government deferred letting a tender on that road. A sacred site has been identified in the area in the form of a small rock hill which juts onto the existing road. I am advised that, at the present time, about $2.5m worth of government capital works is held up in Alice Springs due to these problems. It is quite clear that the government will have to act on some of these matters fairly soon because it is untenable that this holdup of works continue year after year. These works are required for the development of a rapidly growing town like Alice Springs, where the government has responsibility to meet the needs of expected population in the area.

Petition Circulated by Park Rangers

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that a number of tourists visiting some of our very fine national parks in the Northern Territory over the past week have been rather offended to have been approached by park rangers in uniform on the job and asked, not to put their litter in a bin, but rather their signatures to a petition opposing Aboriginal land rights. Could he issue a directive to the Conservation Commission that these officers be instructed to confine such practices to their own time?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as usual with the Leader of the Opposition, the statement in the question is a misrepresentation. The only such petition that I know of is

not opposed to Aboriginal land rights in principle at all. It is opposed to the conversion of the Katherine Gorge National Park to Aboriginal land. The tenor of the petition, which I have not seen but I have been informed of by officials, is simply that the people concerned with its formulation believe that the Katherine Gorge National Park should be available for all people and owned by the government on their behalf rather than by a certain small group of the private sector on behalf of that particular group's interests. I cannot say that I am really in opposition to those views if they are in fact the views of those people. I too believe that national parks should be owned by governments. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition would say that it would not be good enough for national parks to be on private land if it were pastoral properties or the like. However, it seems to be good enough in other circumstances. Mr Speaker, I am assured by the Director of the Conservation Commission that it had nothing whatsoever to do with the formulation or presentation of this petition.

I would like the Leader of the Opposition to provide me with written details of the names of people approached to sign this petition while visiting national parks. I will take action, through the Director of Conservation, if those people were approached by anyone on the staff of the Conservation Commission whilst that person was engaged on Conservation Commission business. Nevertheless, to the best of my knowledge and understanding at present, any person connected with the Conservation Commission campaigning on behalf of this petition has been engaged in the matter on his own behalf and in his own time. I understand that when the Northern Land Council sought such assurances from the Director of the Conservation Commission, they were given.

Mr Speaker, I will be very interested to hear what the Leader of the Opposition has to say in the adjournment debate this afternoon. Again, I would prefer to receive from him a letter setting out the names and addresses of people who have been so approached to sign this petition together with the date and time, rather than vague generalisations which I have no doubt we will hear again from the Leader of the Opposition this afternoon. Such a letter would give me sufficient information to take action through the public service.

Registration of Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does he intend to amend that section of the Education Act dealing with the registration of schools?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as the honourable member is aware, there is a matter before the Supreme Court at the moment which relates to a decision I have taken in respect of Yipirinya Council. Even if I was contemplating such a thing, I certainly would not wish to make known any such intention because, quite obviously, that would have some impact on the attitude a judge would quite rightly have about any proceedings before him.

Auditor-General's Report

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The report of the Auditor-General on the statement of accounts for the Government Printing Office for the year ending 30 June 1980 was received by the minister in late March. Can he explain why he failed to exercise his statutory responsibility under section 30(4) of the Financial Administration and Audit Act to table the report within 6 sitting days of this Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this report was circulated to members of the Assembly during the course of this sittings. I have asked the department for a full briefing as to why it was not circulated much earlier. The only explanation I can offer at this stage is that the previous Secretary of the Department of Transport and Works, Mr Unwin, resigned to go south for personal reasons. In the time between his departure and another person taking up temporary duty, perhaps it was overlooked. I apologise to honourable members for that oversight. Once I have the full briefing, I will provide it to the Leader of the Opposition and to the honourable member for Millner.

Land Subdivision in the Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the position in the rural area regarding subdivision of land having regard to the current moratorium on it?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, some 12 months ago, as a result of a preliminary advice to the government that there might be serious ground water pollution problems in rural Darwin, a direction was issued to the Rural Planning Authority prohibiting it from processing applications for subdivision of less than 8 h. This was to apply for about a 12-month period during which time a comprehensive study was to be undertaken of the situation as far as ground water pollution was concerned.

Recently, reports have been made available as a result of those studies and show that there is fairly extensive ground water pollution in the rural area. As a result of these findings, the Rural Planning Authority passed a resolution that it would not process any subdivision applications at all, whatever the size. That is the position at present. We have had a number of meetings within government as a result of the reports made available to us by the consultants. A course of action has been planned by government which I will outline briefly to honourable members.

This matter is causing considerable concern to persons in the rural area who were proposing subdivisions. There has been a great deal of activity in that regard over the past few years as honourable members will be aware. The government has drawn up a set of guidelines and conditions with which future subdivisions in the area will have to comply. I have written recently to the Rural Planning Authority proposing that it proceed to process subdivision applications subject to their meeting these requirements. Broadly, these are that the developer will have to assure the Director of Water Resources that he has made adequate investigation and allowances for the construction of bores or wells on the property for the supply of water to each block that is involved in his subdivision. Also, he will have to satisfy the Department of Health that his proposals for effluent disposal are acceptable having regard to the particular blocks in question and their geography generally. This will no doubt involve some expense to developers in their preparation of subdivisions in rural Darwin. However, we feel that that is a cost penalty which must be borne by them. Obviously, it will be passed on and reflected in the price of land. But it will be in the interests of the health of people generally, not only in the rural area,

but also in Darwin itself, because some of Darwin's water supply is drawn from the various bores in the McMinns area. I hasten to point out to honourable members that there is no evidence whatsoever that the aquifer which comprises the McMinns borefield is in any way polluted.

The government proposes to encourage all people in the rural area to have government inspectors examine their property, give a report on their water quality and advise them generally in relation to their water supply and effluent disposal systems. In this regard, fairly shortly we will be stationing government officers on call in the rural area, probably for several months, to advise people and visit their properties. In addition, documentation is being prepared in lay terms explaining the problem to rural landowners and suggesting what action they can take themselves in regard to their effluent systems and to the maintenance of bores and wells. This will be printed and freely available. It will be posted to all major groups in the area and so dispersed on a wide basis. We hope that people will seek as much information on this matter as they can find and take rectification action themselves where it is deemed desirable.

Mr Speaker, what caused concern to the government was that, of 150 bores tested in the area, 95% showed varying degrees of ground water pollution resulting from malfunction or poor placement of effluent disposal systems. We need to encourage people to move as quickly as possible to rectify the situation. We will do everything we can to assist people to determine what needs to be done. If it proves to be quite an expensive process, the government is prepared to look at schemes whereby it may be able to assist. If any member receives approaches from people from rural Darwin concerning the problem, he may feel free to contact my office or the office of the Minister for Health or the Minister for Transport and Works for information on the subject. We want everyone to understand what must be done and to appreciate the seriousness of the situation so that people take action and do not simply say: 'Well, we have lived happily here for several years and we have been drinking the water with no problems, so obviously we can do it for a few more years'. I hope that they regard the matter as being quite serious.

Paper on School Crossings

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Following my adjournment debate remarks and subsequent questions at the last sittings, he advised that a paper on school crossings was being prepared by a group from relevant departments. Is the paper now available and, if so, will he make it available to the Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not sure whether a final decision has been taken by the working party that was established between the Department of Education and the police. Certainly, if the working party has prepared recommendations, these have not come forward to Cabinet. I will inquire into this matter and attempt to expedite the preparation of the relevant submission so that Cabinet can take a decision as to what action should be taken. I can assure the honourable member for Nightcliff that she and everyone else will be notified of this as soon as possible.

Warumungu Alyawarra Land Claim

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the extent of the Warumungu Alyawarra Land Claim, its location within important pastoral areas of the Northern Territory and the fact that the South Barkly Stock Route has been in use in recent times for overlanding cattle from the Northern Territory into Queensland, is he able to assure the Assembly that stock routes and stock reserves within the claim area will retain their status as such?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, by way of explanation, let me first inform the Assembly of my understanding of the background to the Warumungu Alyawarra Land Claim. The bulk of this land claim lies between Brunchilly and Rockhampton Downs Stations in the north, McLaren Creek, Kurundi and Epenarra Stations in the south, the Stuart Highway in the west and Delmore Downs Station in the east. Within the land claim area falls the Tennant Creek pastoral lease and the town of Tennant Creek. The land claim lodged with the Aboriginal Land Commissioner in November 1978 included all unalienated Crown land within the boundaries described in the claim. There was no particular mention of stock routes, stock reserves, Territory parks or other public purpose areas at that time.

An amended claim was lodged in August 1980 and the following areas were added to the claim: a stock reserve within Brunchilly Station at the western end of the South Barkly Stock Route, NT Portion 1754 known as Phillip Creek Bore, a travelling stock reserve on that part of the South Barkly Stock Route which lies on the eastern boundary of Rockhampton Downs Station, a water conservation reserve at Bonney Well, the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve and the Wauchope Commonage. The only stock routes which appeared to be under claim were those portions of the South Barkly and North South Stock Routes which actually pass through unalienated Crown land in the land claim area. It should be noted that these additional areas fall outside the boundaries of the original claim and in most cases are separate pieces of land. In the most recent map received by the Department of Law, there have been additions to the August 1980 claim in that an area at Whistle Duck Creek and NT Portion 716, both of which fall on Kurundi Station, have now been included. In addition, a stock route which crosses Banka Banka Station from the North South Stock Route to the stock reserve adjoining Brunchilly Station has been added.

Mr Speaker, the Northern Territory government has always taken the view that areas which have been set aside or classified for the passage of travelling stock and for stock quarantine purposes and, for that matter, other public purpose areas, should not be able to be alienated except by a deliberate decision of the government after taking the needs of the public and the Northern Territory generally into consideration. Unfortunately, the law is such that it has been possible to lodge claim to stock routes and stock reserves, Northern Territory parks and other public purpose areas. You will be aware that this has been a cause of considerable concern to the wider public. In about March 1981, the Northern Territory government commenced negotiations with the Commonwealth and the land councils for amendments to both Commonwealth and Territory laws relating to the future ownership of land by Aboriginals in the Northern Territory under special and preferential conditions. Part of the negotiations required an agreement by the parties concerned that traditional claims by Aboriginals for stock routes and stock reserves would not be allowed and that the Northern Territory would develop legislation and take other action to provide living areas for Aboriginals in pastoral and other areas and thus eliminate the need to claim stock routes. During the course of those negotiations, the Central Land Council lodged claims for stock routes in central Australia, in particular across Ammaroo Station which, if successful, would have had the effect of providing narrow strips of land to Aboriginal claimants and dividing that pastoral property into 3 separate areas.

I consider that particular claim was provocative and unnecessary in the circumstances and caused anxiety to people in central Australia. I informed the Central Land Council of this. Because of the general philosophy of the Northern Territory government as to the future of stock routes, a philosophy reinforced by the action which the Central Land Council took, I introduced legislation into this Assembly in November 1981 which was aimed at preserving stock routes for their proper purpose, at least until such time as the Northern Territory government decided that they were no longer required for that purpose.

A simple explanation of this legislation was circulated widely amongst Aboriginal communities. Following representations by the land councils, discussions on the stock routes issue and, in particular, verbal and written undertakings given that the land councils would not proceed to hearings of stock route claims until our negotiations were either completed or abandoned, I undertook not to proceed with the stock routes and related legislation. Members will know that this bill has remained on the notice paper without further debate since it was first introduced. The recently heard Mount Allan Land Claim included a stock route which in fact was not gazetted but was part of the pastoral lease. Although the Northern Territory government did not protest to the Central Land Council prior to the hearing, it was submitted to the commissioner that this stock route should be excluded from the claim. The outcome of that submission is not yet known.

The Warumungu Alyawarra Land Claim includes part of the North South Stock Route which was gazetted on 17 August 1933 and part of the South Barkly Stock Route from Brunchilly to Rocklands in Queensland which, although not gazetted, is marked on the map as a stock route. It should be noted that this particular stock route has been used in the last 12 months. I understand that 20 000 head of cattle were moved along it from the stock reserve under claim at Rockhampton Downs and facilities on the stock route, such as watering points and dip yards, had to be used. This stock route and the North South Stock Route may well be important links for the overlanding of cattle for short distances when the Alice Springs to Darwin rail link is completed. Because those stock routes and stock reserves remain in the land claim, I have exchanged telexes with the Chairman of the Central Land Council reminding him of the undertaking given and suggesting that the Central Land Council stand by the undertaking. The replies which I have received up to date, in my view, have been unsatisfactory. If the claim to parts of these stock routes and stock reserves continues there is a risk that they will cease to exist. This position is untenable so far as the Northern Territory government is concerned and I have instructed officials to put in train necessary action to ensure that these stock routes can be alienated. They must retain their present status in the interests of the Northern Territory and its people.

Loan to Government Printing Office

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Why were the terms and conditions of the government loan of $3.5m to the Government Printing Office not established at the time the loan was made and have the terms and conditions of that loan yet been settled?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have that specific information. I would be happy to obtain it and pass it on to the honourable member or she could place the question on notice.

Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

I understand that tests on the virus to control the palm leaf beetle have been completed successfully. Can he advise the timing of the introduction of the biological agent to control the palm leaf beetle?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the last safety test on the parasite is being conducted in quarantine laboratories in Brisbane and the results of all tests will be submitted to Canberra. Subject to Commonwealth approval, release of the parasite from quarantine in Brisbane is expected by mid-November. The parasites will be brought to Darwin, multiplied by the Department of Primary Production at

Berrimah laboratory and then released. Existing facilities will allow the breeding and the release of 500 of the pinhead-size parasites each week. A stand of palms has been selected for special observation and detailed monitoring of damage was commenced in September. Monitoring will continue up to parasite release and subsequently at monthly intervals to assess the effect of the parasite. The public is advised not to expect improvement in the condition of their coconut palms overnight as it may be some months before any effect of the parasite will be visible even after the insect has become established. Consequently, people should continue their spraying programs to control the palm leaf beetle.

Government Printing Office Ledger

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What action has the minister taken to ensure that the Government Printing Office operates its general ledger on a normally accepted commercial basis?

ANSWER

In the last 12 months, steps have been taken by the Department of Transport and Works in conjunction with a private firm of accountants to oversee, and provide guidelines on, how the Government Printing Office accounts should be run. The report we circulated this week was not really a good one for the Government Printing Office. I accept the responsibility. However, as soon as these particular deficiencies were known, steps were taken to ensure that proper auditing and accounting procedures were undertaken. Once again, since the tabling of this report, I have asked the department for information regarding the report and an update of the recommendations received from that private firm of accountants.

Mr Speaker, yesterday the honourable Leader of the Opposition made great play of his belief that ministers should trust their departments and should not oversee everything. I believe that, in this instance, there has been an oversight by the department. I am not blaming the department because I am responsible. However, until this report hit the deck, I was not aware that it was late.

Mr Smith: March.

Mr DONDAS: The honourable member for Millner says 'March'. A letter was received from the Auditor-General by the then Secretary of the Department of Transport and Works, Mr Unwin, on 28 March. At this stage I cannot give honourable members any reason for that delay. There was no reason. We have had several Assembly sittings since March and really there has been no reason why the report should not have been tabled. I shall provide honourable members with more exact information at a later date.

Katherine Rural Education Centre

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In light of the Tertiary Education Commission's agreement to expand the physical facilities at the Katherine Rural Education Centre, what expansion to these courses is being contemplated?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in answer to the honourable member's question, I ought to give details as to the nature of the Tertiary Education Commission's physical facilities proposal. I understand now that the Katherine Rural Education Centre is to be placed at the top of the national priorities of the Tertiary Education Commission. It has clearly grabbed the imagination of quite a number of people in that organisation. Design work for the first stage of the program has already been started. Construction should be complete by the end of 1983 at a cost of

about $2.2m. The first stage involves accommodation for 30 units, a learning resource centre, lecture room, dining room, kitchen, a training butchery and 2 staff houses. Additional developments are planned for the second and third stages which will ultimately provide accommodation for up to 90 students.

Mr Speaker, the honourable member's question is a perfectly reasonable one. It is not much use spending that sort of money without following it through with programs that match. As this is a Commonwealth initiative, I would draw the Treasurer's attention to the need, in any future discussions with the Commonwealth, to follow up with increasing expenditure for future years. It will be now necessary to talk to the Commonwealth about additional funding in the technical and further education area to provide the staffing and teaching resources necessary to carry these programs through.

Mr Speaker, you would be aware that most of the people in the eastern sector of the pastoral industry and the Barkly region still look to Queensland, in particular, for most of their supplies. Of course, they also look to that area for skilled and semi-skilled staff to work on the pastoral properties. I have had extensive discussions with a number of pastoralists, particularly the big corporate groups, and they have made it very clear to me that they would be more than willing to consider, on merit, graduates of the Katherine Rural Education Centre equally with those of, say, Longreach, provided that the course structure standards were equivalent for their purposes. We have seen fit to introduce a 2-year, full-time certificate course in rural studies at the Katherine Rural Education Centre. It is proposed that those students who complete the 1-year certificate course in 1983 will automatically be able to enrol for a 2-year certificate course commencing in 1984. We would hope to commence the actual program for the 2-year course in 1983, but the second year of it would not be available until 1984. The 2-year course will bring the Katherine Rural Education Centre into line with similar colleges interstate, thus making the product of our college just as acceptable as any other. Hopefully, an increase in employment can be obtained by graduates of that college.

It is worth pointing out, Mr Speaker, that properties like Alexandria employ in excess of 60 people. Victoria Downs employs near enough to 60 people. Obviously, the pastoral industry is a very significant employer of people. Why should it not become a very significant employer of young Territory people?

Mr Speaker, the course will offer a greater in-depth understanding of the basics of the pastoral and rural industries generally and lead to management skills. It will prepare students for increasing technology in the rural occupations. You know also that it is no longer just a matter of saddling up the horse at dawn. The running of a pastoral property is now a multi-million dollar business although, Mr Speaker, you may not think that yours necessarily is. The course is designed to meet what we see as the demands of the pastoral industry now, particularly the bigger and more sophisticated properties. The old image of the ringer may have been good enough in the 1950s and 1960s but certainly it is not now. The thrust will be for a far more sophisticated residential course at the new facilities proposed at the Katherine Rural Education Centre. It is going to be expensive, but I believe it will be an expense well worth committing.

Continuation of ANL Fortnightly Service

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

We are aware that $1.5m is available in the federal budget for the continuation of the eastern seaboard Darwin shipping service and we also know the Darwin Trader will probably finish in November. Has he received from ANL confirmation that the fortnightly service will continue and, if so, with what type of vessel?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, we received correspondence from the Australian National Line to say that it will provide a fortnightly service on the eastern seaboard to Darwin. However, we have some problems which are being resolved at this very moment. One is that the Port Authority has ordered a crane through IHI Sumitomo Australia which should be constructed, delivered and installed in the port mid-1984. The vessel that the ANL is recommending as a substitute for the Darwin Trader does not have the same lifting gear. Without lifting gear, we are faced with 2 alternatives. One alternative is to purchase or hire a crane for the period that we need it. The cost to purchase a crane is in the order of $400 000 and rental is about $40 000 per month.

Officers of the Department of Transport and Works are holding discussions with ANL to see if it is in a position to provide an interim service with lifting gear and thus save us having to invest a lot of money in that area for the short term. Discussions will also take place with the federal Department of Transport and Construction through its minister, Mr Hunt, to see if he is able to encourage ANL to provide the right type of vessel. The Darwin Trader is to be put on another run. If we have to wait for ANL to make a decision to install the type of vessel we will need for this fortnightly service, we will be faced with the problem of having to invest that $400 000. If we can convince ANL to put on the right type of vessel, we will overcome that problem.

Certainly, there are problems in that area that have only come to light recently. Discussions between the Department of Transport and Works, the federal Department of Transport and Construction, and ANL will take place in the next week or so. I have instructed an officer of the department to ensure that we are in a position to make some kind of decision within the next week to 10 days because it will take ANL a certain amount of time to schedule shipping into the area. The Darwin Trader operates on a 28 to 30-day monthly service and the new service will be fortnightly. It will be a boon to Northern Territory residents. If the cost of $400 000 in the initial stages cannot be met by this government, I am unable to advise the honourable member which direction we will take.

Tennant Creek Population

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

Is the recent newspaper report that Tennant Creek has lost 17% of its population accurate?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was somewhat concerned when I saw the report in the newspaper yesterday written by Richard Muddimer who seems to have muddled some of his figures. He said: 'There was the chilling fact that the population has slumped from last year's count of 3100 to 2500 in contrast to the Northern Territory boast of growth'. Officers of the Treasury who handle the Territory's statistics and information advised me that the population projection group undertook a count of people at Tennant Creek on 30 June 1981. At that time, in Tennant Creek there were 3118 people. A more recent count on 21 July 1982, which is exactly the period the reporter was speaking of, revealed there were 3170 people in Tennant Creek. In fact, there has been an increase over the 12 months of 52 people, or 1.6%. I am concerned that reports like that appear in the newspaper.

Mr Bell: The meatworks has closed.

Mr PERRON: The honourable member for MacDonnell interjects that the meatworks has closed. That does not mean that 17% of the town's population has packed its bags and left. We are talking about the population of the town.

The meatworks closes every year at about this time. The report in the newspaper, as seems to be the case all too often, is grossly inaccurate.

Government Printing Office Accounts

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has a statement of accounts for the Government Printing Office for the year ended 30 June 1981 been transmitted to the Auditor-General and, if so, when? And has the Auditor-General's report been received by the minister? If not, has the period for submission of this statement been extended?

ANSWER

As I said earlier, I have asked the department to give me an up-to-date briefing regarding the report by the Auditor-General. When I have that information, I will provide it to the honourable member.

Uranium Enrichment Plant

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Recent comment in the media implies that the Territory government has missed the bus as far as siting of the uranium enrichment plant in the Territory is concerned. Can he advise the Assembly of the government's position in this matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to advise of the government's extreme interest in this matter. The proposition put by the popular press, that because it does not know what is going on nothing is happening, is not quite credible.

Mr Speaker, for the benefit of honourable members, I will review the history of the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia study. In 1979, the federal government, in consultation and with the cooperation of several large Australian companies - BHP, Western Mining Corporation, CSR, Peko - set up a group to investigate the feasibility of enriching uranium in Australia. This was a very farsighted approach taken on behalf of the government and the companies involved because there is no doubt that it is a major industry in any terms and one that needs a lot of planning and support from both industry and government to become feasible. Mr Speaker, the UEGA investigation was conducted and we learnt, quite off the record, earlier this year that the Northern Territory sites put forward were not acceptable to the group. I believe there was more self-interest than pragmatism in the assessment of the Northern Territory's position.

It is common knowledge that last week UEGA's report was released and, in fact, the Northern Territory did not get any consideration. Sites in Western Australia and Queensland were considered to be better than the Northern Territory sites and for that reason we were put aside. Several criteria were applied to consideration of the Northern Territory sites and we lost out because we lack industrial infrastructure. I guess we cannot argue with that because it is a reality. We also have a climate that is perceived not to be conducive to the good operation of an enrichment facility. I am not quite sure that I understand that. Maybe an area 10 feet deep in snow is required. That point has not been explained in any detail. Another important point that was held against us was the capital cost of construction. Operating costs in the Territory are very high and it was considered that these costs would be a disability in overall consideration of the program.

So far as I am concerned, too little importance has been placed by the UEGA on political, socio-economic considerations that should be given to the Territory. These should weigh heavily in the capital construction and operation of the plant. To labour that point, I think that it is a fact that, if the uranium

industry in this country is to go forward, it needs a fair amount of public support. In the Northern Territory we have the only 2 mines operating now and we have a great deal of public support. In Victoria and New South Wales, there is no political or public support for the proposition of a uranium industry. It could not go ahead in Queensland, where there is public and political supports because there are no uranium mines as yet. There is a mine in South Australia where public support is 'line ball' so to speak, and the South Australian government and the operators of the Roxby Downs project are certainly taking their time getting their proposed mine into the starting blocks. I think it is very important that these considerations of public support are taken into consideration by UEGA. That is the point that the Northern Territory needs to ram home.

If you want to see how lack of public support can undermine projects, I think the Omega facility in Victoria is a fine example. That project has been blown out of all proportion in terms of cost because of antagonistic attitudes within the community. It is clear in the Territory that community and industrial support is heavily in favour of the uranium industry, and the extension of it. It is no news to anybody here that the uranium mining industry is important to us. If it were not for the uranium mines, I think we would be hard put to find a miner operating in the black this year. They are doing very well and it is important that we get other mines going to join the 2 operating at present because they are very profitable projects once they are running.

It is not unreasonable then that we have additional processing of the uranium in the Northern Territory. I have spoken before in the Assembly about the possibility of a hexafluoride plant. I am not shy about saying that I believe we should look to the long term and see whether we can have an enrichment plant too. I accept that the cost disabilities are a real factor in any consideration of an enrichment plant. On the other hand, public support for the project might help to reduce capital costs in the long term.

Mr Speaker, there are several other aspects that I think honourable members should be aware of. We are not looking at something that will happen in the next 2 to 5 years. Enrichment will take some 12 or more years to become a reality in Australia. To start with, no legislation is available in this country at all for such a program to go forward under. Honourable members would be aware that our mining operations in Australia are conducted ...

Mr LEO: Point of order, Mr Speaker!

Mr SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr LEO: Mr Speaker, Standing Orders say that an answer to a question must be relevant to the question. Perhaps the minister could be reminded that time is provided for ministerial statements. I think it is a waste of question time. It is the last day of the sittings, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mrs O'NEIL: Point of order, Mr Speaker! When you call a member to speak, Sir, it is required that other members resume their seats. I notice that the honourable Minister for Mines and Energy has shown you the discourtesy of standing while other members have the call and I would ask you to bring that to his attention.

Mr B. COLLINS: Mr Speaker, I also wish to speak to the point of order because of a matter I raised yesterday. Mr Speaker, I am afraid I did not hear your ruling. During question time yesterday the opposition heard a clear direction, sotto voce though it was, from the Chief Minister to the Treasurer to keep talking to take up as much of question time as he could. This is the last day of this week's sittings. A number of members have questions still to ask. The minister will have an opportunity to make a ministerial statement. He does not need to make it now. It is not an answer to a question at all.

Mr SPEAKER: I rule there is no point of order for the member for Nhulunbuy. However, I uphold the point of order of the member for Fannie Bay that the honourable Minister for Mines and Energy should have resumed his seat when the call for a point of order was made.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, I apologise to the Assembly and in particular to the honourable member for my discourteous behaviour in failing to resume my seat. I shall refrain from such action in future. I feel too, Mr Speaker, that the opposition might find the whole answer this morning quite distasteful because of its bitter opposition to this industry. The less said about it the better as far as it is concerned.

The point that I was moving on to when I was interrupted by that point of order is one of legislation. Throughout Australia mining activities are conducted under the federal government's Atomic Energy Act which is not really an ideal piece of legislation for the sorts of activities that we are involved with. In fact, if the uranium industry in this country is to develop, then I believe state and federal governments need to come together to look at the whole uranium cycle and work out which state and federal agencies are to be responsible for what. In turn, each of those governments must legislate accordingly to cover the sections of the uranium cycle that fall to them. In practical terms, that legislative program between states and Commonwealth could take 2 to 3 years, which is a fair lead time. I would also think that there are at least 2 more years of study to be done by UEGA before it can come to a final conclusion. I make the point that the final decision relating to the siting of an enrichment plant in Australia must fall to the Commonwealth, despite any aspirations the states have.

Mr Speaker, I think there are several things that the Northern Territory must do. We must show UEGA that we have positive factors going for us for enrichment in the Northern Territory. Also, I believe that we should look at the bigger picture and see how the Territory might fit with other people in the world so far as an enrichment process is concerned. Honourable members are aware that South Australia has sought to be included with the Urnco Centec group in the process in that state. There is no doubt in my mind, after my recent visits to Japan and Korea, that both those countries will become more heavily involved with the uranium cycle and will, as a matter of national security and interest, become involved in enrichment. Perhaps one of our options is to become more closely aligned to those 2 countries ourselves and seek their support as partners in a program in the Northern Territory.

In conclusion, I do not believe that we have missed the bus by any means. The game has just started. There is a lot of support to be organised on the Northern Territory's behalf. My colleagues and I will be pursuing the matter very heavily in the days to come because, if there is one thing that is likely to give us the impetus to carry on the growth that we have at the moment, I believe the extension of the uranium cycle in the Northern Territory is it. I would commend that all members of this Assembly join with us in the exercise so that we are not divided by a partisan approach.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members may find relief in Standing Order 95.

Government Printing Office

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he an explanation for the accumulated loss of $223 918 incurred by the Government Printing Office in the year ending 30 June 1979?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will have to obtain information and provide it to the honourable member at a later date. As I said in response to earlier questions, Mr Speaker, in fact, in another form, that information has been requested by me already from the department. As soon as I have it I will provide it to the honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Plastic Bottles

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he taken any action on my suggestion to encourage the use of plastic bottles instead of glass bottles in an effort to reduce litter clean-up costs related to broken glass and to reduce the availability of offensive weapons?

ANSWER

I have referred the proposal put forward by the honourable member for Alice Springs to the Conservation Commission for its consideration and a report to me.

Old Arafura Hostel Buildings

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of recent publicity about the dangerous state of the old Arafura Hostel buildings, will he have both the buildings, which are on government land, demolished?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I certainly do not have information available at the moment that would lead me to say yes to that question. Whilst some parts of the buildings appear to be in a rather poor state of repair, it does not necessarily mean that they should be completely demolished. It may be worth while to renovate them. The land in question was put up to auction not very long ago. It did not attract a bid. Since that time I have withdrawn the land from sale over the counter. If it had been left there, it would have had to be sold at the reserve price and on the conditions that it was put to auction for. The purpose was to enable negotiations for sale of the land to a developer and those negotiations are nearing finality. In regard to the unfortunate accident recently where a person was injured in the buildings, I will receive a report from the Building Board and see whether some action should be taken to try to prevent any reoccurrence.

Rum Jungle Rehabilitation

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Could he advise if any progress has been made on the rehabilitation of Rum Jungle? In view of the very scant information he has provided me in the past, could he please give me a full and complete answer, Mr Speaker?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I hate to disappoint the honourable member. I have made the point before that the rehabilitation of Rum Jungle is being organised through the Chief Minister's office by the Co-ordinator-General. The Department of Mines and Energy has not advised me. I believe the Minister for Transport and Works and his department have the carriage of it. If he is happy, I will read out this briefing note for his benefit.

The Commonwealth government is funding a 4-year rehabilitation program at the total cost of $16m. The 1982-83 allocation was reduced to $800 000 in lieu of the $4m anticipated but the work is currently being rescheduled so that completion by the due date can still be achieved provided funds are forth-

coming. The first contract is expected to be advertised early in 1983 and will be for earthworks in the areas of white stockpile. The preferred approach for design, purchasing and construction of the water treatment plant is also being investigated. It is proposed to award contracts for this towards the end of 1982-83 with the construction phase the following year. Possible use of the old Aboriginal teacher education facilities at Batchelor for project accommodation and messing is being negotiated with the Department of Education. The Commonwealth Department of National Development and Energy has submitted a draft memorandum of understanding. There are a significant number of issues which need to be discussed further at officer level and the Co-ordinator-General's office has advised the Commonwealth of the need for further discussions. At this stage, Mr Speaker, no date has been set for these discussions. The Department of Mines and Energy is happy to cooperate and work in any way possible for the early rehabilitation of that site.

Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme

Mr LEO to TREASURER

What institutions are holding those funds which would normally have been paid to the Commonwealth superannuation schemes from NT government employees' contributions?

ANSWER

The particular institutions, which I think are government statutory authorities, do not come readily to my mind. I would be happy to seek the information for the honourable member and provide it to him or he could place the question on notice.

Berry Springs Zoo

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What progress has been made so far regarding the establishment of a zoo at Berry Springs?

ANSWER

Cabinet some time ago approved the establishment of a zoo at Berry Springs. Eventually this zoo will replace the present Yarrawonga Zoo which is in pretty good shape at present and is a great credit to those members of the staff of the Conservation Commission who are maintaining it. Mr Speaker, if you have not had the opportunity to visit Yarrawonga Zoo recently, I recommend it to you and all honourable members. I understand that it is one of the leading tourist attractions around Darwin and certainly it is well worth a visit.

I think that the land has now been acquired at Berry Springs. There were problems with acquiring all the land but, to the best of my knowledge, they have now been overcome. I think from memory that it is in the headwaters of Berry Creek that the aggregation of land has been achieved. An open range zoo is planned which will run out at a total cost of around $3m. I think that a small amount of money is allocated in the budget towards the first stage for clearing and fencing. It must have been a couple of hundred thousand dollars. When it is finally established, the zoo will have a format that more or less sets out a typical sample of Territory habitat and the wildlife of the Top End of the Territory. There will be a billabong, a water course, buffalo, crocodiles, water fowl and other wildlife. I think that we will try to keep the wild pigs out of this one, Mr Speaker. Generally speaking, it will be a microcosm of bush so that people can go for walks on the long trails that will be provided. Visitor facilities will be provided and an information centre, where films and other educational-type activities will be carried out for the edification of visitors,

similar to the facility at Katherine Gorge National Park. In all, I think it is a most pleasing concept and it has the full support of the government. It will be staged over about 3 or 4 years and should be ready by 1985 or 1986.

Aboriginal -
  and Island Medical Service *977
  communities, essential services *983
  community work program 989
Adelaide River, farmers' co-operative 992
Aged pensioners, district allowance 1016
Alice Springs -
  causeway *984
  connector road 1015
  Darwin rail link 1018
  high-rise development *983
  Hospital, golden staph outbreak 1005
  industrial subdivision *984
  recreation lake 996
  seminar on horticulture 1013
  swimming pool 1010
Alligator Rivers, monitoring 996
Alpurrurrulam community *985
ANL fortnightly service 1030
Arafura Hostel buildings 1035
Arts, distinction between static and visual 1005
Auditor-General's report 1025
Aviation licences 1008
Banka Banka Station, education staff *986
Beetaloo Station, access road *984
Bellenger, Geoffrey Peter *980
Berry Springs, zoo 1036
Borroloola, community government *985
Buffalo domestication program 1002
Buffalo *983
Bus depot, Stuart Highway 1021
Bynoe Harbour Road *982, 1004
Citibank loan to Buntine group 1018, 1019
Coal-fired power-station, Darwin *982, 994
Collia tin mine *978
Companies Act, breaches 1001
Dalziel, Mr, NTDC involvement 1015, 1016
Darwin City Council, houses *980
Darwin Hospital, pathology laboratory *978
Dingo baiting 993
Doctor-patient ratios in NT *979
Domestic dogs in parks 1007
Drinking law, 2 km *983
Education Advisory Council 1007
Education Department, system-wide testing of schools *986, 1012
Electricity supply *977
Elliott, power plant 994
Executive public servants, resignations and dismissals 1022
Farm-fuel projects *986
'Fellow Territorians' circular *980
Firearms, security guards 990
Fire extinguishers, BCF *986
FM radio stations, costs of establishing *983
Free trade zone 995
Fuel tank farm, city area 1020
Gove District Hospital 1007
Government Printing Office *986, 1028, 1029, 1032, 1034

Grants-in-aid scheme *985
Grumman Trackers 1001
Gunn Point Recreational Reserve 1022
Health Department, internal reviews *979
High voltage powerlines 1005
Holmes Jungle 1021
Home Loans Scheme 997, 1020
Hospital patients, security for belongings *978
Housing Commission rents for pensioner tenants 997
Interstate trucks, NT registration 1011
Jabiru, housing 1017
Jape building, fire 1006
Kalano doctor and nurses 995
Katherine -
  meatworks *982
  Rural Education Centre 1029
Kitchener Drive and Hughes Avenue, proposed closure 1006
Koh, Mr, NTDC involvement 1015, 1018
Koopinyah Station, boundaries 992
Lake Nash Station, school *984
Liaison between government departments *980
Library service, book purchases *986
Life sentences 991, 993
Liquor campaign *978
MacDonnell Ranges, national park *981
Mace, inscription of Speakers' names 1013
Magellan Petroleum, drilling and exploration *981
Member for Elsey, press statements 1007
Mental Health Act 1010
Mt Wells Battery *981
Newcastle Waters power-station *982
North Brick Industries, NTDC loan 1013
Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd *977
NTDC 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1018, 1019
NTEC -
  motor vehicles *980
  road closures for works 1003
Nursing and administration of medicine, report 989
Palmerston, determination of rates 1014
Palm leaf beetle 1028
Parkinsonia eradication *985
Pastoral properties, road maintenance *982
Performing arts centre, management committee 1003
Petition circulated by park rangers 1023
Plastic bottles 1035
Plenty-Sandover region, roads *984
Poisons Act 1014
Port charges 1008
Psychiatric services *979
Public housing in NT *979
Public servants, male *980
Rapes in southern region *977
Rapid Creek -
  Primary School *981
  water gardens project 989
Registration of members' interests 1009
Registration of schools 1010, 1024
Residential tenancies *986
Rum Jungle rehabilitation 1035

Rural area -
  child-care facilities 1005
  land subdivision 1025
Sadadeen -
  hills *981
  subdivision 1023
School crossings, preparation of paper 1026
Secondary text book allowance 993
Sexual assault cases *978
Steher, Hagen, costs and expenses of tuna industry investigation 1020
Stuart building, demolition 1011
Superannuation scheme -
  Commonwealth 1011, 1012, 1036
  NT 1009
Tennant Creek -
  abattoir 1012
  medical staffing 999
  population 1031
  stormwater canal *984
TIO, investments 1004, 1006
Tradesmen visiting remote areas, government assistance *977
Tuberculosis 989
Uranium enrichment plant 1032
Warumungu Alyawarra Land Claim 1026
Water consumption 995
Willoughby, Roy, NTDC involvement 1013, 1014
Yulara -
  publicity officer *982
  solar power *984

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.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 18 November 1980

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?

From 24 February 1981

Electricity 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 sub-divisions on the Gorge road, and to Katherine Gorge?

From 2 June 1981

Interest Rate on Loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

195 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What rate of interest is being charged on the $1.4m special assistance loan granted to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd?

From 18 August 1981

Rape in Southern Region

210 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. (a) How many rapes have been reported in the Southern Command region since 1 July 1980 to 10 June 1981, (b) how many have resulted in charges being laid, (c) what is the state of these charges, and (d) have any reports of rape been false?

2. What facilities and resources are available for the psychological counselling of women raped in (a) the Alice Springs region, and (b) the Tennant Creek region?

3. Has he received any representations from women's organisations regarding the level of rape counselling services in the Territory?

4. If so, (a) what organisations have made representations, (b) what has been the basis of these representations, and (c) what has been his response?

Darwin Hospital Pathology Laboratory

224 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can he inform me as to the fate of the pathology laboratory at the Darwin Hospital?

2. Has he considered the future of the laboratory in the light of a lack of such scientific facilities in the Department of Primary Production?

From 24 November 1981

Sexual Assault Cases

379 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many sexual assault cases have been seen at the major Territory hospitals in (a) 1980-81, and (b) 1979-80?

From 1 December 1981

Liquor Campaign

500 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is being spent on the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign?
2. For what reason was the contract awarded to a southern firm?
3. Has any contact been made with the liquor industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

Collia Tin Mine

512 Mr B. COLLINS 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 in NT - Applications

513 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for general public housing were received during (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81, and how many applications were outstanding at (c) 1 July 1980, and (d) 1 July 1981 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Katherine, (v) Nhulunbuy, and (iv) Pine Creek?
2. How many outstanding applications were there for general public housing (a) at 1 July 1980, and (b) at 25 June 1981?
3. How many applications for general public housing were received in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

4. How many applications for general public housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

5. How many tenants were accommodated in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

Internal Reviews of Health Department

517 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. He stated during the June 1981 sittings that his department had reviews taking place on all aspects of medical services offered to the public, and referred to an internal review of community health services. What were the details and outcome of this review?

2. In regard to other internal reviews conducted during the past year, (a) in which areas were they conducted, (b) who have the committees comprised of, (c) how many times have they met, and (d) what has been the outcome of these reviews?

3. How many internal reviews are being conducted at the moment?

From 9 March 1982

'Fellow Territorians' Circular

564 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the cost of a circular letter dated October 1981, addressed to 'Fellow Territorians' and signed by the Chief Minister?

Geoffrey Peter Bellenger

611 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the hardship suffered by Geoffrey Peter Bellenger, who was injured by a truck on a pedestrian crossing in Alice Springs on 23 May 1975 and who has not yet received any compensation for his injuries or costs?

2. Was the driver of the truck involved in the incident charged with any offence?

3. Is any of the almost 7 years delay between the injury and compensation attributable to any shortcoming or congestion in Northern Territory courts?

Liaison between Government Departments

618 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is there liaison between the Department of Lands, other departments and statutory bodies such as Telecom on the provision of services such as electricity, water, sewerage and telephone for new private or government subdivisions?

From 16 March 1982

Male Public Servants

640 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

As at 30 April 1981, what was (a) the average male earnings in the Northern Territory Public Service, and (b) what were the numbers and levels of the males?

Motor Vehicles - NTEC

645 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. How many motor vehicles are (a) owned by NTEC, (b) what classes of vehicles are they, and (c) in what numbers?
2. To which designations of NTEC employees are these vehicles allocated and allowed to be driven to and from work?
3. Is it a fact that a lawyer retained by NTEC has an NTEC vehicle assigned to him for his personal use?

Houses, Darwin City Council

649 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of (a) the number of houses owned by the Corporation of the City of Darwin, and (b) to what use these houses are put?

From 25 May 1982

Repairs and Maintenance, Rapid Creek Primary School

657 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What plans does the department have to (a) repair and cyclone proof the roof of the older part of the Rapid Creek Primary School, including the covered way area, (b) paint, (c) replace furniture, and (d) repair gutters in the older part of the school, and (e) bituminize the school carpark?

National Parks, MacDonnell Ranges

663 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to question No. 586 regarding the gazetting of a MacDonnell Range National Park and ask:

What other 'acquisition proposals are proceeding satisfactorily in the Central and East MacDonnells', and for what purposes is the Conservation Commission seeking to acquire such land?

Education Staff, Banka Banka

670 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many staff positions does his department fund at Banka Banka?
2. Of these, (a) how many are members of the community, and (b) how many were recruited from outside the community?

Blasting, Sadadeen Hills

675 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What consultation took place, if any, with Aboriginal traditional owners and other citizens before officers of his department commenced blasting a section of the Sadadeen hills to enable erection of a water tank?

From 3 June 1982

Mt Wells Battery

697 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is the area of the Mt Wells Battery still part of the Ban Ban pastoral lease?

2. If so, is this the reason for the delay in full payment of Jingellic Minerals to the government for the Mt Wells Battery and associated leases?

3. If so, when will this be resolved?

From 17 August 1982

Publicity Officer, Yulara

707 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

What (a) qualifications were required by the Conservation Commission of applicants for the recently-advertised position of Yulara Publicity Officer, (b) how many applications were received, and (c) how many applicants were interviewed?

Coal-fired Power Station

719 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

1. Will a crushing mill for converting lump coal into powder for use in the proposed coal-fired power station be constructed in Darwin?

2. If so, (a) where will it be constructed and (b) what is the anticipated cost?

Power Plant, Newcastle Waters

723 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

1. When was Newcastle Waters (a) provided with a public power supply, and (b) what was the cost of the provision of that power supply?

2. What is (a) the capacity of the Newcastle Waters Power Station, (b) how many consumers are using the power, and (c) how many people from Newcastle Waters township signed a petition seeking the provision of a public power supply in October 1980?

Access Road, Bynoe Harbour

728 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Further to his answer to question 652 (a) what future development does he envisage for the small community at Belyuen which he said generates traffic volumes warranting upgrading the road to the standard presently being constructed, (b) to what additional development in the pastoral, mining, fishing and recreational industries is he referring, (c) fishing and mining by whom, (d) what amount of capitalisation, (e) mining for what, (f) what type of pastoral and recreational development, where, when, by whom and at what capital outlay, and (g) where does the road through Bulldog Pass lead to, or is it part of the main Bynoe Harbour access road?

2 km Drinking Law

731 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was (a) the cost of preparation and distribution, including postage, of the 2 leaflets, (b) the cost of the recent TV advertisements, and (c) the cost of recent newspaper advertisements regarding the 2 km drinking law?

From 12 October 1982

Essential Services, Aboriginal Communities, 1982-83

735 Mr BELL to TREASURER

1. What amount is being allocated for (a) essential services in 1982-83 and for which Aboriginal communities, (b) what are the proposed projects, and (c) what projects have been completed?

2. How many Aborigines (a) have been, and (b) are employed with the essential services program, (c) what training are they receiving, and (d) from whom?

3. 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 airstrips?

Radio Station Costs

736 Mr BELL to TREASURER

What was the cost of establishing radio stations (a) 8CCC-FM, and (b) 8 TOP-FM, and what is the budget allocation for each in (c) 1981-82, and (d) 1982-83?

Grants-in-aid, Community Service Organisations

753 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money under the grants-in-aid scheme was given to community service organisations in 1981-82?

From 16 November 1982

Government Printing Office - Financial Statements

760 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Why were no instructions issued to prepare a statement of accounts for the Government Printing Office for the year ending 30 June 1979?

2. Why did financial statements comprising a profit and loss statement and a balance sheet for the Government Printing Office for the year ended 30 June 1980 vary from the form approved by the Treasurer?

3. Were the financial statements for the Government Printing Office for the year ended 30 June 1981 presented in a form approved by the Treasurer?

4. What steps have been taken to ensure adequate documentation exists to allow for an accurate calculation of current asset item Work in Progress?

5. What explanation is there for the accumulated loss of $223 918 for the Government Printing Office for the year ended 30 June 1979?

6. The Auditor-General's report states that action was taken after 28 February 1981 to remedy shortcomings in the financial statements supplied for the Government Printing Office for the financial year ending 30 June 1980. What were these shortcomings and how were they corrected?

7. Why was a replacement page substituted in the notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the Government Printing Office for the financial year ending 30 June 1980 on 23 February 1982?

8. When was the statement of accounts for the Government Printing Office for the financial year ending 30 June 1981 forwarded to the Auditor-General?

Education Budget, 1982-83

761 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In regard to the 1982-83 Education Budget:

1. what are the specific budget allocations for each primary and secondary school in the Northern Territory;
2. what is the overall allocation for remedial teachers in the Northern Territory education system;
3. what is the budget allocation for teacher recruitment;
4. what is the budget allocation set aside to establish and implement testing procedures and tests themselves;
5. in the sections of education budget where both Territory and Commonwealth money is spent, what is the actual allocation of each; and
6. what capital works items are budgeted for and what is the breakdown of their allocations?

Visit to Singapore

763 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. On his latest overseas trip, when did he depart from the Northern Territory and when did he return?
2. Apart from launching the roll on-roll off facility in Singapore, what other official functions did he have, and on what dates?
3. How many people were in the official party and what were their names?
4. What was the total cost for the official party of (a) travel, (b) daily allowances, and (c) entertainment expenses?

Pastoral Properties - Breach of Covenants

765 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Why did the government decide in 1980 not to take action against pastoral lessees in breach of their covenants?
2. A recent report on the ABC program "After 8" stated that 59% of pastoral properties in the Victoria River district, 66% in Darwin and Gulf regions, 23% in the Barkly region and 25% in Alice Springs region were in breach of their covenants.

   In each region, how many properties in breach of covenants were (i) locally owned (i.e., owned in the Northern Territory), (ii) owned by Australian interests outside the Northern Territory, and (iii) owned by overseas interests?
3. In each region, what were the main breaches of covenants recorded?
4. In each region, what percentage of pastoral properties in breach of covenants had more than one breach?

Motor Vehicles - Department of the Chief Minister

766 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends;

(d) what proportion of the vehicles are (i) garaged centrally, and (ii) garaged at officers' homes overnight and at weekends;

(e) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes, what restrictions are placed on their use; and

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that these restrictions are observed?

Motor Vehicles - Department of Law

767 Mr SMITH to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends;

(d) what proportion of the vehicles are (i) garaged centrally, and (ii) garaged at officers' homes overnight and at weekends;

(e) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes, what restrictions are placed on their use; and

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that these restrictions are observed?

Motor Vehicles - Primary Production

768 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends;

(d) what proportion of the vehicles are (i) garaged centrally, and (ii) garaged at officers' homes overnight and at weekends;

(e) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes, what restrictions are placed on their use; and

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that these restrictions are observed?

Motor Vehicles - Industrial Development and Tourism

769 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends;

(d) what proportion of the vehicles are (i) garaged centrally, and (ii) garaged at officers' homes overnight and at weekends;

(e) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes, what restrictions are placed on their use; and

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that these restrictions are observed?

Motor Vehicles - Treasury and NTEC

770 Mr SMITH to TREASURER

In (1) his department, and (2) the Northern Territory Electricity Commission -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends;

(d) what proportion of the vehicles are (i) garaged centrally, and (ii) garaged at officers' homes overnight and at weekends;

(e) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes, what restrictions are placed on their use; and

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that these restrictions are observed?

Motor Vehicles - Department of Lands and Housing

771 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends;

(d) what proportion of the vehicles are (i) garaged centrally, and (ii) garaged at officers' homes overnight and at weekends;

(e) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes, what restrictions are placed on their use; and

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that these restrictions are observed?

Motor Vehicles - Department of Education

772 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends;

(d) what proportion of the vehicles are (i) garaged centrally, and (ii) garaged at officers' homes overnight and at weekends;

(e) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes, what restrictions are placed on their use; and

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that these restrictions are observed?

Motor Vehicles - Community Development

773 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends;

(d) what proportion of the vehicles are (i) garaged centrally, and (ii) garaged at officers' homes overnight and at weekends;

(e) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes, what restrictions are placed on their use; and

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that these restrictions are observed?

Motor Vehicles - Health

774 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends;

(d) what proportion of the vehicles are (i) garaged centrally, and (ii) garaged at officers' homes overnight and at weekends;

(e) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes, what restrictions are placed on their use; and

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that these restrictions are observed?

Motor Vehicles - Mines and Energy

775 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends;

(d) what proportion of the vehicles are (i) garaged centrally, and (ii) garaged at officers' homes overnight and at weekends;

(e) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes, what restrictions are placed on their use; and

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that these restrictions are observed?

Motor Vehicles - Transport and Works

776 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends;

(d) what proportion of the vehicles are (i) garaged centrally, and (ii) garaged at officers' homes overnight and at weekends;

(e) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes, what restrictions are placed on their use; and

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that these restrictions are observed?

Motor Vehicles - Youth, Sport and Recreation

777 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends;

(d) what proportion of the vehicles are (i) garaged centrally, and (ii) garaged at officers' homes overnight and at weekends;

(e) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes, what restrictions are placed on their use; and

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that these restrictions are observed?

Apprehension without Arrest

778 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Since its inception in 1979, in regard to Division 4 of Part VII of the Police Administration Act, on a yearly basis -

1. how many persons have been apprehended;
2. how many of those apprehended were (a) Aboriginal, and (b) non-Aboriginal;
3. how many of the persons apprehended were subject to subsequent apprehension;
4. what is the average period of apprehension;
5. how many persons were released under the provisions of section 131(1); and
6. how many persons were dealt with under section 132?

Community Health Medical Officers

779 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many community health medical officer positions (a) existed, and (b) were vacant at 1 November 1982?

Kirton and Whiting Report

780 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What were the (a) consultants' fees, and (b) other costs incurred by his department in the production of the Kirton and Whiting Report on Urban-based Community Health Centres?

Specialist Medical Officers

781 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What (a) number, and (b) description of specialist medical officers -

(i) employed by his department in the year ended 31 October 1982 have gone into private practice and have entered into sessional or similar

arrangements with the department;

(ii) employed by his department at 1 November 1982 are expected to enter private practice prior to 1 November 1983 and are negotiating sessional or similar arrangements with the department;

(iii) positions existed in the department at 1 November 1982;

(iv) positions vacant at 1 November 1982; and

(v) does the department plan to be employing at 1 November 1983?

From 25 November 1982

Darwin Central Zone Sewerage Treatment Plant

782 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What were the modifications to the Darwin Central Zone Sewerage Treatment Plant recommended in the consultant's report of 1980?

2. What modifications have been made to the plant?

Katherine House

783 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What criteria are applied in admitting residents to the students' hostel, 'Katherine House'?

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service

198 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the present staffing of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Centre? Are there plans to increase the staffing levels and, if so, what positions?
2. What are the functions and duties of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service?
3. During the 6 months to 31 May 1981, (a) how many Aboriginals have been treated per week by AIMS, (b) what are the major categories of illness, and (c) where do the Aboriginals, in the main, come from?
4. How many Aboriginal liaison officers are attached to Casuarina Hospital; what hours do they work; and are there plans to increase the numbers?
5. Are any Aboriginal liaison officers to be employed at Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

1. The Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service is currently staffed with a senior liaison officer, 4 liaison officers, 1 trainee liaison officer and 1 trainee receptionist. No representations have been received for an increase in staff.
2. The service is essentially concerned with liaison, support and transport of Aboriginal people in the Darwin area. The end result is facilitating communication between Aboriginal people and existing health services and ensuring that Aboriginal people are able to avail themselves of the existing services to the fullest extent.
3. The Aboriginal and Island Medical Service does not treat patients. There were 6125 people transported by AIMS from December 1980 to May 1981 with the majority being either picked up or delivered to locations such as Darwin Hospital, Bagot Reserve, Darwin Central and Nightcliff Community Health Centres as well as various hostels and fringe camps. From January 1982 to July 1982, approximately 14 500 people have been transported by this organisation whose services now extend as far south as Adelaide River.
4. & 5. There are 2 Aboriginal liaison workers at Darwin Hospital.

   Hours of work are: 1 liaison officer 0840 - 1730 hours; and
   1 liaison officer 1000 - 1830 hours.

   There are no plans to increase the numbers.

Security for Belongings of Hospital Patients

225 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are made to ensure the security of the belongings of hospital patients, for example psychiatric and geriatric patients, who are unable to care for themselves?

ANSWER

Personal effects of geriatric patients in the Harry Chan Ward, apart from anything needed by the patients, are secured by nursing staff. Money is banked by a social worker directly into the patient's own bank account.

Valuable property belonging to short-term psychiatric patients is kept in a locked area if the patient does not wish to care for it or is unable to do so. Long-term patients' valuables are handled by the social workers.

Receipts are issued for cash or valuables stored on behalf of general hospital patients. Money belonging to patients may be collected in whole or in part on request.

Psychiatric Services

534 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what reason is psychiatric services included in the general administrative expenditure for health services?

2. For what reason has the level of funding for psychiatric services been reduced from $510 000 to $475 000? Where will this cut be felt?

ANSWER

1. The amount allocated for psychiatric services in the general administrative expenditure for health services reflects the payments to be made to interstate institutions in respect of Territory patients. The costs of maintaining psychiatric services within the Territory are included in the general operating costs of the hospitals.

2. The reduction in the level of funding from $501 000 in 1980-81 to $475 000 for 1981-82 reflected the lesser number of Territory patients being accommodated at high cost institutions interstate. The estimate for 1981-82 was based upon the actual expenditure incurred for the 1980-81 period as shown below:

	Estimate	Actual Expenditure
1980-81	$ 501 000	$ 457 131
1981-82	$ 475 000	$ 566 068
1982-83	$ 500 000	$ 84 850 (as at 31 August 1982).

Doctor-Patient Ratios in NT

538 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the current ratio of doctors per patient at each hospital in the NT?

2. What are the duty rosters of doctors and nurses? How does this compare with last year?

3. Is the percentage that salaried doctors can earn on top of their income to be increased from 25%? If so, to what level?

ANSWER

1. The ratio is shown as a ratio of patient per salaried doctor. Figures for 1981 and the first half of 1982 were as follows:

Hospital	1981	1982
Darwin	4.14	4.54
Alice Springs	5.43	4.96
Katherine	22.75	17.42
Tennant Creek	14.42	8.01
Gove	16.71	12.21
NT Average	5.57	5.36

The figures are based on the ratio of salaried doctors to the average daily occupied beds for the June quarters 1981 and 1982. The number of doctors does not include private practitioners and specialists of whom there are 67 currently practising in the Territory, many of whom have hospital visiting rights.

2. It is not feasible to describe the duty rosters of doctors and nurses. Rosters differ from one specialist area of a hospital to another, and from one hospital to another. However, if the honourable member would nominate which area he is specifically interested in, I will provide him with a sample roster for that area.

3. No.

Drilling and Exploration, Magellan Petroleum

667 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What are the details of the current drilling program being pursued by Magellan Petroleum in central Australia?

2. What is the (a) registration number of, and (b) nature of exploration on each E.L. held by the company?

3. What funding has been committed to the exploration program either (a) in general, or (b) for each E.L.?

ANSWER

Magellan Petroleum Australia Ltd has net interests of 25.52% and 12.20% in oil permits OP175 and 178 in the Amadeus Basin where the most intensive exploration work is progressing at present.

Pancontinental Petroleum Ltd, the operator in these permits, has drilled the Wallaby, Dingo and Mt Winter wells in the last 12 months. Up to 4 further wildcat wells are expected to be drilled in the coming year.

Magellan also has an interest in OP165 in the Ngalia Basin and, of course, the 2 Mereenie leases, PPL4 and PPL5. As operator in OP165, Magellan drilled the Davis 1 well last year.

Oilmin NL is the operator at Mereenie where the wells East Mereenie 5 and 6 are being progressed. Up to 18 further appraisal wells may be drilled over the coming 2 years.

The total commitment by all interested companies in exploration in the Amadeus Basin is well in excess of $10 million over the 5 year permit term which expires in May 1982 for OP175 and October 1983 for OP178. These costs cover seismic work and exploration drilling but not the Mereenie appraisal program.

Roads - Pastoral Properties

727 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

On how many pastoral properties (a) does the government maintain roads from station boundary to the homestead, (b) what is the longest length of road maintained under this system, (c) what is the average length of road maintained, and (d) what was the cost of maintaining these roads in the 1981-82 financial year?

ANSWER

(a) 150 pastoral leases.

(b) 60 km to Western Creek.

(c) Average length of road within a pastoral lease: 17.5 km
Average total length of pastoral access road: 31 km.

(d) Average cost of maintenance: $200 km/year. (Total length of pastoral access roads is approximately 4650 km).

Loan - Katherine Meatworks

729 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Was a government loan made available to the operators of the Katherine meatworks?

2. If so, (a) was this loan to the value of $1.4 million, (b) what is the current status of this loan, and (c) is it being serviced correctly?

ANSWER

A Commonwealth loan was made available to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd, operators of the Katherine meatworks.

Repayments are being made in accordance with the agreement and the amount of the loan is $1 000 000.

Buffaloes

732 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. How many buffaloes have been received at the government's facility at Annaburro Station?

2. Have the suppliers met the conditions required in terms of buffalo type and age?

ANSWER

1. The marshalling facilities at Annaburro Station are an integral part of the buffalo domestication program and were established by the government to receive, test and quieten young female buffalo. 435 head of buffalo have been received and a total of 700-1000 is expected for the year. The government is satisfied that progress is being made with this unique program.

2. All animals received at the facility have been satisfactory in terms of type and age, although there have been 2 deaths from unspecified causes and 2 animals were destroyed for humane reasons.

'High Rise' Development, Alice Springs

737 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for 'high rise' development - that is, for buildings of more than 3 storeys - in Alice Springs have been received by the Planning Authority in the 12 months to 1 August 1982?

2. Has the Planning Authority rejected any such applications outright considering the height constraint currently imposed by the 1980 Alice Springs Town Plan, or has the authority advised developers to put their plans 'on ice' until it has considered more carefully the issue of 'high rise' development in Alice Springs?

3. What is the nature of the Planning Authority's consideration of the issue of 'high rise' development in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

1. One.

2. The application received was deferred by the Planning Authority pending consideration of a height policy for buildings over 2 storeys and the provision of car parking spaces.

3. Proposed alternative height policies were exhibited at the Alice Springs Show and continued on public exhibition for 42 days to 12 August 1982.

Twenty-three submissions and 2 petitions relating to the matter have been received. The Planning Authority is to further consider the matter.

Industrial Subdivision, Alice Springs

738 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is the government considering any alternatives to the Sadadeen East location for its planned Alice Springs industrial subdivision, bearing in mind the disputed nature of the Sadadeen East site?

ANSWER

The government examined alternative locations for industrial subdivision in 1981 and found that significant cost penalties were involved. An approach to the Commonwealth to obtain financial cover of the additional costs was unsuccessful. The matter was referred to by the Chief Minister in the Legislative Assembly on 2 December 1981 - pages 1805 to 1812 of Hansard refer.

Access Road, Beetaloo

741 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Bearing in mind that the route for the realigned section of the access road to Beetaloo Station has been determined in consultation with traditional owners and that large numbers of stock are expected to be turned off in the near future, when will work to upgrade the access road be completed?

ANSWER

Upgrading work will commence in mid-October and should be completed in mid-December.

Stormwater Canal, Tennant Creek

742 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Does the government plan to upgrade the main town stormwater canal located adjacent to a motel, caravan park, residential areas and a school in the northern and eastern areas of Tennant Creek?
2. If so, when is the work likely to commence?

ANSWER

1. No.
2. Not applicable.
3. The drain to which the question refers is one of a number of drains being considered by an inter-organisational committee formed to examine the various aspects of drains in centres where local government operates. The committee has not yet reported.

   Planning of any upgrading is impracticable until the government has had an opportunity of studying the committee's report.

Roads, Plenty-Sandover Region

743 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to his press release of 28 July and ask what are the details of

the government's 'plans to improve pastoral roads' in the Plenty-Sandover region?

ANSWER

A recent development study of the central Australian road network identified priorities for the improvement of road services in the Plenty-Sandover area.

The major works planned to be undertaken in our forward program include the following:

- Continuation of upgrading and sealing of the Plenty Highway. We hope to get beyond the 100 km mark in 1986.
- In addition to work presently under way on the Mud Tank to Delny road, there will be further development of the network in the Dneiper-McDonald Downs area.
- A new link is planned from Ammaroo on the Sandover Highway towards Murray Downs.

Further development of rural arterial and local roads in the area will be considered for inclusion in later programs.

Causeway, Alice Springs

744 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When does he expect the extent of residential development east of the Todd River and south of Heavitree Gap will be sufficient to justify reviewing the location of the existing causeway, which is a government undertaking revealed by him in his latest communication to me on the subject?

ANSWER

The causeway across the Todd River at Heavitree Gap provides a convenient flood-free crossing of the river for a considerable number of people for most of the year.

At this time development at the east of the Todd and south of Heavitree Gap does not justify an additional crossing.

A crossing at a site south of the existing causeway has been considered, however it is difficult to predict just when traffic volumes will reach a sufficient level to warrant its construction.

Solar Power, Yulara

746 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he detail his department's plans for using solar energy as a means for supplying power to Yulara village, described in 'The Age' of 11 August 1982, as a 'solar power tower'?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has had protracted discussions with the McDonnell Douglas Corporation concerning a solar thermal power station, commonly known as a solar tower, since mid-1979. These discussions have centred on a 1-2 MW power tower-type station, sited at the planned Yulara tourist village.

The plant proposed for Yulara, or other remote site, consists of reflecting heliostats (mirrors reflecting sunlight in a fixed direction), a tower-mounted central receiver, a molten salt heat transfer system with

heat storage and a conventional steam turbine generator system. Initially the plant will generate 1 MW although it can be upgraded to 2 MW. There is also potential for waste heat to be utilised, which could increase the plant value markedly.

As the accepted commercial value of the plant, in terms of liquid fuel saved, is considerably less than its estimated cost of $16 million, funding from an external source is required. The Department of Mines and Energy has ascertained that the technology is acceptable, the project will conserve liquid fuels, the cost of future plants is projected to be less than commercial plant value and there is significant technology transfer benefit to Australian industry.

The government is currently considering the funding options open to it. The outcome of these deliberations will affect the future of the project.

School, Lake Nash

747 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to an advertisement lodged by the manager of Lake Nash Station in the 25 March edition of 'Queensland Country Life' seeking the services of a mechanic in which conditions of employment listed included the phrase 'no school' and ask, will he take steps to inform or convince the manager of Lake Nash Station that the Department of Education does indeed operate a school on that station?

ANSWER

I am quite sure the manager of Lake Nash is aware that there is a school on the station and the remainder of the statement/question is thereby rendered pointless.

Community Government, Borroloola

748 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Does the majority of the Borroloola community oppose the introduction of community government?
2. If so, will the government continue to negotiate the introduction of community government despite the fact that the community generally opposes it?
3. If the government concludes negotiations, what is the likely date for the introduction of community government at Borroloola?

ANSWER

1. Residents of Borroloola have not made an application for the introduction of community government. However the government has been assisting a body elected at a public meeting to become incorporated as the Borroloola Progress Association. A dispute has arisen within the community over the composition of the executive of that association.
2. The government has not been negotiating the introduction of community government at Borroloola. Although a dispute still exists, the Borroloola Progress Association is proceeding with its plans for incorporation. It is understood that the Borroloola Aboriginal Council has now decided to commence incorporation proceedings.
3. The dates when the Borroloola Progress Association and the Borroloola Council are to be incorporated are not known.

Alpurrurrulam Community

749 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Following receipt of a letter sent to his department dated 28 May 1982 from the Alpurrurrulam community at Lake Nash which states: 'We want to tell you that we do not want to move to Bathurst Downs. We want to stay here in this country, Lake Nash, that we call Alpurrurrulam.', does he acknowledge that the Aboriginal community wants to remain in its present location at Lake Nash?

ANSWER

Present indications are that the Alpurrurrulam community do not wish to move to Bathurst Downs although they had originally expressed a desire to do so and had themselves selected the proposed site.

Further discussions will be held with the community as soon as the water situation at Bathurst Downs has been clarified.

Tourist Operations Standards

750 Mr BELL to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. As a rule, does the NT Tourist Commission critically assess the standard and quality of a tourist operation before it offers the operation promotional support?
2. If so, what general procedures are followed to make such assessment?
3. If consumer opinion indicates a tourist operation is sub-standard in any respect, does the Tourist Commission consider withdrawing its promotional support from this operation?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. New tourist operators are required to serve a probationary phase for 12 months to ensure the standard of their product meets market demand as well as to achieve a demonstrative indication of the operator's willingness to provide a first-class service during both peak and off-peak seasons. Brochures are held under the counter and distributed on a request basis only during this trial period. At the conclusion of 12 months the product and service is critically evaluated before full support is given and publications are placed on the shelves of the tourist bureaux.
3. Yes, where an operator's performance is the subject of consistent consumer complaint or that performance is identified clearly to being of detriment to Northern Territory tourism.

Parkinsonia Eradication

751 Mr BELL to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Does the government offer incentives to pastoralists and other persons to control and eradicate the noxious species *Parkinsonia* before it affects access to stock-watering places and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

The control of weeds on private property is the responsibility of the owner. The Department of Primary Production has an extensive program designed to assist pastoralists in the control of *Parkinsonia* and other noxious weeds. This program includes the distribution of specific agnotes

to all pastoralists. In instances where it has been necessary to issue a notice under the Noxious Weeds Act, the government may provide direct assistance with the provision of chemicals, equipment, and labour.

Loss of productive capacity of land is considered to be sufficient incentive in itself for pastoralists and other people to control and eradicate weeds.

However, in cases where this inducement is not adequate the government has regulatory powers under the Noxious Weeds Act.

In addition the government has allocated funds in the current budget to provide a dollar-for-dollar subsidy for the purchase of herbicides to control noxious weeds including *Parkinsonia*.

Grants-in-aid, Community Service Organisations

752 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

In 1981-82, under the grants-in-aid scheme to voluntary community organisations working in the youth, sport and recreation fields, how much money was given to organisations for (a) administration, (b) equipment, (c) facilities, (d) salary subsidies, (e) special projects, (f) training-coaching, and (g) travel subsidies?

ANSWER

In 1981-82 the following amounts were given to organisations working in the youth, sport and recreation fields:

(a) Administration	$ 37 924	(e) Special projects	$ 148 858
(b) Equipment	$ 88 767	(f) Coaching-training	$ 13 178
(c) Facilities	$ 1 123 491	(g) Travel subsidies	$ 175 845
(d) Salary subsidies	$ 239 320		

Further expenditure occurred under the youth, sport and recreation heading as follows:

Aboriginal Recreation Program	$ 395 317
Vacation Care	$ 85 945
Life Be In It	$ 22 000

Total youth, sport and recreation grants-in-aid 1981-82 is $ 2 330 645.

Farm-fuel Projects

754 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is the government giving any encouragement to farm-fuel projects and, if so, can he give brief details?

ANSWER

There has been little Australian activity in recent times in successful projects by the private sector involving the production of alternative hydro-carbon fuels from farm crops.

The government believes that it is pointless diverting resources into this area at this time, and will maintain a watching brief over the academic research projects being conducted in other states.

The government has given maximum priority to the development of a viable agricultural and horticultural industry in the Territory and to the eradication of bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis. Efforts in this direction are being maximised and will not allow any direct involvement of a significant nature in an area of research which is the development of farm fuel crops where the outlook for success is quite clearly less encouraging.

BCF Fire Extinguishers

755 Miss D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Is he aware that some state fire prevention authorities recommend against the use and installation of bromochlorodifluoromethane (BCF) fire extinguishers in confined spaces, and in hospitals, nursing homes and child care centres?
2. Is it proposed to replace BCF fire extinguishers in hospitals in the Northern Territory?
3. Is it proposed to discontinue the use of BCF fire extinguishers in any other types of public buildings in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The fire safety authorities in NSW restrict the use of BCF in the non-ambulant areas of hospitals and other health care establishments.

1. NEW SOUTH WALES restricts the use of BCF extinguishers in the non-ambulant areas of hospitals such as intensive care and post-operative wards only.
2. MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE - The use of BCF extinguishers is not recommended in hospital areas where non-ambulant or respiratory patients are accommodated.
3. CANBERRA ACT - No restrictions in patient accommodation areas.
4. ADELAIDE METROPOLITAN FIRE SERVICE - Restrictions on use of BCF in hospitals.
5. PERTH METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE - No restrictions on use of BCF in hospitals.
6. BRISBANE METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE - No restrictions on use of BCF in hospitals.
7. NORTHERN TERRITORY FIRE SERVICE - No restrictions on use of BCF in hospitals except in confined spaces, intensive care and non-ambulant areas.

Supporting Data

All inert-gas fire extinguishants are irrespiratory to a greater or lesser degree. The basic aim in extinguishing the fire is to replace the oxygen in the air with the inert gas. Thus the flame is starved of oxygen and dies - just as a person would if he or she remained in the oxygen-deficient atmosphere. For this reason all such extinguishers carry a warning about use in a confined space and or the need to ventilate the area before re-occupation.

BCF (the trade name for bromochlorodifluoromethane) has an advantage over most other extinguishants in that it is suitable for use in all classes of fire, viz., electrical, oil, paper-wood, etc. Most other extinguishants are not suitable for one or other class of fire, e.g., CO^2 is not recommended for a typical paper/wood/waste type of fire, a water extinguisher should not be used on cooking fats, electrical or petrol/oil fires, and so on.

BCF is approved by the Australian Standards Association.

BCF has slight anaesthetic properties, and for this reason only the smaller sizes are recommended for smaller rooms.

In summary, the products of combustion - should a fire occur - are far

more dangerous to the patients than the effects of using a BCF extinguisher. Further, the acrid smell of BCF when used on a fire would automatically prompt people to move out of the room or away from the area, hence the restrictions on usage in non-ambulant areas.

BCF, weight for weight, has a higher inhibitory factor (extinguishing concentration) than all other inert gases. For example, when compared with CO^2 (carbon dioxide) the smaller 1 kg BCF is twice as effective, and in the larger sizes the effectiveness is increased by a factor of 4. Thus smaller extinguishers more easily handled by females can be installed in most locations.

BCF, when used in a fire, will leave hydrogen halides in the atmosphere. There are easily detectable by odour at as low a level as 3 parts per million. At about 100 parts per million, strong irritant effects are experienced making occupancy of a room uncomfortable - but not necessarily dangerous. Tests have shows that 50 000 parts per million should be considered the maximum exposure limit.

BCF is approved in UK and USA in addition to 20 other countries.

The Northern Territory Fire Service does not see any reason to vary its present procedures regarding the use of BCF in hospitals and similar institutions.

Residential Tenancies

756 Mr R. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In regard to residential tenancies:

1. What is the average bond paid in respect of (a) 1 bedroom units/flats, (b) 2 bedroom units/flats, (c) 1 bedroom houses, (d) 2 bedroom houses, and (e) 3 bedroom houses?
2. In respect of categories (a) to (e) above, how many leases are there existing at present?
3. What is the average term of residential leases?

ANSWER

Assuming the question relates to Housing Commission tenancies -

1. Security deposit charged general public tenants is $50 for all units of accommodation throughout the Territory. Northern Territory public servants and pensioners are not charged security deposit.
2. 6540 as at 22 October 1982.
3. Statistics are not kept on average lengths of tenancies. Tenants are located and retain the accommodation for an indefinite period.

System-wide Testing in NT Schools

757 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What steps have been taken to introduce system-wide testing into NT schools?
2. (a) How many people will be involved in the implementation of system-wide testing, (b) how much will it cost, and (c) how much time is it likely to take on the part of the professional people involved?

ANSWER

1. A working party has been established to plan and supervise the imple-

mentation of the testing program. It is intended that these will be developed for trial early in 1983 and hopefully introduction in urban schools in the second half of that year for years 5 and 7. Testing in Aboriginal schools for years 5 and 7 will be undertaken in 1983. The working party will also be making recommendations on appropriate form of school-based screening programs in the early childhood years.

2. (a) There will be teacher involvement through part-time attendance at working party meetings. There will be 5 teachers involved in each of the 3 levels in English and in mathematics, i.e. a total of 30 teachers for 5 days each, or a total of 150 teacher days.

(b) Costs of the exercise will be met from within departmental funds.

It is estimated that the costs will be in the order of $15 000 for the employment of relief teachers where this is necessary whilst teachers involved in the working party discussions are absent from a class, as well as the salaries of approximately 2 full-time staff.

(c) One officer will be involved full-time. Part-time input will be made by officers of the Evaluation and Assessment Unit as part of their normal duties.

Loan to Government Printer

758 Miss D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

1. Why were the terms and conditions of a government loan of $3.5 million to the Government Printing Office not established at the time the loan was made?

2. Have the terms and conditions of this loan yet been settled and, if so, when did this take place?

ANSWER

The question has been asked in 2 parts, but it is simpler to provide one answer covering both parts.

The amount of $3.5 million shown in the financial statements of the Government Printing Office as a fixed asset borrowing, represents the value of capital assets acquired by the Government Printing Office from funds provided by the Commonwealth government and the Northern Territory government.

Of that amount, $2.5 million relates to the building, which was constructed by the Commonwealth government and handed over to the Northern Territory at no cost. There is no obligation on the Territory to repay that money to the Commonwealth and it is considered that the placing of an obligation on the Government Printer to repay the funds to the Territory would achieve very little. It would only increase the Government Printer's costs, which are passed on to departments, and the overall effect would be simply to inflate both the receipts and payments sides of the Budget. These funds might be regarded as the government's equity in the Printing Office.

On the question of funds provided for capital purposes by the Territory since self-government, there is an argument that these should be treated as loan funds and should attract an interest charge to reflect the cost of the funds and, in some measure, to place the Government Printer more on a commercial basis. The government believes that, as far as possible, the full costs associated with its various functions should be fully brought to account and that hidden subsidies are to be avoided. However, this principle needs to be balanced against the undesirable bloating of

the Budget that would result if all the various agencies of government were to charge one another for services provided.

After considering these factors, I have decided that funds provided to the Government Printer by the Territory government are to be treated as loan funds. The various amounts provided since self-government are to be consolidated as at 1 July 1983. The aggregate amount thus obtained will be regarded as a loan repayable on demand. The interest rate to apply from 1 July 1983 will be 10% per annum and will be subject to review from time to time.

Book Purchases - NT Library Service

759 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What was (a) the value of books purchased by the Northern Territory Library Service since 1 January 1982, (b) from which suppliers or book-sellers were these purchases made, both Territory and interstate (c) is the library service still purchasing books direct from publishers, and (d) what was the total expenditure by the library service on book purchases in the financial year 1980-81?

ANSWER

(a) Value of books (and films) purchased by NTLS since 1 January 1982 (15 December-15 October 1982) - $332 733.

(b) Northern Territory

Northbooks	$ 52 119	
Bookworld	$ 10 500	
Education & Technical Books	$ 5 363	
Territory Book Depot	$ 8 220	
Paul France	$ 14 851	
Miscellaneous suppliers	$ 3 852	$ 94 905
Interstate		
James Bennett, Sydney	$ 35 198	
Dunn & Mason, Melbourne	$ 14 854	
International Subscription Agency, Brisbane	$ 18 343	
Miscellaneous suppliers (books)	$ 13 605	
Antiquarian book dealers	$ 8 640	
Miscellaneous suppliers (films)	$ 53 280	
Miscellaneous suppliers (music and spoken word cassettes)	$ 15 499	
Miscellaneous suppliers (microfilms)	$ 8 572	$ 167 991
Overseas		
Combridge Jackson	$ 9 707	
Woolstons & Blunts	$ 12 699	
Bumpus, Haldane & Maxwell	$ 5 850	
Blackwells (serials)	$ 42 581	$ 70 837
		$ 333 733

(c) The NTLS does not as a rule purchase direct from publishers. There are very occasional exceptions to this such as:

1. Small and obscure publishers (e.g. Summer Institute of Linguistics, Bamyili Literature Production Centre).
2. When publishers do not offer trade terms (e.g. limited editions from Landsdowne Pr.).

(d) The total expenditure by the library service on book purchases in the financial year 1980-81 was $ 413 673 (includes books and films).

Education Budget, 1982-83

762 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In regard to the 1982-83 Education Budget and referring specifically to the following page numbers of Budget Paper No. 4 of 1982-83:

1. DIVISION 44

(a) Page 5:

(i) What is the explanation for the variation between what was allocated under administrative expenses last year ($38 000) and what was actually spent ($166 000); and

(ii) why is there such a significant increase in duty travel included in the 1983 budget?

(b) Page 6:

How much is allocated to the biennial conference of the Australasian Institute of Inspectors of Schools?

(c) Page 7:

(i) It appears that about $61 000 was underspent last year in the area of administrative expenses, management services. What is the explanation?

(ii) What was the nature of the 'recent management reviews' referred to in the budget paper to explain the 1982-83 allocation in this area?

(d) Page 8:

What is the explanation for the underspending of about $44 000 in the area of administrative expenses, educational facilities, last year?

(e) Page 10:

The government appears to have overspent about $50 000 in the area of administrative expenses, professional services last year. What is the explanation?

(f) Page 19:

Why is there a reduction in the requirement for recruitment in the general administrative expenses section of the education budget?

(g) Page 20:

(i) On what does the government base its assertion that demand for student assistance schemes seems to be stabilising; and

(ii) what was the reason for under-expenditure of $100 000 last year?

(h) Page 23:

What additional loans does the government expect the independent non-government schools to take out that requires an extra $82 000?

(j) Page 33:

(i) What is the explanation for the apparent underspending by about $124 000 in the transition from school to work program last year; and

(ii) how is the extra allocation likely to be spent this year?

(k) Page 34:

(i) Will the extra funding in Aboriginal Education Assistance mean the Aboriginal teacher replacement program will be fully catered for?

(ii) Why was only $83 000 of last year's allocated $125 000 for the December-June period spent?

(m) Page 35:
The government appears to have underspent in the area of non-government student hostels by $53 000 last year. What is the explanation?

2. DIVISION 46
Page 43:
The government appears to have underspent in the 3 main areas of expenditure for the Community College of Central Australia: i.e.

Allocation 1981-82	Expenditure
$ 1010	$ 870
$ 382	$ 362
$ 208	$ 162

What is the explanation?

ANSWER

1. DIVISION 44
(a) Page 5:
(i) The variation between the administrative expenses appropriated for the Executive activity and the actual expenditure in 1981-82 related to the cost of the department's interstate travel program.
In previous years the costs of interstate travel had been shown across the full range of Education activities but in October 1981 it was decided that the full cost should be shown in this activity to achieve tight control.
(ii) The seemingly significant increase in duty travel relates to the provision of $120 000 for interstate travel in 1982-83. In fact the increase over 1981-82 is $6000 or 4.2% and is less than the actual increase in air fares and travelling allowances.

(b) Page 6:
The allocation for the biennial conference of the Australian Institute of Inspectors of Schools is $15 000.

(c) Page 7:
(i) The underspending in the management services activity in 1981-82 was the result of the late delivery of office machines purchased in line with the recommendations of the Price Waterhouse Management Review.
(ii) The recent 'management review' was the Northern Territory Advisory Committee on Technology in Education conducted by Price Waterhouse. The reference in the Budget Paper relates to the general equipment and machines allocation which provides for the purchase and hire of computer and word processor visual display units and photocopiers to implement the recommendations of the review team.

(d) Page 8:
The underspending in the education facilities activity in 1981-82 is attributable to the late delivery of furniture and fittings items. Part of this was caused by poor performance by contractors but another contributing factor was the failure of a local company which had been a major supplier of wooden furniture.

(e) Page 10:
The apparent overspending in the administrative expenses for professional services was in fact the result of transfers into and out of the activity during 1981-82 as part of the process of adjusting to the activity budgeting format.

The transfer out related to expenditure on professional development and the operational grant to approved education centres shown against 'other services' in the 1982-83 Budget Paper No. 4, page 10. The transfer in covered the cost of payroll tax, recreation leave fares and transport previously shown in the general expenses item.

(f) Page 19:
The reduction in the provision for recruitment reflects the department's assumption that the level of Northern Territory Public Service recruitment action will diminish in certain areas because of the increasing stability of existing staff.

(g) Page 20:
(i) At the beginning of 1981 a number of new schemes were introduced but at that time very little information was available as to the likely claims against these schemes. As a result of the 1981-82 experience, the department is in a better position to project usage and in this sense the demand has stabilised.
(ii) The expansion of student assistance schemes introduced during 1981-82 and the estimated increase in awareness of the various schemes and benefits were expected to cost an extra $273 000 on top of a baseline budget for 1981-82 of $626 000. In the event the demand was considerably less than had been anticipated resulting in a shortfall of $98 000.

(h) Page 23:
The additional loans which the department expects to service during 1982-83 would take account of the following building projects -

(i) St John's College - Library and associated specialist rooms;
(ii) St Paul's Primary - Library, Nightcliff;
(iii) Catholic High School - Stage I, Alice Springs; and
(iv) Catholic Primary School - Stage I, Sanderson.

(j) Page 33:
(i) The underspending in transition school to work in 1981-82 resulted from the fact that the forward program agreed to by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory ministers did not prove as adaptable to the Territory as had been hoped.
(ii) In regard to the 1982-83 financial year the department is examining program options to ensure that full expenditure is achieved and that value is obtained from Commonwealth funds.

(k) Page 34:
(i) The Aboriginal Education Assistance Scheme provides for the payment of Aboriginal teacher assistants in homeland centres (outstations).
(ii) The shortfall of expenditure was caused by the need to clarify the nature of Commonwealth responsibility for funding in the long term.

(m) Page 35:
The shortfall in expenditure occurred due to the closure of John Paul Hostel at Alice Springs.

2. DIVISION 46
Page 43:
Explanations in relation to underspending in Community College of Central Australia.

Sub-division 1 (Salaries and Allowances)

Throughout the year the college had difficulty in recruiting suitable teaching staff and in consequence the level of staffing throughout most of the year was less than the establishment provided for in the appropriation.

Sub-division 2 (Administrative Expenses)

The underspending in this area is attributable to the following:

- delays in fulfilment of overseas library orders;
- due to the difficulties in recruiting staff the placement of orders by the program coordinators were delayed and consequently orders were not fulfilled in time for full expenditure to be achieved; and
- delays in placement of orders for furniture and fittings requirements at the Sadadeen campus. The resulting revote expenditure will be reflected during 1982-83.

Sub-division 3 (Capital Items)

Delays in placement of orders for new plant and equipment at the Sadadeen campus. The revote expenditure will be reflected during 1982-83.

Statements of Accounts

764 Mr SMITH to TREASURER

1. Under section 30(1) of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act*, for which government undertakings has he directed that statements of accounts be prepared?

2. In each case, when did he first direct that such statements of accounts be prepared?

ANSWER

1. The government undertakings for which directions have been given under section 30(1) of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act*, are the Darwin Omnibus Service and the Government Printing Office.

2. The direction in relation to the Darwin Omnibus Service was given on 29 February 1980 and in the case of the Government Printing Office on 21 August 1980.

Guarantee to Federal Pacific Hotels

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Has the government given a guarantee to Federal Pacific Hotels that it will not allow any other organisation to set up a casino-type operation in the Territory? If so, what is the life of that guarantee?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would refer the honourable member to the relevant legislation on the subject which, if I recall correctly, provides that, for a fixed period, the Northern Territory government can only issue 2 licences to operate casinos in the Northern Territory.

Fire in Jape Building

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he yet provide information related to the issue of a certificate of compliance prior to the occupation of the Jape building and breaches of the terms of that certificate?

ANSWER

My department does not issue these certificates of compliance. I think the honourable member is referring to whether the fire brigade approved the installation of the equipment that was in the Jape building before it was occupied. I said at the last sittings that, whilst there had been irregularities relating to some of the equipment installed, that had since been cleared up and the fire brigade is satisfied with the fire equipment installed in that building now.

North-south Rail Link

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that it appears that consideration has been given to running the north-south railway up the existing Stuart Highway completely bypassing the town of Batchelor? With a view to the development of the town of Batchelor, what will the Chief Minister do about this?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in summary, it is a question of whether the railway should go through Adelaide River or through Batchelor. It would be pretty difficult to run the railway through both places without doing quite a spectacular zigzag. We want this railway. I am fairly content to allow the organisation which knows best about railways - that is, the Australian National Railways - to determine the course of the line because, obviously, whilst effecting economies during construction, it will want to serve areas which will attract to the rail the greatest number of consumers and the greatest volume of freight. I am aware that the likely corridor in the Batchelor area will not pass through the town but the preference of ANR is for an alignment close to the Stuart Highway. If there were major developments likely to occur at Batchelor of a nature that could seriously influence rethinking the route of the proposed rail, I would be prepared to make the appropriate representation but, I do not think this is the case at the present time.

A bridge exists over the Adelaide River which was used by the old railway. Whilst I am not certain about this, I believe that some of the bridges used by the old railway may well be suitable for the new rail construction. Obviously that is something which must be borne in mind. Mr Speaker, whilst I would like the rail to meander through every town in the Territory, unfortunately it is not possible. However, I am quite sure that Batchelor, through its very close proximity to Adelaide River and to the route of the railway, will derive a great deal of benefit from it.

Crown Land at Myilly Terrace

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Are negotiations still continuing for a change in usage of the vacant Crown land at Myilly Terrace formerly occupied by Flagstaff House and, if so, what is the status of these negotiations?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member's question is not absolutely clear to me and perhaps she could expand it a little further. The Crown land she refers to has been vacant since the cyclone in 1974 and I am not au fait with what the honourable member means.

Mrs LAWRIE: Mr Speaker, may I amplify by saying the last time I asked the question, the honourable Minister for Lands and Housing admitted that discussions were under way with the Commonwealth Department of Defence with a view to perhaps rebuilding a house there. I am asking him if there have been further negotiations and, if so, what the outcome was. Last time, he knew what I was talking about.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members should make questions very clear so that ministers know what their questions are about.

Mrs LAWRIE: I cannot be clearer than that.

Mr PERRON: Mr Speaker, I apologise to the honourable member for Nightcliff for not recalling in fine detail every conversation that I have had with her.

Mrs LAWRIE: It was a question in the Assembly.

Mr PERRON: I answer her question by saying that the Northern Territory government is still negotiating with the Commonwealth on a number of sites for a residence for the commanding naval officer in the Northern Territory.

Location of Admiralty House

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has consideration been given to moving Admiralty House from its position on the Esplanade to another site?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, consideration has been given to this matter. In 1979, the Commonwealth identified areas of the Northern Territory which it sought to have vested in the Commonwealth as freehold land following self-government

and an arrangement was made that, when this particular site on the Esplanade in Darwin was required for development, the Commonwealth would hand it over to the Northern Territory. That time has arrived. There are indications that the site is required for development now and the Northern Territory government has taken the matter up with the Commonwealth in accordance with its agreement.

Recently, the National Trust forwarded a nomination to the National Heritage Commission for this particular building to be entered into the National Heritage Register. At present, it is on the interim register and objections are being sought. The Commonwealth has asked the Northern Territory to replace the residence of the senior naval officer in the Northern Territory as part of the arrangement and that is agreed to by the Northern Territory government. Negotiations have continued with the Department of Administrative services with a view to finding suitable premises or a suitable parcel of land for the Commonwealth on which a house can be built. We have said that the present building for the senior naval officer on the block on the Esplanade will be moved at Northern Territory government expense and erected on another suitable site if that is the Commonwealth's wish.

Mr Speaker, this matter is one of particular interest at present. The residence in question is not of particular historical or architectural significance for the Northern Territory. In fact, those points have been outlined in an objection to the National Heritage Commission. It was built in the period 1937 to 1939 and moved to its present site in 1951. The building has been considerably modified over the years with extensions and changes to its style. We believe that it does not have any particular significance when compared with other buildings in the Northern Territory. There are a couple of examples of particularly fine homes of that era. In particular, Audit House has been supported by the Northern Territory government to the degree that is has been vested in the National Trust. Funds will be spent on restoration work to bring it up to a standard that can withstand the climate in the Northern Territory. There is no particular historical significance to Admiralty House other than the fact that it has housed successive naval officers commanding the northern area. The ground put forward by the local National Trust and the National Heritage Commission for its registration is that the building survived the Second World War and Cyclone Tracy and, for those reasons alone, it is an important building. Many houses - some of them much older than this one - survived both the Second World War and Cyclone Tracy. I do not think that that in itself is a particularly good argument for its preservation.

Mr Speaker, the site is a fairly attractive one. The old house is set in a very nicely kept garden that is a credit to the Navy. The government has supported a number of historical projects for preservation at taxpayers' expense. Naval Headquarters was reconstructed at a cost in excess of $700 000 and probably will continue to consume a reasonable proportion of public funds for maintenance. It has been turned into the office of the Administrator. It is a very fine building and certainly we give our full support to its preservation for future generations. Lyons Cottage is another example. It is only a few feet from the house we are talking about at present. It has been preserved at government expense. Indeed, an annual subsidy will be paid by the government, presumably forever unless a sponsor can be found, for that building to be preserved for future generations. There are other examples around the Territory and in Darwin. I refute any suggestion that the Northern Territory government is not interested in the preservation of suitable historic buildings. However, people must bear in mind that, once a

decision is made to preserve a building on a site, it will mean a cost to the community, not only for the upgrading of the building but for ongoing maintenance work. It will mean a continuing drain on the public purse and the site in question would be lost where such preservation is agreed to. Therefore, such decisions should not be taken lightly. They are decisions that may mean costs to the community for 100 years. Such projects must be carefully assessed prior to any government deciding to support a permanent national heritage listing and the continuing preservation of any particular building.

Sewage Treatment Plant

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Since the Darwin Central Zone Sewage Treatment Plant opened, it has been considered necessary to man it on a 24-hour basis. What major modifications have been made to the system which will now enable it to be operated safely on a 40-hour per week basis? Will he give the Assembly an assurance that no health and environmental problems will result?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, presently the treatment plant has been operating on a 3-shift basis requiring a manning level of 15. When the treatment plant was first constructed, it was designed to be fully automated. We are moving towards automation in an effort to reduce the expense of operating the facility. The people working in that area have been informed that the manning level will be reduced from 15 down to 7 by 10 December. Once full automation is effected, if a fault occurs an alarm bell will ring in a security firm's premises and that firm will then notify an officer that something is wrong at the plant and he will go straight there. It is said that that can be effected within one hour.

The plant was commissioned in 1977. It was designed to treat sewage for a population of 40 000. With an additional stage, it would have treated sewage from an estimated population of 80 000. The plant is currently treating sewage from an estimated population of 15 000. On current predictions, it will be many years before that population approaches 20 000. The department has been concerned for some time by the high cost of operating the plant relative to the population served. It is approximately 4 times the cost of that for the remainder of Darwin.

A consultant report in 1980 recommended modifications to the plant and a reduction in staffing levels. Certain modifications have been made. A recent review of the plant's operation and the consultant's report resulted in modification to operation and staffing arrangements which will take effect from December 1982. Under the new arrangements, the plant will be manned for 1 shift, 5 days a week instead of the 3 shifts, 7 days a week. This will involve a reduction in staff from the present establishment of 15 to 7. Surplus staff will be redeployed to other sections maintaining essential services. When unmanned, the plant will operate automatically as desired, with the exception of the sludge vacuum filters. The vacuum filters, which remove water from the treated sludge prior to its removal from the plant in solid form, will be operated only while the plant is manned. The volume of treated sludge is well within the capacity of the 2 vacuum filters operated on a 1-shift basis. During unmanned operation, crucial items of the plant will be monitored automatically. Operators will be called out to attend plant malfunctions.

Operators of the plant were informed of these arrangements on 12 November and held a stop-work meeting on 15 November. No industrial action has been taken or foreshadowed. In the event of strike action, the plant will be operated by management and other staff as was the case during the recent industrial action associated with terms of employment.

With regard to my giving an assurance to the honourable member for Fannie Bay that there will be no health risk, I can give a partial assurance because, if this plant were to break down in the wet season, with the quick flow some water would certainly move, not into Ludmilla Creek but into the ponds without that effluent being treated. My officers advise me that the risk to health in that circumstance would be minimal.

Review of Local Industry Preference Policy

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has any review of the local industry preference policy for public contracts been undertaken and, if so, what are the results?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the department is constantly reviewing procedures for the letting of contracts. Recently, I made an announcement. We were looking for a way whereby nominated subcontractors could be identified by the department to enable them to put bids in for various types of work. This particular request was given to us by the Master Builders Association. What was happening was that each time a job appeared in the paper or the Gazette, nominated subcontractors had to ask almost for pre-qualifications. What will happen now is that a nominated subcontractor will file particular information with the department. When he puts a bid in for a particular job, he will be assessed on that information. He would have to do that on a yearly basis. The only time that would change would be if a nominated subcontractor were heavily involved in other work within the department and the department considered that that particular contractor's resources might not be able to stand any new work. The department would call in that particular person and discuss it with him to see whether he had the resources. We are constantly reviewing the tendering system. As I said at the last sittings, we had problems with it in the public works area. To avoid confusion, the department is trying to work out a firm strategy that will be known by all.

Sale of Land Subdivided at Mataranka Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

I understand that one of the blocks produced by the subdivision of Mataranka Station is to be offered for purchase to a Mr Roy Lumpa of Hollister, California. Will he explain why this was done and why the usual conduct of a ballot amongst selected applicants was not resorted to in this particular case?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I wish to confirm to you and other honourable members that the honourable member for Tiwi's assertions substantially represent the facts. You might wonder why I am answering this question. It is because of my close involvement in this particular transaction.

The honourable member will appreciate that my government has applied itself energetically to the development of a cropping and horticultural industry in the Northern Territory. Government initiatives in this area include the setting up of ADMA, the establishment of ADMA farms and the acquisition of suitable properties for similar agricultural development in the near future. Other initiatives include the introduction of the successful crop contract scheme, the provision of various agricultural subsidies proposed by the Cropping Development Committee and intensified research by the Department of Primary Production into the agronomy of potential crops such as sorghum, mung beans, soya beans, maize, rice and so on. Horticultural research has also received priority attention with the development of a major and expanding section within the Department of Primary Production which has already produced results which herald valuable future horticultural dividends. However, such research needs to be complemented by horticultural know-how and we have been fortunate to attract some people to the Territory with considerable expertise who will augment the solid core of Territory pioneers, such as the Herseys, the Dahlenbergs and others, who have brought horticulture in the Territory to where it is today. The development of a mango estate at Manbuloo is another initiative which will be of major value to the Territory while the recent entry upon the scene of a South Australian grower with a proposal to produce onions and potatoes in the Katherine area could be another milestone in the agricultural development of the Territory. I understand that he has now purchased a farm in the Katherine area.

It is against this background that the offer to Mr Roy Lumpa was made. Mr Lumpa is a Californian farmer with extensive experience and expertise in modern methods of horticulture and cropping production under irrigation on a large scale. His knowledge and experience will be of immense value to Territory agriculture. Mr Lumpa is greatly attracted to the Territory and has expressed a wish to settle here. After considerable negotiation, he was very nearly successful in purchasing Willeroo Station but lost out to the present owners at the last moment, and not for want of the necessary finance. He then put in a bid for Mataranka, Roper Valley and Coolibah Stations as a joint venture with a local interest but this was thwarted by the government's compulsory acquisition of Mataranka. In these special circumstances, and with the advice of the minister and the Department of Primary Production at the time the decision to acquire and subdivide was made, I offered Mr Lumpa the opportunity to purchase one of the subdivisions of Mataranka Station at a price to be negotiated after valuation. In all the circumstances, the sale of a section of Mataranka to Mr Lumpa represented, in my view, an honourable course of action and I hope that it will have the desired effect of securing for our agricultural industry invaluable know-how to the long-term advantage of the Territory. The decision was mine and that is why I have answered the question.

Commuter Airline Licences

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did he state to the Katherine and Tennant Creek town councils that a condition of the granting of commuter airline licences for services linking Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs on weekends was that the fares of passengers required to back track would be no higher than the direct air fare? If so, has this been enforced?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at the time of negotiations with Airlines of Northern

Australia for a reduction of the service from the 7-day-a-week Fokker to a 5-day-a-week jet service with commuter services operating on the weekend between Tennant Creek and Alice Springs on Saturdays and Sundays and Katherine to Darwin on Saturdays only, it was hoped that the on-through fare would not be passed on to the commuter. TAA did not accept the proposal for the on-fare and, in some cases, people travelling TAA were forced to pay the additional money. I believe that further arrangements have since been made with the airlines that people will not pay the on-through fare. If they are paying it, I have not been advised of it.

Oil Storage Area at Frances Bay

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When is it expected that the relocation of the oil storage area at Frances Bay will be effected?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, no specific date has been set for relocating the oil storage area that is currently in the heart of Darwin. However, it is quite obvious - and certainly this should be clear to the honourable member for Sanderson - that, at some time, such an oil storage area should be relocated on the outskirts of the city in a far more suitable location. The recent announcement took a few people by surprise. It should not have taken very many people by surprise because anyone who thought about it carefully would see that it is quite obvious and inevitable. At present, the government is examining alternative sites around Darwin suitable for a future tank farm. Once such sites are identified, lead time can then be drawn up for the infrastructure timetable and the costs involved in having alternative storage built. This would have to be done before existing storage can be shut down. Without question, it will be quite a few years at the earliest. I could not put a specific time on it.

Darwin Civil Airport Terminal

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

The indecision of the federal government in choosing a suitable site for its tactical fighter base has raised the question of the future of the proposed Darwin civil airport terminal. Is the proposal to build a new civil airport terminal for Darwin being proceeded with as planned and, if so, is he able to indicate when building is likely to commence?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, one could have a field day with a question like that, but I will attempt to be brief. The federal government announced its intention to upgrade the Royal Australian Air Force base - it is not a civilian airport - at Darwin to enable that base to cater for FA-18 fighters which it is purchasing from the United States. In the interim, the base was to handle Mirages that are to be withdrawn from their present station at Butterworth in Malayasia. They are to be based at Darwin until they are phased out of service in 1986 or 1987. In any event, all this caused the Royal Australian Air Force to decide that it needed a greater area of land at Darwin air base and that it required the removal of the existing civil terminal and general aviation area.

In a way, that is a blessing in disguise because it requires the construction of a new civil terminal capable of handling domestic and international arrivals with some degree of civilised decency rather than as happens at present. The general aviation area at Darwin air base is very overcrowded at the present time and lacks facilities. I know of at least 2 large general aviation firms operating throughout Australia that have wanted to establish in Darwin which would have been of considerable benefit to the Northern Territory, particularly with the facilities they could have provided. But there was absolutely nowhere that the Department of Transport, as it then was, could accommodate them so these establishments went to other places; in one case, to Townsville. Therefore, it was with considerable enthusiasm that I greeted the announcement that not only was a new domestic and international terminal to be built but, also, a new and expanded general aviation area was to be provided on the northern side of the existing runway.

Then there was a change of ministers, a change of chiefs of general staff and, of course, a change of mind as well. The Royal Australian Air Force and the Department of Defence have since been looking at a proposal to very much upgrade the base at Tindal. I understand that that close examination is continuing and that everything points to the FA-18s being based at a much upgraded air force installation at Tindal with perhaps some sort of army establishment nearby as well. I greet the news also with great enthusiasm, although at this stage it does not have the strength of federal Cabinet endorsement.

Mr Speaker, the position as I read it at the moment is this. Firstly, I have been assured verbally, but have not yet received anything in writing, that the civil air terminal will proceed on the northern side of the runway and will, as far as possible, adhere to the timetable announced by the Minister for Civil Aviation, Mr Wal Fife, when he was in Darwin in June or July of this year. I await written confirmation of that. I do not have any certain information on the general aviation area at this stage other than that it will be expanded. It may possibly remain in the same area when the final decision on FA-18s going to Tindal and Tindal being upgraded is made. I am afraid that that probably will not take place until the new year because of the detailed studies that are needed and are still continuing, and because it will cost a mint of money which I will be pleased to see spent in the Territory. I am sure that you, Mr Speaker, will be pleased to see it spent in the Katherine area. But that decision will not be firm till after Christmas, even though I had hoped for it earlier.

The Mirages will come to Darwin next year as planned I believe and housing will be rented for the personnel who will accompany them. Those personnel will be moved into Darwin progressively during 1983. I hope that I have covered all aspects of it. I have covered the civil terminal, the general aviation area, FA-18s and Tindal and Mirages and Darwin. I think that that is about it. I am very hopeful that this considerable expenditure of funds will take place, particularly as it relates to the defence of northern Australia, which I, you and many members of this Assembly have said has not been particularly well looked after by this or any federal government since the Second World War. If Tindal is upgraded, it will represent a very major advance for northern defence. The Northern Territory government is cooperating to the fullest extent with the Commonwealth and I know that the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments both intend to involve the Katherine municipality as soon as that preliminary planning reaches a stage where firm decisions can take place.

Tancred Meats Application for Pastoral Leases

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Was a meat producer and processor, Tancred Meats, prevented from taking over 3 pastoral leases in the Territory? If so, what were the grounds for rejecting the applications?

ANSWER

I have no application before me on the subject the honourable member refers to.

Report on Horticultural Seminar in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has he received a report and recommendations from the recent horticultural seminar held in Alice Springs? If so, is it intended to release the report to the public?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the seminar to which the honourable member refers was conducted by members of various departments concerned with providing land, water and expertise for the further development of horticulture in central Australia. The member for Alice Springs attended and his contribution was greatly valued. A report will go forward to government and Cabinet will consider its findings in due course.

NT Unemployment Rates

Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

In a recent radio talk he indicated that the employment situation in the NT was better than in southern states and gave some figures purporting to prove this as a fact. As the unemployment rate in Aboriginal communities runs between 30% and 70%, have these communities been taken into consideration in assessing the NT rate of unemployment?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, yes, the unemployment rate in Aboriginal communities has been taken into account in assessing the total employment situation in the Northern Territory. I am prepared to agree with the honourable member for Victoria River that unemployment amongst Aboriginal people is a very vexed problem. It is a problem that concerns me and I frankly confess that I do not have the answer. But if you have a moment, Sir, I would like to postulate some of the problems.

The problems are, of course, that Aboriginal people live, generally speaking, in areas remote from those markets and services that one usually requires to generate industry successfully. Unless you can stimulate industry successfully, you cannot generate any meaningful number of jobs. As you know, Sir, in most Aboriginal communities of any size in the Northern Territory there are already local government-type organisations that are established and funded by the government and that employ, I think, as many people as they reasonably can on projects around the community. Of course,

whenever government funding has been channelled into these communities in the form of facilities, my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works, has ensured that as many of those contracts as possible go to Aboriginal people. If they cannot manage them, then they have as much participation in them as is reasonably possible. I know that an amount in excess of $1m, if not millions of dollars, has actually gone to Aboriginal communities in terms of direct contracts in the last year or 2. That is one of the problems: remoteness.

Another problem is education and training. People just do not have job options these days unless they have a pretty highly sophisticated degree of education. While I am on my feet and answering this question, it might be a word to the wise to say that parents who are thinking of removing their children from school at the intermediate stage - I think it is called grade 10 these days - this year could well consider, if their circumstances allow it, enabling their children to go on to matriculation. I say this from a general observation of job columns here and elsewhere in Australia. I can remember when I was in about grade 8 some girls left my class in primary school to become hairdressers and to do apprenticeships. I noticed an advertisement for hairdresser apprentices the other day that said matriculation would be required.

Mr B. Collins: That's absolutely ridiculous.

Mr EVERINGHAM: All I can say, Mr Speaker, is that that is what employers are asking for. If an applicant does not want to meet the employer's requirements, I guess he or she will not get the job. I am simply passing on my observations. I am not saying that it is right or that it is wrong; I am saying that that is the employment market of today.

It occurred to me a few years ago that the only industry that I could think of - aside from mining to some degree - that offered considerable employment potential for Aboriginal people if they wished to involve themselves in it - was the tourist industry. Of course, they do not have to let tourists into their communities. They can let tourists view attractions near their communities or they can set up facilities away from their communities that might interest tourists; that is, if they want them to come. As you and other honourable members of this Assembly know, Mr Speaker, I wrote a circular letter to all Aboriginal communities, I think in 1979, inviting them, if they were interested in the tourist industry and its potential for job creation, to make contact with me or my officers. At the time, I was criticised for sending that circular by, I think, the very honourable member who asked me the question this morning. It might be that I was also criticised by the now Leader of the Opposition who was then the member for Arnhem.

Mr B. Collins: No!

Mr EVERINGHAM: The fact is I drew considerable criticism from honourable members opposite for daring to suggest that Aboriginal people might be interested to consider the potential for employment afforded by the tourist industry. I have not received any real response to my letter from any Aboriginal community. The offer is still open. It always is. If anyone has any better ideas on how Aboriginal people can gain useful employment certainly I would like to hear them. I have been waiting now for several years to hear any better ones.

Policy Statements on Education

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I remind him of previous commitments he has given on this matter. Will he be tabling any policy statements on education during the current sittings of the Legislative Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not anticipate being in a position to do so at this sittings.

Prevention of Pests and Diseases in Horticultural Industry

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What is being done to ensure that adequate precautions are being taken to prevent any undesirable pests such as fruit fly and also diseases that might have a very damaging effect on our newly-emerging horticultural industry in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The honourable member refers to a very serious matter. It is not possible to guarantee that such pests and diseases will not occur in the Territory. It is possible only to reduce the risk of entry of any pest or disease to the Territory and such reduction relies heavily on cooperation from the community, particularly tourists. The government has legislation to apply quarantine restrictions if required and these have been successful in situations such as the recent advent of Mediterranean fruit fly in Alice Springs. Additionally, the government currently seeks to strengthen its control over the possible importation of diseases from our southern neighbours through regulations requiring specified produce to be certified free of pests or diseases before importation.

Department of Primary Production entomologists and pathologists continue to monitor for new pests and diseases including those which may be imported from overseas. Eleven monitoring stations have been maintained around the Northern Territory coastline since 1975 to prevent the importation of fruit fly species not endemic to the Northern Territory. Additional stations are located at Adelaide River and Katherine. A monitoring network has been established at Alice Springs to provide an early warning against any future visitation of Mediterranean fruit fly. The Christmas holiday season is again close and many people will be travelling back to the Territory from eastern and southern states. These travellers can help to ensure the Territory's freedom from some insect pests and diseases by contracting the Agricultural Quarantine Service in Darwin before bringing any plant or fruit material into the Northern Territory. If Territory residents plan to bring back with them seedlings or cuttings, they should be careful to deal with only reputable nurseries that produce high quality stock which is certified free of pests and diseases.

Salt Water Crocodile

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Conservation Commission made representations to the federal

government to transfer the salt water crocodile from Appendix 1 to Appendix 2 of the Convention of International Trade on Endangered Species and, if so, what was the outcome?

ANSWER

As I have advised this Assembly previously, in answer to questions about crocodile farms and preservation of crocodiles, the government has taken steps to have the crocodylus porosus transferred to another schedule of the CITES agreement which relates to endangered species so that the offspring of crocodiles that are captured in the wild may be harvested for commercial purposes as well as being used to re-stock areas where the crocodile population is depleted. I think, from memory, the proposal has gone through the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers. I have not been to the last couple of council meetings because they have been held too far away or at inconvenient times. The proposal has been ably guided by the Director of Conservation, Dr Goff Letts. In fact, there is not really much need for me to go when I can send Dr Letts. Recently, he attended a conference in Zambia or Zimbabwe that also related to the CITES. I understand that this subject was raised at that time and apparently was favourably received. Further steps are now being taken. I could have given a much better answer if I had had time to check the details. I would suggest that the honourable member for Sanderson write to me and I will send her a very detailed reply. In essence, the proposal to transfer them from one schedule of the CITES agreement to another is proceeding. At this stage, to the best of my knowledge, although it appears to be a tortuous and wearisome exercise, it has not met with any substantial mishap.

Alice Springs Town Basin

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

Has he any plans to implement a plan of management to control the water level in the Alice Springs town basin?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes. Hopefully, early next year, the department will carry out a survey in that area for the requirements of management strategy.

Administrative Arrangements Orders on Collection of Archival Material

Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

The Administrative Arrangements Orders determined by the Administrator gives responsibility for archives to the Department of Community Development. However, a notice recently published in the official gazette of the Northern Territory Department of Education advised that that department had received a request from the Chief Minister's department regarding collection of archival material. While the collection of archival material is very valuable and admirable, will the Chief Minister ensure that the legal requirements of the Administrative Arrangements Orders are recognised by his department with regard to archives?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, since I know nothing about this matter, it is difficult to answer. But I am not sure who in the Chief Minister's Department would be

seeking from the Department of Education material to go into archives. I suppose that it is possible that someone in the Chief Minister's Department has done something to stimulate the consciousness of other departments in relation to the preservation of material of historic importance. Of course, there is a history unit in my department which, no doubt, because it is pretty close to this sort of thing at all times, has archival material in the forefront of its thinking. I will certainly look into the matter. There is certainly no intention on my part to usurp the archival function. I would suggest that, if anything has been done in relation to seeking this material, it has been done for a genuine purpose. In the final analysis, it seems to me that all that really matters is that the material is stored and preserved, not so much who stores and preserves it. But I agree that the establishment of a central archive has been vested in the Department of Community Development and I will look into this matter.

Private Hospital in Darwin Hospital

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

I understand that negotiations are under way for the lease of an entire floor of Darwin Hospital to a group wishing to establish a private hospital there. Could he indicate to the Assembly what stage these negotiations have reached and which floor is to be transferred, if any?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can advise the honourable member that she has part of the story right. It is probably the wrong part that she is placing greatest weight on. I am happy to advise the Assembly that within the Darwin Hospital management there is a group of 3 or 4 people which has been investigating the possibility oi a privately-operated ward within the Darwin Hospital. There are several reasons for this matter being considered. I will run through them for the benefit of honourable members so that, if there are any aspects that people would like to bring to my attention as time goes on, they can be fed back into the department and considered by the parties who are looking at the program.

There is no doubt that there is a desire within the community for people to have access to private beds within hospitals. Given our present state of development, it is possibly not viable at the moment to have a private hospital anywhere in the Northern Territory because the economics are not there for it to survive. Very definitely, there is a need because the evidence shows that there are many people in the Northern Territory who pay top-of-the-scale medical insurance fees so that they are covered for private hospital accommodation. Given that people pay premiums for this, it is not unreasonable, if it is possible, for us to try to provide private accommodation within the infrastructure that we have. I do not think it is any secret to the honourable member that we have a little excess space at the hospital at the moment.

It is not a new scheme. It is not outrageously adventurous. It is practised in about 5 to 7 major hospitals throughout Australia at the moment. The Queen Elizabeth in Adelaide, I understand, has a private section where people can choose to have private beds and private ward status if they so wish. They pay accordingly for the service. There are other hospitals in other states that do the same thing. About 2 months ago, a team from the Darwin Hospital made an investigatory study of how these private ward facilities operate in major hospitals elsewhere. I have not read the report

in detail but the consensus of the team was very simply that it is possible to have a private ward inside a major institution like the Darwin Hospital. It functions quite satisfactorily in other places and it would be possible to do it here. There are a number of matters that need to be resolved: where in the existing infrastructure would we put it, what sorts of costs would be incurred to create private accommodation, how would it function, how would it relate to the other hospital facilities that operate, what charges would there be for a facility of this nature and would the charges in fact be sufficient to warrant the department in this case providing the private accommodation. Mr Speaker, the team is looking at that fine detail now.

If any honourable member would like to make suggestions or seek information on the proposal, I would be quite happy to make available what I know about it. It is not as though we are re-inventing the wheel. We are trying to provide for the people of the Northern Territory a facility that exists everywhere else in the country and one that obviously ...

Mr B. Collins: Boring, boring.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, I am obviously not boring enough because he is still awake, but I will work on it.

Obviously, people have an expectation for this sort of facility because they pay for it in their medical benefits fund subscriptions. If they are prepared to pay for it, we ought to endeavour to offer it if that is possible.

Isolated Students' Benefits

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is there any reciprocal arrangement between the Northern Territory, South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland - that is, the border states - so that isolated students known as 'border students' can obtain isolated students' benefits regardless of the state or territory in which they choose to receive their education?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, before I could deal with this question in any depth, I would have to do some research on the matter. It seems to me that the matter falls primarily within the Commonwealth's responsibility. That being the case, of course, it does not matter where one resides. There is an entitlement to assistance for isolated children. The parents in fact are entitled to the assistance. The Northern Territory's assistance would relate purely to people within its political and geographic boundaries and would not extend across any border. I have no idea what arrangements the states have for their students but, to the best of my knowledge, there is no reciprocal arrangement other than that already in force pursuant to the Commonwealth's provisions.

Water Bores in Darwin Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the unsatisfactory water situation in many places in the rural area, will he agree to change the system of obtaining an advice bore to include all landholders in the rural area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the short answer is no. I am not prepared to change the existing system which relates purely to pastoral and agricultural properties. The honourable member referred to those people living in the immediate rural area. We have facilities in the Water Division of the department which supply advice to rural landowners regarding their water situation. My department, with that of the Minister for Health, has a caravan situated in that area to provide information to people seeking assistance there. I understand that that caravan will be moved to another location in the next week or so to allow other members of the rural population access to that particular infrastructure for advice.

Bus Passes for People Receiving Benefits

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that, while persons receiving age and invalid pensions, supporting parents' benefits and unemployment benefits are entitled to bus passes in the Darwin area, those receiving sickness and special benefits are not? Would he consider extending the entitlement for bus passes to cover persons receiving sickness and special benefits?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the general question of assistance to pensioners and the aged has been raised on a number of occasions here. I am quite sure that any

honourable member who looked at the budget papers would be well aware of the extent of the Northern Territory taxpayers' commitment to that cause out of Northern Territory revenues. There is a limit to the amount of assistance government can give. There are probably additional recipients of Commonwealth pensions and assistance over and above those mentioned by the honourable member for Fannie Bay who are not in fact receiving assistance under Territory schemes.

Recently, I initiated an examination of the entire range of assistance which is and can be made available to the various recipients of Commonwealth benefits. If we start in an ad hoc way to include people, one at a time, in the list of beneficiaries of Territory subsidies already made available, eventually, because of the quite proper process of pressure - that is, after all, why we are here - we will have to admit all recipients of Commonwealth subsidies to benefits under our own schemes. If honourable members look at the budget papers, I believe the commitment at the moment, in all forms, exceeds $1m for a pensioner population the size of the Northern Territory's. The various options to include the complete range of Commonwealth beneficiaries as being eligible for Territory schemes range between an additional $600 000 and $1.2m. When honourable members make representations of this type, we must at least endeavour to stick to it within reasonably affordable boundaries or, alternatively, start to look at programs which we would have to cut to admit all recipients of Commonwealth benefits. If we did that, we would lose control of that section of the budget entirely because a Commonwealth government of one persuasion or another has it open to it to vary the eligibility criteria for recipients of Commonwealth benefits at will. If we had a policy that would pick them all up automatically, we would lose control of our own budget as a result of the Commonwealth varying its budget. I do not think anyone would want to see that sort of irresponsible management.

Purchase of Housing Commission Homes in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Have the Housing Commission and Nabalco yet reached an agreement which would allow the sale of Housing Commission homes to interested tenants in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

In relation to the negotiations between Nabalco and the Northern Territory government in so far as subleasing land at Nabalco is concerned to enable persons to purchase their own houses, we believe that Nabalco is considering the final document at this time in Sydney. We hope to hear from the company any day now. It is holding a meeting in Sydney to consider this document which we hope will eliminate all areas of disagreement between the 2 parties and enable people at Nhulunbuy to purchase their own homes.

School of Health Research

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

It was reported in the NT News some time ago that part of the old Darwin Hospital facilities would be used to establish a school of health research. Was that report correct and, if so, what form of tenure will the school of health have over those facilities?

ANSWER

I have not seen the report to which the honourable member refers. However, I point out, and I have said this in the Assembly before, the Department of Health no longer has any jurisdiction over the buildings and facilities on the original Darwin Hospital site. They were transferred to my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works, some months ago. I am able to say that the department is very supportive of the higher learning program that could be established in conjunction with the new university of the Northern Territory. I understand that discussions have taken place between medical and administrative personnel of the department and the Planning Vice-Chancellor of the university. I have no further information on what progress has been made. Certainly, there would have to be room for research in that area because we have so many health considerations in the Northern Territory that are unique in Australia. I will endeavour to obtain some details for the honourable member in relation to the premises, the costs and the areas of activity that we would be involved in if such a program proceeded.

Darwin Community College Students

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question concerns the Darwin Community College where third-year students in the 4-year certificate course for medical laboratory technicians have just been advised that the course has been cancelled. Would he indicate what procedures are under way to allow them to finish their final year and gain the certificates?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have been expecting this question. It is necessary to look at the history of the course. It was originally conceived between the then Commonwealth Department of Health and the Darwin Community College in late 1966. That is confirmed by a letter from Dr Shaw of 19 April 1977. I have looked right back through the documentation on this matter and it seems that the Darwin Community College has done all in its power to maintain the course and its viability. With the passage of time, the requirements of the medical profession and the para-medical profession areas naturally change. The medical laboratory technicians certificate, as it was then known, is no longer necessarily appropriate to modern training requirements at the Darwin Hospital. Nonetheless, it is not a matter of the students having been informed just recently. I am informed that counselling of these students has been going on for quite some time. The majority of them have taken electives in similar disciplines. The Darwin Hospital, under the present government's administration, will continue to honour its agreement with the college. The 3 students who wish to continue the certificate course will be able to do so. The arrangement was that the college would be the facilitator of the course and the Darwin Hospital would provide the lecturers. We are all aware of the difficulties imposed by a transient population although this is now steadying. Nonetheless, the part-time lecturer in the very important area of what is called histo-pathology left this year and this led to the deletion of units 1 and 2 this year from the college. The college has done everything it can to recruit another lecturer. Another lecturer simply is not available. Therefore, the Darwin Hospital has done the right thing. Those 3 students will be continuing the course. The balance will be continuing electives selected by them as a result of counselling.

There is one other person who is not employed by the Darwin Hospital and

is unlikely to be so employed. That person has been told that, if he wishes to continue with the course on a part-time basis, then the facilities of the Darwin Hospital and the college will be made available. That does not mean to say that, at the end of the line, there will be employment for that student in the Darwin Hospital system. It is not as bad as the honourable member for Nightcliff originally thought. Let us face it, requirements change. We cannot continue a course indefinitely if it is no longer appropriate to the needs of the employing institution.

Mr Speaker, I think the hospital and the college have acted in good faith at all times in this matter. It is just unfortunate that students get caught up in these difficulties. We try to avoid them. I am sure the hospital tries and I am sure the college tries. Nonetheless, situations like this will occur from time to time. Institutions such as the college and the hospital, or any other employing or teaching agency, must minimise the effects of changing technology and changing course requirements as far as possible.

Social Workers at Darwin Hospital

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it the intention of the Department of Health to reduce the number of social workers working in Darwin Hospital and, if not, what is being done to fill the 4 positions that have remained vacant for several months?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no knowledge at all of any proposition to reduce the number of social workers in the hospital. I will endeavour to get information requested in the second part of her question.

Gunn Point Prison Farm Horticultural Produce

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he assure me that Gunn Point Prison Farm will receive help and assistance from the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority in the coming year to market its horticultural, and any other produce where necessary, whilst realising that the interest of private growers has to be watched but also having regard to the interest of wholesalers supplying the general market?

ANSWER

I can give that assurance. Arrangements have been made with the Department of Community Development in respect of produce from Gunn Point Prison Farm. We do not want it to be in competition with the local growers. We would provide assistance to market that produce interstate.

Concessions on Electricity Connection in Rural Areas

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Will the government consider the spreading of fees relating to the connection of electricity to rural areas so as to minimise the financial burden that will arise if total payment is required at the time of installation and will the government consider any concessions to producers involved in important horticultural production that might promote a more rapid development of that particular industry?

ANSWER

The first part of the honourable member's question relates to current requirements by the Northern Territory Electricity Commission that any cost in excess of $2000 for connection of electricity to a rural block is paid by the applicant at the time of connection. We need to consider NTEC's point of view that it is an authority which is required to operate as efficiently as it can. It already provides this direct subsidy of $2000 per block for connections. Some connections to small farms, as distinct from rural residential areas, really amount to very substantial sums. I recall applications for electricity connections which would probably cost in the vicinity of $30 000 to $40 000 each. Of course, NTEC's subsidy towards that figure is only $2000 leaving a very substantial sum to be picked up by the applicant if he wishes electricity to be connected.

It has been put to me that perhaps NTEC could collect the balance over a period and thereby extend what would be a loan to applicants. Unfortunately, the reticulation of electricity throughout the Northern Territory is undertaken by NTEC with loan funds that are raised by the Northern Territory government, on its behalf, at interest rates of some 16% to 17%. NTEC advanced the argument that an applicant could obtain a loan himself at similar interest rates or better rather than have NTEC extend credit to him at the 16% or 17% rate. As far as NTEC is concerned, there is not really very much room for movement.

If, to promote agriculture, a policy decision is taken that subsidies should be provided for these facilities, that will be handled by another department and not NTEC. Such matters should be referred to my colleague, the honourable Minister for Primary Production, whose department funds various forms of assistance to the farming sector of the Northern Territory.

The honourable member also asked whether different electricity rates could be struck for the rural sector so that agricultural activities, such as irrigation, could be charged at a lower rate. From NTEC's point of view the problem is that it is charged with the responsibility to raise as much income as it reasonably can to try to supplement the very substantial subsidies which are applied to it. As all honourable members know, at the present time some 50% of all electricity supplied by NTEC is paid for by the Australian taxpayer. It is therefore very difficult to make concessions to one area only of the consuming public. NTEC argues that, if there are to be concessional electricity rates - be it for farm production, pensioners or whatever - then government should address that through the relative department and make a conscious decision to provide additional subsidies over and above those provided to generate electricity in the Northern Territory at the present time.

To answer the questions of the honourable Leader of the Opposition, NTEC must keep its accounting systems as straight as it can and be seen to be operating as fairly as possible right across the board. Any contemplation of subsidies should be addressed through channels relating to the industries concerned.

School Visits by Community Health Sisters

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why has the Department of Health stopped daily visits by community health sisters to the Rapid Creek School?

ANSWER

The honourable member asked me that question yesterday and I undertook to get the information for him. As soon as it is in my hands, I will convey it to him.

Coastal Plains Research Station Staffing Levels

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he assure me that staffing levels at the Coastal Plains Research Station are adequate considering the work that is done there and the programs already in motion?

ANSWER

There are 6 staff at the Coastal Plains Research Station and another 3 at Beatrice Hill. It could be said that there is insufficient staff for the amount of work that must be done. Both establishments are very important research centres for the government. The development of the buffalo program is centred at Beatrice Hill and a wide range of activities is being undertaken at the Coastal Plains Research Station. Mr Speaker, we would like to increase the staff but we must consider other policies and other programs that we are pursuing. For the time being, there will be no increase of personnel at those establishments.

Redeployment of Grumman Trackers for North Australia

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

The defence committee examining the future of fixed-wing naval aircraft concluded its deliberations and presented its report on 11 November, which is fitting, because it is Remembrance Day. Can he advise the Assembly if he has received any advice from the Minister for Defence as to the likelihood of redeployment of Navy Grumman Trackers in the north Australian area?

ANSWER

The question sounds like something from 'Those Wonderful Men in their Flying Machines'. However, I have not received any word on the deliberations of the committee on naval fixed-wing aircraft. In fact, I think it likely that the time of that committee is fast drawing near because the word around the traps seems to be that very shortly there will be no further speculation about an aircraft carrier for the navy. I assume that, if it does not have an aircraft carrier, it will not need fixed-wing aircraft.

In any event, the Minister for Defence has not yet chosen to confide in me the results of the deliberations of this committee. As the honourable member for Nightcliff advised us that it reported to the minister only on 11 November and today is 17 November, I do not consider that the Minister for Defence, with his many other responsibilities, including the possible establishment of a major airforce base at Tindal near Katherine, has been derelict in his duty in not yet sending a copy of that report for my perusal. I am mindful that Grumman Trackers could make a contribution to surveillance in the Northern Territory but I would draw also to the attention of the honourable member for Nightcliff the fact that, if the Grumman Trackers are placed here, it will undoubtedly lead to the displacement of other people who are presently engaged in that surveillance work. That is an aspect that

should be borne in mind because a considerable number of pilots have been recruited to man and run the existing surveillance facilities. If the Grumman Trackers were to be based here to augment those facilities I would be happy but, I would not like to press for them to be based here to replace the existing facilities. I would like some clarification from the honourable member for Nightcliff as to what she is about. Perhaps she could refer to that in the adjournment debate this afternoon. I have always been quite favourably disposed, and have pressed the minister, to base the Grummans here but on the basis that they did not supplant the existing civilian pilots and operations which provide a reasonable level of surveillance within the constraints that are placed on them.

Employment Hot Line

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of proposals to establish an employment hot line as mentioned on the front page of the NT News yesterday? Does the government support such a move?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am delighted with the move of the NT News to establish an employers' hot line. I would like to read to you and other honourable members details of the service that the NT News proposes to provide free of charge. I think it is an important community service and the derisive noises emanating from the corner by the honourable member for Nightcliff and other members opposite show that they apparently do not regard the question of unemployment very seriously because here is a positive move being made by the local paper as a community service. I have criticised the paper frequently but here is something positive. I will just read this if I may:

> *The NT News will offer employers a free hot line classified advertising service as from tomorrow. The number to telephone is 816589. Employers with jobs to suit Territory school leavers should phone this special number. The job descriptions will be taken down and double column display classified advertisements printed free of charge. In Alice Springs, the Centralian Advocate will offer the same service.*

Mr Speaker, I hope that we can extend the same service to other Territory centres even if on a limited basis. I would certainly like to ask you, Sir, to suggest to the Editor of the Katherine Advertiser that he provide a similar service. Perhaps you would be happy to make telephone facilities in your electorate office available to help run the service. I am sure my colleague, the Minister for Health, would be happy to do the same with the Tennant Times and I hope that the honourable member for Nhulunbuy and the Gove Gazette could put their heads together. I think this is very worth while. I am pleased to see it and I know that it will be of service to employers and to school leavers alike.

Timber Creek School

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I asked this question at an earlier sittings. Has he yet made a firm decision on the location of the school at Timber Creek, whether it is to be at Bulla Camp on Auvergne Station or Timber Creek township itself?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the difficulty I indicated at that time still applies: the lack of stability in the population in both of those centres. Indeed, this problem haunts us more than any other in the delivery of school-type education facilities to remote communities, Aboriginal communities in particular. There is such a high level of mobility among the children that it is almost impossible to set up a permanent school in many of these areas. Mr Speaker, the position has not altered since that time. There is insufficient evidence available to me to justify the establishment of a permanent school. When I have sufficient evidence of stability of population and student numbers then, of course,in the normal course of events, a school will be provided in one or other of the centres.

Former Health Department Stores in Fannie Bay

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has a decision been reached as to the future use of those government buildings in Fannie Bay formerly used as Health Department stores?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Cabinet has given approval to make the facilities known as the Parap health stores available to sporting organisations. The property is actually in 2 sections. At the front is the administration section and the rear section is the old warehouse area which is quite a large facility that will provide a home for the Northern Territory Gymnastics Association and the Northern Territory Badminton Association. A smaller facility will be made available to the Darwin Sub Aqua Club. These organisations have been approached by the government with a proposal that they take over these facilities, purely for recreational services, on a 3-year basis so that, at some later stage we can evaluate the decision that we have taken now.

The important thing is that the facilities will be made available to these sporting organisations. Last year, in the 1981-82 budget, the Northern Territory government made some $1.1m available to sporting and youth organisations for facilities. Construction of the Marrara Indoor Sports Stadium will start next week. I shall officiate at a turf-turning ceremony on Friday of this week which will allow construction to commence. That complex will cost $3m, Mr Speaker. Recently the Northern Territory government announced that stage 2 of the Marrara Indoor Sports Stadium will commence. That is a basketball stadium. That involves $4m this year. I estimate the value of the health store to be in the area of $0.5m, so that $4.5m will be going to sport. This is contrary to a particular statement made by the shadow spokesman for sport in a recent newsletter that he circulated in the community that there was to be a downturn in funding to sporting organisations in the 1982-83 financial year. Once again, I believe he has communicated concern to the community because he is not up with the facts. He is always moving around advising sporting organisations that there will be less funds this financial year than last year.

Taking all those things into consideration, Mr Speaker, I believe that the Northern Territory government is moving in the right direction because, in this financial year alone, 1982-83, in excess of $4.5m will go to sporting facilities. I believe that the sporting community really appreciates it. In fact, the response that I have had from the organisations to which this allocation has been made at Fannie Bay was overwhelming. They are delighted

and look forward to being able to move into the premises in a couple of weeks' time when we have finalised the details of the lease arrangements.

Social Workers at Darwin Hospital

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

This relates to my previous question concerning social workers at Darwin Hospital. In view of the vacant positions that currently exist for social workers at Darwin Hospital, what are the reasons for transferring social workers from Darwin Hospital to the Health Department secretariat?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think that is a question that should be reasonably directed to the Secretary of the department. I will obtain a reply from him for the honourable member.

Land Acquisition for Railway

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

A corridor of land will be required for the railway that will pass through the Northern Territory. Knowing that this proposed corridor will pass over freehold land in several places, who will acquire the land, the Northern Territory government or the Commonwealth government?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the agreement which exists between the Northern Territory government and the Commonwealth government in relation to the corridor from Alice Springs to Darwin, to the best of my recollection, requires that the Northern Territory government as its part in support of this act of national faith will indeed provide the corridor for the project. This will mean that the Northern Territory government will acquire the area of land required to enable the corridor to be settled. I hope to be in a position fairly shortly to announce at least the actual properties. We have held up a number of subdivisional applications until such time as the corridor is quite clear. Hopefully, we will have information for the public on that subject soon. Honourable members will be well aware that the corridor may, in fact, cross Aboriginal inalienable freehold and the Northern Territory government has no power whatsoever to acquire such land. That land will have to be acquired by the Commonwealth as it is the only instrumentality in this country that has the power.

BTB Eradication Strategy

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has the northern Australia sub-group of the national BTB planning group completed the preparation of its strategy for the eradication of both brucellosis and tuberculosis in northern Australia? If they have completed it, will the minister make the document available?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the group has just about finalised its deliberations and is trying to get some early information for the industry. We have communicated

with the federal minister and asked him to convene a special meeting of the Australian Agricultural Council towards the middle of December so that some of the items that have been put forward as firm proposals by the industry and the Western Australian, Queensland and Northern Territory governments can be recognised by the Commonwealth in the budget process. Whether or not it will do that remains to be seen. I have had no advice from the Commonwealth in respect of its intentions. The report that the honourable Leader of the Opposition talks about can be made available at a later time. It is not available at present.

Film Libraries

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the government decided whether it will amalgamate the public film library and the Department of Education film library?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was not even aware the matter was under consideration. It may have some merit and I will take it up.

Hardship caused by Housing Act

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The Housing Act passed at the last sittings will cause some hardship to Territorians who entered into various home loan schemes before that act was passed. Is he investigating this matter further and, if so, at what stage are his investigations?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the new Housing Act passed by this Assembly at the previous sittings cannot be brought into operation until such time as regulations have been prepared. A number of submissions made to me by various parties who are concerned that regulations are being drafted to require people in certain classifications - particularly public servants who resigned from the public service - to go on to an escalating interest rate basis, have been taken into consideration. We have sought details of their income and mortgage levels with a view to ensuring that the regulations will not cause undue hardship. Certainly, it will cause those persons to pay more money than they would have had they not left the public service. However, the matter is somewhat complex and I propose, during the course of these sittings, to make a ministerial statement on the subject to give honourable members information to relay to their constituents whilst we are waiting for regulations to be prepared and promulgated.

Joint State Commonwealth Meat Inspection Service

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What is the current state of negotiation between the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments with regard to the establishment of a joint state Commonwealth meat inspection service?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory has been in the forefront in Commonwealth state discussions on the proposal for a joint state Commonwealth meat inspection service and riding instructions have just been given to the Chief Inspector of Stock for the Northern Territory to talk to the Canberra officials about a final proposal which would embody the requirements of both the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory. We have proposed a service to be run by the Northern Territory with the Commonwealth providing an official as the number 2 in the service. We would provide an agency arrangement ex officio under the Commonwealth powers. Certainly, we are ready to go. The Commonwealth is not quite in a position to adopt our proposal just at this time.

Tour of Aboriginal Health Facilities by Journalists

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What was the cost of the intensive tour of Aboriginal health facilities in the Northern Territory recently organised by the Department of Health for a considerable number of journalists from southern states?

ANSWER

If the honourable member can contain her impatience for a few more hours, this afternoon I will inform her and her colleague, the mental giant on the backbench ...

Mr SPEAKER: Order, the honourable member will withdraw that remark!

Mr TUXWORTH: I withdraw that remark, Mr Speaker, about the honourable member. I was being very careless with the truth, Mr Speaker. I will canvass all the points raised by the honourable member and the opposition spokesman on health in the adjournment debate this afternoon. I am sure they will find that interesting.

Committee Examining Safety of School Crossings

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the committee he established to examine the safety of school crossings finished its deliberations and presented a report and, if so, would he make that report available to honourable members?

ANSWER

I thought that the honourable member for Nightcliff would remember that she asked me that question at the last sittings or the sittings before. I called for a report from this committee late last week. I have not, to the best of my knowledge, received that report and I will certainly produce it for honourable members' information as soon as it is to hand.

Truancy in Alice Springs Schools

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has he any plans to combat the high truancy rate in the Alice Springs area?

ANSWER

I have no specific plans to combat it other than those that I outlined in the second-reading speech of the Education Amendment Bill which is before us and which was designed to establish school councils. Obviously, the answer to that problem depends on closer cooperation between parents and the school system. That is what the legislation seeks to effect. As the matter will probably be debated later today, there is no need for me to add further to it now. However, I have had discussions with a number of principals in Alice Springs, a primary school principal in particular. The problem - which must obviously worry the honourable member for Alice Springs - is very serious indeed. The general standard of schools' performances must be affected by such things as truancy. I am among the first to accept that. Nonetheless, the answer lies in close cooperation between parents, teachers and the education system. That is what we are seeking through the legislation which is before us.

Export Licence for the Tennant Creek Abattoir

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has he received any advice as to the status of an export licence for the Tennant Creek abattoir for the 1983 killing season?

ANSWER

The short answer is no.

Advertisements in United States to sell Pastoral Land

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What investigations has the government made into recent misleading advertisements in the United States about pastoral land available for sale in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The Department of Lands has not made any investigations in regard to the allegations that appeared in the press. Perhaps the honourable member could refer the question to the Attorney-General. I have not consulted with him but he may have taken some action.

Mr SMITH to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, I refer my question to the Attorney-General.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I did not take any action, I must confess, because I did not see what action I could take. The advertisements apparently appeared, if they appeared at all, in the United States of America. My jurisdiction does not extend there. It is very difficult to imagine what course of action one might have taken had one tracked down the newspapers in which the advertisements appeared. If they appeared, and if one wanted to rectify the position one would have had to bear the cost of inserting other advertisements more or less setting out the correct position. That could have been considerable. I am afraid that I did nothing in the hope that people who

saw this advertisement, if in fact the advertisement appeared, would be cautious and careful people and would try to check out for themselves the veracity of any statements made in the advertisement.

Medical Engineering Services Contract with Department of Health

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the Department of Health negotiating currently with a former departmental employee to have medical engineering services currently performed by the medical engineering services branch in Alice Springs carried out on contract? Will this involve the sale or lease of a substantial amount of departmental equipment and machinery to the private sector?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member has asked a question about which notice should have been given. It will require a fair amount of research to answer it in detail. I will endeavour to get the information and send it to her.

Answer to Question

Mr TUXWORTH (Health)(by leave): The honourable member for Millner asked why has the Department of Health stopped daily visits by community health sisters to the Rapid Creek school? Mr Speaker, I regret that I did not have this answer earlier. The honourable member gave me notice yesterday and I am grateful for that. It just was not in my hand at the time he asked this morning. The answer is as follows. Parents have a responsibility for the health of their children and this should not be abrogated to teachers at school who then have to call on community nurses to take the place of doctors, the profession best trained to look after sick children. Parents should be contacted in each instance when a child is ill but, where this is not possible, school staff should have the authority to take whatever action is required and the parents should be advised as soon as possible thereafter. Community health nurses will visit primary schools on a regular basis as a part of the schools' health screening program. They are not there to replace doctors and provide treatment for specific illnesses. I am advised that the practice of a nurse attending to children at school and providing treatment is not in the best interests of the children themselves and that, if a child requires medical attention, a doctor should be consulted. There are sufficient GPs in Darwin to provide the required service and departmental medical officers attend at departmental health centres. In the event of an emergency, the child should be taken to the casualty department of the Darwin Hospital. There is a specified routine for school personnel who take children to hospital from school.

Answer to Question

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister)(by leave): Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Sanderson asked me about changing the status of crocodylus porosus from one appendix to another of the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species agreement and I am able to answer her question more fully this morning. Appendix changes can only be made at a full CITES meeting and these are held biennially. The next such meeting will be in May 1983 at Botswana or possibly Geneva. Now there is a contrast, Mr Speaker. In conformity with CITES regulations, an application for a change of appendix rating was made to the secretariat in May 1982. Australia is party to the convention and such applications are forwarded through the Department of Home

Affairs and Environment, although the case was compiled largely by a working party of CONCOM which is the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers of which I am chairman at the moment. This council endorsed the application. The application was referred to the crocodile specialist group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and discussed at its meetings in Africa in September. Those are the meetings I mentioned yesterday that Dr G.A. Letts attended on our behalf. Some progress was made in putting forward the CONCOM viewpoint, although it was clear that some countries have reservations and consider the application a little premature. According to Dr Letts, this is conservation politics at an international level and we have a tough battle ahead. It is expected that Dr Letts will be invited to be a member of the Australian delegation. Supplementary information is now being prepared in support of our earlier application. Dr Letts' assessment is that, if we do not succeed in 1983, we have excellent prospects of success at the following meeting in 1985. Crocodylus johnstonii, for the information of honourable members, remains on appendix 2.

Meat Industry Bill

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

When does he intend to introduce into the Assembly the Meat Industry Bill?

ANSWER

I am hoping that the bill and the second-reading speech will be available today. If the contents are satisfactory, we should be in a position to introduce the legislation next week.

Construction Work at Heavitree Gap

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise the Assembly of complete details pertaining to the construction work presently under way at Heavitree Gap in central Australia?

ANSWER

A contract worth $486 740 was let to Dissen Constructions on 8 October 1982 to upgrade the Stuart Highway at Heavitree Gap in Alice Springs. This work is part of the national highway program. The work at Heavitree Gap consists of raising the level of the highway by up to 1.5 m to provide immunity from the 1 in 20 years flood. In addition, the road will be widened and a footpath-cum-cycle way will be provided. In conjunction with this work, a large trunk water main will be installed.

King's Canyon National Park

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

At what stage are negotiations with the lessees of Tempe Downs Station on the acquisition of portions of that particular lease for the purpose of creating a national park in the area of King's Canyon?

ANSWER

The protracted negotiations with the lessees of Tempe Downs to obtain the very valuable tourist and recreation area at King's Canyon on that pastoral lease have broken down. Action is being taken by the government in the interests of Northern Territory people to acquire the land concerned from the pastoral lessees because of its very distinct importance to the Territory. Indeed, the area is thought to be amongst the top 4 national park areas in the Northern Territory. Because of its importance to tourists and conservationists, we felt that it was simply not good enough to let go altogether simply because we could not obtain agreement from the lessees to purchase that section of the property by negotiation. Unfortunately, acquisition measures are being taken now.

Safety of Pedestrians at Casuarina Shopping Centre

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What steps are being taken to ensure the safety of pedestrians at Casuarina Shopping Centre and the retail premises in that vicinity?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Sanderson raised this question in the adjournment debate yesterday afternoon. I had the department prepare a brief regarding action proposed in that area. Representations have been made by the Department of Health to the Darwin City Council concerning crossing facilities for pedestrians near the intersection. Signalisation, including pedestrian facilities at the intersection, has been advanced. Work is expected to be commenced in early 1983 and to be completed by July or August. In the interim, the Darwin City Council is being approached for assistance to provide a temporary pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of its section of Trower Road. This will be removed when there is permanent installation of traffic signals.

I agree with the member for Sanderson that a great deal of development is taking place in that particular area. The opening of Casuarina Plaza has exacerbated the problem because people are moving between the Casuarina centre and the plaza. With the Department of Health taking office space and other administrative areas in Casuarina Plaza, the traffic has definitely increased. Taking this into consideration, I asked my department to make some investigations. It said that it would install this crossing as soon as possible.

Herbicide Subsidy Scheme

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he assure me that all areas controlled by the government will be maintained free of noxious weeks as an added incentive to people to participate in a newly launched herbicide subsidy scheme?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government is responsible for many land areas, including road reserves and government properties such as the Department of Primary Production research farms. Within its financial and manpower limitations, the government has attempted to contain infestations of noxious weeds and minimise their rate of spread to new areas. There has been a very rapid spread of some noxious weed species, for example, noogoora burr, and a costly major campaign would be required to eradicate such outbreaks if, indeed, eradication is considered feasible. The government has sought to increase vigilance and activity against noxious weeds on all land. The Department of Primary Production aims to control noxious weeds on its research farms. In some cases, initial control by herbicides is feasible. However, in other areas, longer-term control may well be secured only through biological control agents. The government recently introduced a herbicide subsidy scheme to encourage property owners to control weed infestations on their land. It is obvious that the government must make every effort to prevent reinfestation from weed areas under its control. Mr Speaker, the department is reviewing its total legislation on weeds and its programs. It is our wish to conduct a public seminar so that new legislation can be brought before this Assembly in the first sittings in 1983.

Traffic Corridor for Brinkin Residents

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has a study been done relating to a traffic corridor for the residents of Brinkin and, if so, what are the results of that study? If not, what options

is Cabinet considering to get Brinkin residents to and from their homes at peak hour?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Nightcliff asked that question several sittings ago. At that time, I said that Cabinet was not considering a causeway across Rapid Creek to relieve the traffic that may be generated from Brinkin. Cabinet still has not taken any action and, in fact, the matter has not been discussed since the honourable member asked the question last. A traffic study is being carried out by the department to establish what traffic uses Trower Road and Lakeside Drive. Results of that study are not yet available to me. As soon as they are, I will pass them to the honourable member for Nightcliff. At this stage, Cabinet has no plans for a causeway in the Rapid Creek area.

Tempe Downs Lease

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the answer to a previous question. What is the anticipated time-scale for the acquisition measures he referred to in his answer in relation to the Tempe Downs lease?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I cannot give a specific timetable. I have signed the necessary documents to initiate such an acquisition. There is a statutory series of procedures to be undertaken in accordance with the Lands Acquisition Act, notices to be served and then, depending upon the response to those notices, possibly a pre-acquisition hearing and then an acquisition hearing and so on. I refer the honourable member to the Lands Acquisition Act for specific details. I understand that it could take some months.

Disposal of Poisonous Substances

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

A service club in Darwin, with the cooperation of certain government departments, is to conduct a pick-up of poisonous substances in the Darwin area. Does he have any information on the methods by which it is proposed to dispose of these substances once collected?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, my short answer is no, but I assure her that, if there is any way that the department can cooperate with service clubs in such a project, we will be only too willing to do it. If she would like to give me the name of the clubs at a later time, I will ask the department to contact them and see that everything is done in a formal manner.

Prison Farm for Southern Region

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What progress has been made regarding the proposed prison farm for the southern region?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I dare say this is a question that the honourable member for MacDonnell would have asked had he had the opportunity. In answering this question I might make some observations about the comments of the honourable member, if the Assembly will permit me. Mr Speaker, the position is that negotiations are proceeding successfully with the holders of a pastoral lease for the excision of an area of land from that pastoral lease for the purpose of establishing a prison farm. Quite obviously, and as the honourable member for MacDonnell was well aware, it is necessary not only for the excision to take place by negotiation but also, of course, to find suitable water. We have so far sunk 2 successful bores. While the quality of water from some samples from these may be marginal, we believe that it can be treated at a reasonable cost.

The honourable member to whom I referred earlier mentioned the lack of relevant appropriations in the budget which this Assembly has recently considered. That demonstrates the total lack of understanding of the opposition in respect to monetary management. What an absurd proposition it would be to tie up in a budget a sum of $600 000 to $1m for the purpose of establishing a prison farm at a time when the government was in no position to know whether or not that prison farm could proceed. I noticed the rather remarkable anxiety displayed by the honourable member for MacDonnell to excise land from a pastoral lease. I have yet to hear him suggest that it would be proper to excise land from Aboriginal land for the same purpose. It seems, Sir, that pastoralists ought to expect to have land taken from them compulsorily yet a Labor government would not support the prospect of public purpose lands being acquired, where needed, from Aboriginal land.

Mr Speaker, it is envisaged that the prison will hold between 40 and 60 medium-security prisoners. A staff of some 20 prison officers will be necessary initially. To give honourable members and the public some concept of the enormous expense of operating the prison system in the Northern Territory, it would be true to say that we could block-book an international hotel such as the Travelodge, put every prisoner in the Northern Territory in it, and then send the taxpayer quite a good refund cheque. The expenses are enormous in a prison farm where 1 prison officer is needed for every 2 prisoners just to run a reasonable program. Obviously, the government must be certain that a proper result will flow from this sort of expenditure. We believe it will.

This government announced its intention to establish a prison farm in the southern region. In fact, it will be a combination of a prison farm and a normal correctional institution. I would envisage it as a place that people would be somewhat discouraged from ever visiting again and I do not mean that in the sense of any form of cruelty being used. Nonetheless, it will be a place where work will be the essence. Let me make that point quite clear. 'Hard labour' will mean just that. It is hoped that the prison farm will be operational by the end of this financial year subject to the necessary investigations which I have already outlined. The Cabinet subcommittee on establishments has endorsed the necessary number of prison officers who will be required to run the institution. I can assure the Assembly that, when the problems I have outlined are overcome, necessary funds will be made available.

Alice Springs Prison Farm

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question refers to his answer to the previous question. Had these

bores been sunk before the excision had been finally negotiated?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, once again what an extraordinary demonstration of total lack of understanding of reasonable use of taxpayers' money. What an idiotic thing it would be to excise hundreds of hectares of land from a pastoral lease and go through all the legal procedures necessary to do that, on a blind speculation that there might happen to be water there. Is the honourable member suggesting that we wander around the Northern Territory, excise 15 or 20 areas of pastoral land in the southern area, go through all the procedures with the Registrar-General, do all the planning and then think about getting our pick and shovel out and digging for water? The question contains the most preposterous proposition I have heard in this Assembly since the honourable member opened his mouth last night.

Aerial Medical Service

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he advise the proposed fate of the Nomad aircraft presently being used by the Aerial Medical Service?

ANSWER

The saga of the Nomad aircraft has been with us for a long time. In view of the Auditor-General's report and a news item last night, I do not think it is unreasonable that the matter be canvassed again because it really is a difficult problem for the Northern Territory. For the benefit of members, the Nomad aircraft were phased into the Northern Territory in the 1976-78 period. In fact, they were to replace the Doves that had been operating with the Northern Territory Aerial Medical Service. The government of the day took a decision to use an aircraft which was not recommended by people in the Northern Territory or by advisers in Canberra representing our interests. It was a political decision which governments are entitled to take that we would have these aircraft and not only would we have these aircraft but we would have 6 of them; and God protect us from our friends.

The difficulties that arose with the aircraft were many and varied and were compounded by the fact that it was a brand-new unproven aircraft being used in a very remote part of Australia without the normal maintenance facilities that one would expect to have to support a new aircraft in an operational phase with less than 12 000 hours experience. Even though the Department of Health in Canberra took the matter back to Cabinet twice to try and have it reversed, having been presented with a fait accompli, the department's job was to try to make the Nomads work. In fairness to TAA and Ansett, which have both been responsible for maintaining the aircraft, and the officers of the department who have put in a lot of effort, the exercise has been an extremely difficult one.

The aircraft cost in the order of $360 000 to $600 000 each. That was the first and the last price for them as they were delivered to the Northern Territory. The 6 aircraft would have had a value in the order of $2.5m to $3m at the factory gates at the time that they were delivered. That is quite an investment, Mr Speaker. Our experience showed that the operating costs for the aircraft, not taking into account capital, was $400 an hour. For $400 an hour, you can go to the airport and hire about the flashiest aeroplane there. For $400 an hour, we have had a plane that has spent most of its time on the

ground or on blocks in an unserviceable condition. As well, it flew at about 120 miles an hour at less than 9000 feet and with operating performance that was less than satisfactory for the very high temperatures in which it had to function. In essence, the operational problems in central Australia were so difficult that, in 1980 when the department was handed over to the Northern Territory, after discussions with Dr Gurd and other personnel, I asked that the 2 aircraft in Alice Springs be returned to Darwin. You can fly these planes anywhere you like but you cannot take them more than 50 miles from a maintenance depot. Because of the maintenance problems we have had in the Centre and the difficulties of operating the aircraft in very high temperatures, the 2 Alice Springs aircraft were returned to Darwin. I subsequently asked the Royal Flying Doctor Service to step in and fill the gap and it has been doing that job for us for 2 or 3 years now. It is working fairly well. From time to time the Royal Flying Doctor Service thinks it should get more money than it is getting. Nevertheless, the service it provides is a very good one and I would hope in the course of time that its activities in the Territory would spread.

Mr Speaker, we plugged along pretty well whilst operating 4 aircraft out of Darwin and 2 out of Nhulunbuy. However, during the times the aircraft were on the ground, we were not able to provide a service. The planes were not always available when the staff were ready to go. The number of hours we were getting out of each engine and the very simple faults that were developing with the planes were a bone of contention for the maintenance people, for the pilots, for our staff and for the people we were trying to service in the remote areas.

In April last year, a series of events caused some concern and, in fact, caused a representation from the Nurses Federation to be made to myself about the performance of the planes. We had 3 incidents in a period of several days which concerned me so much that I asked the Regional Director of East Arnhem to give me a brief on the problems we have had with the planes up until 6 months ago when Ansett took over the operation of the planes at Gove.

I would like honourable members to listen because it is not an easy problem. I am not reflecting in any way on TAA or Ansett. On 13 April 1981, DHU shed part of the right main undercarriage wheel rim. Take off was aborted and the flight changed to DHQ. The wheel rim was found on Groote Eylandt. Delays on that day resulted in the pilot being forced to have 14 April 1981 off. On 22 April 1981, DHQ took off at 8 am but returned due to problems with the generator. It took off at 9.58 am but the wheels and undercarriage were not retracting. It returned to do test landing and hoping to break the circuit. It was unsuccessful and took off again. It repeated the circuit then landed at 10.07 am - flight cancelled. Upset and emotional patients were returned to hospital to be readmitted.

On 24 April 1981, DHQ was sent to Darwin for mechanical checks. It returned on 27 April 1981. On 28 April, DHP's engine overheated. The changeover to DHP flights was a day late due to unexpected changeover of aircraft. On 5 May 1981, DHU's undercarriage would not retract after leaving Milingimbi. Work was carried out on remainder of sections. It was replaced with DHP on return to Gove. On 5 May 1981, DHP starboard engine overheated on Lake Evella trip. Power to this engine was reduced. On 13 May 1981 DHU was grounded at Numbulwar due to raised oil pressure. Staff had to be collected in DHF which upset routine flights for the day. On 14 May 1981, GFC was chartered to take pilot, engineer and spare parts to repair DHU. It was paid for by NTAW. On 18 May 1981, MAF was chartered for an unlicensed airstrip medical evacuation - stretcher case; cost $51. The Nomad was not

available due to routine flight. On 22 May 1981, MAF was chartered for an unlicensed station. On 25 May 1981, DHU went on a Gove-Darwin leg mercy flight, resulting in pilot out of hours. On 26 May 1981, routine rostered flights were cancelled due to DHU being in Darwin. DHF was unserviceable due to loose engine mounting and faulty navigational equipment. It was serviceable after 1400 hours. However, the chief pilot was off due to being out of hours. On 27 May 1981, DHF went on a Gove to Darwin emergency evacuation. On 27 May 1981, an executive air charter Gove-Numbulwar-Groote-Gove cost $427 due to DHF being in Darwin. DHP was unserviceable in Gove - metal chips found in the oil - and was out of action from 1150 hours.

Mr Speaker, this page goes on and finishes with a story about a plane that had to come back following the coast because one engine shut down 50 miles out of Gove. That is about 3 or 4 months in the saga of the operation of running Nomads in the Northern Territory.

The dilemma is with us. It is being worked on feverishly by ourselves, NTAW and other people in the government who have an interest. I think the fact that the Commonwealth government decided this year to close the government aircraft factory is really a testimony to what I am talking about. We have been handed a lemon. I guess the consoling feature of it all is that we did not pay for the planes other than meeting the cost of trying to maintain them in an experimental period. Our challenge now is to find an alternative system to evacuate patients in the Northern Territory and provide routine medical visits for people. For some 5 months now, officers of the Department of Health and NTAW have been assessing the qualities of a variety of aircraft and the department has been re-assessing its modus operandi for providing services to the Northern Territory's widespread population. At this stage, there are no firm proposals to replace the Nomad aircraft with any type of plane. The studies are proceeding. These are very involved because we have to provide a service to so many varying types of sommunity over such a widespread area.

In closing, I would like to say that the comments by the Auditor-General in his report are noted and understood and are not treated lightly by the department. There are limitations on how we can respond to his comments given the situation that we are in. We do not wish to sign a formal contract for the aircraft. We would like to negotiate an arrangement to have an alternative aircraft replace them. It would be silly for us to go through that process of negotiation at the same time as we are signing a contract for the maintenance of the existing aircraft.

Mr Speaker, I would like also to pay tribute to the staff who have flown in the Nomads for a long time. They have done it very loyally. I received a representation from the Secretary of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation Northern Territory Branch in September this year saying that it was very concerned at the risks to which its members were exposed due to the poor performance of the aircraft. That was one of the factors that instigated the removal of the aircraft from Gove. I would like to assure the Assembly that every effort is being made to rectify the situation. It is a problem that would affect every electorate in the Northern Territory. If honourable members have a particular problem in their electorate with the operation of the Aerial Medical Service I am sorry but we are doing all we can in the circumstances to correct the situation.

Rental Rebate Recipients

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

It would appear that the Housing Commission rent increases are announced at the same time the pension increases are announced. On occasions, this causes some misunderstanding for rental rebate recipients. Is it necessary for Housing Commission rent increases to be announced at the same time as pension increases are announced?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, to some degree, it is. Calculations of rents for pensioners in the Northern Territory for their Housing Commission accommodation is in fact 15% of their income. That is quite a concession and is very heavily subsidised by the taxpayer. Of course that situation does not prevail only in the Northern Territory but also across the country. All states receive their funding under the Commonwealth States Housing Agreement. The Commonwealth has been urging the states to accept uniform policies of rent setting, particularly for those persons in the community who are unable to pay what is being termed these days as an 'economic rent' or 'market rent'. Indeed there are a great many, apart from pensioners, who simply cannot pay a level of rent to the Housing Commission which would even sustain a break-even point on the cost of administration of those houses. Therefore, those people are entitled to rental rebates and the rebates are based on a formula related to income.

The pensioners are in a slightly different situation because their rent is determined as 15% of their income. Clearly, whenever pensions rise, Housing Commission rents for that category rise as well. I point out that the Housing Commission takes only a percentage of the increase. I can understand why pensioners feel a bit aggrieved that they receive advice in the mail or through the press that they have an increase in their pension of a few dollars and, shortly after, they receive a notice saying that their rents have increased. From their point of view, it seems that the government is always grabbing away at the small funds they have. I am not sure of the actual rents but I believe that pensioners are entitled to single-bedroom accommodation from the Housing Commission for about $7 to $12 a week. This is not really a great deal of money when one considers the accommodation that is provided. However, I can understand that some pensioners feel that it is inappropriate that, every time they receive an increase to their pensions, there is an increase in their rent. I assure them that we obtain the best deal we can for them in this regard. The government really does not have a great deal of power to vary the system that we are locked into at the present time.

Workmen's Compensation for Crews of Vessels

Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that persons employed on vessels working out of Northern Territory ports, for example prawning boats, may not be covered under the Northern Territory Workmen's Compensation Act and is consideration being given to a solution to this problem?

ANSWER

I have a vague recollection that this question was raised with me quite some time ago. I am not certain of the position. There could be

jurisdictional problems. If the honourable member would like to write to me on the subject, I will ensure that she gets a detailed response.

Tourist Groups Ltd

Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can he advise why contracts with Tourist Groups Ltd have not yet been signed for leases of both the Katherine and Malanka Lodges?

ANSWER

Earlier this year, the government leased hostels in the Northern Territory to private enterprise groups. In regard to the Tourist Group Ltd's successful bids for Katherine and Alice Springs hostels, they were required to take up occupancy fairly quickly after the tenders closed. The group has managed to pay its rent in advance as required under the terms of the contract. However, the company is having some difficulty in putting together the financial guarantees required by government to complete the necessary requirements formally. Until such time as the financial guarantees can be put together, and I think they are in the order of $260 000 for a performance bond, the government will not enter into a formal lease contract. Certainly, the situation has gone on longer than we had expected and we have been placing increasing pressure on the company to produce the performance bond as required so that a lease can be signed. However, the rent payable for the property is being met by the company so we do not have concern that the government is losing revenue. We will continue to exert pressure. If we are convinced it cannot put the performance bond together, obviously we will have to review the contract.

Diploma Course in Community Health Nursing

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Could he briefly advise whether a diploma course in community health nursing will be offered in 1983?

ANSWER

As a result of cooperation between the Department of Health, the Darwin Community College and the Northern Territory Committee of the College of Nursing Australia, a Diploma of Applied Science course in community health nursing will be offered at the Darwin Community College next year. The course will, at first, be a 1-year full-time course although I hope, at a later stage, it will be possible to open the course on a part-time study basis. The accreditation of the course was approved last week on 11 November and the path is now clear to commence the course in February. This is another first for Territory nurses as it will be the first diploma-level nurse education course ever offered in the Territory. Along with the midwifery nurse education program, which commenced in Darwin and Alice Springs this month, the course is the result of a review of nurse-education needs carried out earlier this year.

Mr Speaker, I believe that arrangements for the diploma course have been carried out with great dispatch and efficiency. Credit for this significant achievement must go to the nurses on the Northern Territory Committee of the College of Nursing who put in a great deal of their own time in developing and

attaining accreditation for their program. I might also add that the committee met all the costs and I, for one, congratulate the nurses for their initiative, dedication and application in seeing the project through to completion.

Dump for Disposal of Hazardous and Noxious Materials

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the current status of a proposal to provide a dump in the Darwin area for the disposal of hazardous and noxious materials?

ANSWER

I do not have the details. I recall reading a briefing note on this matter quite recently and I think the best way to answer the query would be for me to write to the honourable member in due course.

Regulations for Commercial Vehicles

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it his intention to issue an easily understood guide to new safety and loading requirements for commercial vehicles and, if so, when might such a guide be available?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

Motel at Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he give me details of the building of a motel at Jabiru and under what conditions it will be open for business?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Tiwi would be aware that, under the special conditions on which Jabiru was established, there are some problems in relation to the establishment of what one would call normal town facilities there. The restrictions on motel and other tourist development are placed by the Plan of Management of the Kakadu National Park, are the relevant authority. The plan prohibits the development of any facility to accommodate visitors even, apparently, business people and others with legitimate concerns in Jabiru. Despite strong representations to the Australian government by the Territory government, there has been no relaxation of the Commonwealth stand.

Our government is now exploring other options, for the tourist trade in any event, and has commissioned the Territory Development Corporation to undertake a study of possible sites for tourist accommodation facilities required in the Alligator Rivers region. I have suggested to the Prime Minister that a major tourist accommodation development along the lines of the Yulara Tourist Village could be contemplated and I am currently awaiting a response from him. However, in the meantime, to meet the demands arising from permitted visits to Jabiru by persons having business in the town, the

Jabiru Town Development Authority is moving quickly to establish a hostel which will provide superior accommodation to that currently existing in the construction camp. This is a ghastly waste of public funds when a small motel of, say, 20 or 30 units, probably with a restaurant, could be permitted to be built in the town and would afford a useful facility for the townspeople and visitors alike. However, such is the intransigent nature of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service that no such thing will be contemplated.

Medical Reports for Workmen's Compensation Claims

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it true that patients requiring a medical report in the course of making a claim under the Workmen's Compensation Act are asked to pay the Department of Health $100 prior to receiving such report and, if that is true, does he intend to allow the practice to continue? I might just add that some of these patients are in fairly dire financial straits.

Mr SPEAKER: Will honourable members keep their questions as brief and as much to the point as possible.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the department charges for reports sought by legal personnel or insurance companies in relation to workmen's compensation claims. The level of charge for those reports varies. I am not aware of the case mentioned by the honourable member where somebody has been asked to pay $100 prior to receipt of the report but, in any event, I think that, if we are doing that, the account should be sent not to the individual but to the legal firm or the insurance company that sought it. In fact, the honourable member for Nightcliff raised a similar problem with me some time ago and I thought that it had been solved. If it has been solved in Darwin and not at Nhulunbuy, I will take it up with the Secretary of the Department of Health and see what can be done to regularise the matter.

Post-graduate Courses in Northern Territory

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he give details of any post-graduate courses available, or soon to be available, in the Northern Territory?

Mr B. Collins: There are heaps.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition just pointed out that there are heaps. I do not know to what the honourable member refers. One might assume that it is to the proposed school of tropical medicine. Perhaps at another time, we can clarify the particular question which the honourable member wants to ask.

Dismissals and Resignations of Executive Public Servants

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Following my question to the Chief Minister on 13 October about dismissals and resignations of public servants in the executive division, is the report he undertook to compile available?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have received certain information from the Public Service Commissioner. However, I have not yet compiled a report. I might say that I am quite happy to provide all the raw information to the honourable the Leader of the Opposition on a confidential basis. Since everyone's name and pack drill is given in this raw information when preparing a formal report, I will be seeking to give people as much anonymity as possible. I am quite happy to send the material that I hold to the Leader of the Oppsition. If he could have his staff contact mine later during the week, I will mail it off to him.

Sales Tax on Freight Subsidy Scheme

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Has he undertaken a detailed assessment of the economic benefits of the government's sales tax on freight subsidy scheme and, if so, would he make those findings available to this Assembly?

ANSWER

The answer is no. The government has not made any further evaluation of the sales tax on freight rebate scheme. The government scheme proceeds today as it did when it was introduced. Refunds are being made to various commercial enterprises in the Territory on the sales tax component of freight. Implied in the honourable member's question was the fact that there perhaps might not be any economic benefit in this but that would be absolute nonsense. The benefits of any lesser government imposition would flow to the community. In this case, it is a Northern Territory government initiative to rebate to commercial enterprises a Commonwealth tax which, we all agree, is totally inequitable. To draw from that any inference that such rebates would not be of benefit to the community would also destroy any argument people might have that lessening payroll tax, for example, does not benefit the community because it does not go directly into the pockets of employees. Of course, Mr Speaker, that is nonsense. I think every thinking person appreciates that lesser government imposts in any area are of benefit to the community generally.

Water Points on Arnhem Highway

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In the construction of the new water pipeline along the Arnhem Highway, has any provision been made for water points for the bushfires brigade to use?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, 3 hydrants have been connected on the Arnhem Highway for that purpose.

Pay for Prisoners under Prisons Act

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I preface this by saying I tried to contact his office this morning to give warning of this question, but was unsuccessful. He has been very busy. What is the rate of pay for prisoners in Northern Territory prisons at the moment as determined under section 69 of the Prisons Act?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the exact amount is not known to me although I suppose it should be. I know it is very paltry in terms of modern day expenses. I believe that it is worth reviewing the amount made available to prisoners while they are in prison, not so much from the point of view of a prisoner earning a living while in gaol, but there is a wide range of products which individual prisoners believe are essential for their comfort while in prison, such things as tobacco, deodorant and so on. I think they can quite properly expect to have access to such goods, but the taxpayer should not provide them willy-nilly. With prices rising over the years since the original rate was set, I think it is time for a review. My department is conscious of this. I expect to discuss this with my Cabinet colleagues in the near future.

Opposition Contribution to Land Rights Debate

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the recent statement to this Assembly by the Leader of the Opposition that he is quite prepared to contribute to any constructive debate in relation to the resolution of problems in relation to the application of land rights legislation and his subsequent failure to provide such contributions, will the Chief Minister provide the opposition with a further opportunity to make a constructive contribution to the debate?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the honourable member for Port Darwin for this question. An opportunity has now been provided by the government to the opposition, particularly to the Leader of the Opposition in deference to his request, for time to talk on the resolution of the vexing problems related to Aboriginal land rights. Certainly, this government would like to know the opposition's attitude to the package of proposals winnowed out through process of negotiation over many months between the government, the Commonwealth government and the various land councils. In giving notice of a motion this morning, I would like to indicate that the government is prepared to suspend Standing Orders if need be to give the honourable Leader of the Opposition as much time as he likes to talk, firstly, about my parentage and, secondly, about my contribution to these negotiations. We then would be more than happy to move for a suspension of Standing Orders to allow him time to go on at length to deal with all aspects he considers necessary to provide a relevant contribution to the government's attempts to resolve the question of land rights. Mr Speaker, I would like to serve notice on the honourable Leader of the Opposition that, so far as the government is concerned, he will have as much time as he would like tomorrow to make his contribution to this debate.

Housing Commission Sale of Houses in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

How will a price be determined for those Housing Commission houses which are sold to tenants in Nhulunbuy and will purchasers be able to avail themselves of the government's Home Loans Scheme?

ANSWER

To answer the second part of the question first, certainly occupants of government houses in Nhulunbuy will have access to the government's Home Loans Scheme when we have completed the necessary arrangements to enable houses to be sold in Nhulunbuy. Of course, that is provided that they are eligible for those loans. Loans are available only to people who are making a first home purchase in the Northern Territory.

It will be difficult to determine the price of homes in Nhulunbuy. The Housing Commission is at present sorting out with the Valuer-General how to place a valuation on homes in Nhulunbuy. Honourable members would know that Nhulunbuy has been a closed mining town since its inception. It is on a mining lease and, as a result of that, there have not been many house and land transactions in the past. Whilst I am aware that some blocks have changed hands over there for fairly steep prices, that may not be a good guide to establishing a market value because very few transactions have taken place. That is not a true reflection of the market. I cannot provide the honourable member with specific information on this question, but I am anxious to see what the Housing Commission and Valuer-General recommend to the government on the value of government houses at Nhulunbuy which will be made available for sale. Obviously, I will provide information to the honourable member in this Assembly in due course.

Leprosy Patients

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Would he advise at some stage during the sittings, the number of long-term leprosy patients who previously attended the leprosarium at East Arm who are not attending in Katherine now and their possible location? I believe some of them are living in fringe camps around Darwin without medical treatment or attention.

ANSWER

When the leprosarium was closed earlier this year, there were some 22 patients many of whom had been there for quite some time. It was determined that about 2 of them needed to be in a continuing hospital environment for their own benefit. The others could return to their own communities. Some became independent in their own right and were given Housing Commission accommodation because they were well enough to be able to look after themselves and be treated by visiting rural sisters on a regular basis. I have no knowledge that any of our former patients are living in a fringe camp environment and not receiving treatment. If the honourable member can give me names and places where these people might be, I will pass it on to the department and have it examine the matter. In any event, I will endeavour to obtain a full report on the people who were in the leprosarium for the honourable member so that her fears can be allayed.

Youth Services at Amoonguna

Mr BELL to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

What is the extent of cutbacks for youth services at Amoonguna consequent upon the minister's decision in the budget?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have had some forewarning of this particular question. It is a very difficult one. The Northern Territory government budget allowed some $411 000 in relation to services being provided by the YMCA and YWCA and other youth groups throughout the Northern Territory. Off the top of my head, I do not have details of every particular project because there are some 18 or 19 people employed in this regard. If my memory serves me right, I think we are providing some financial assistance to Amoonguna on a 6-monthly basis but I am not certain of that. I will take the question on board and provide the honourable member with the information at a later date.

Katherine Sportsmen - Travel

Mr VALE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can he advise whether or not he is aware of the hardship Katherine sportsmen and women experience through having to travel so far to compete with other teams?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, you would be aware of the travel subsidy schemes that the Northern Territory government has instituted over the last couple of years to provide financial assistance to sporting organisations for participation in both national and Territory championships. Of course, the Northern Territory government is very interested in developing interaction between the various town centres but, unfortunately, there is no provision for financial assistance to teams which wish to participate from Katherine, Darwin or even Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

Just recently, I had the good fortune to open the go-kart track in Katherine. That facility will provide a good service to people in that area. It will not only be a go-kart track; it will also be a BMX track. I believe that, over a period of time, some interaction will develop between Darwin and Katherine to allow weekly competition. Currently, Rugby League and Rugby Union teams come up to Darwin on a regular basis and play in the Darwin competition. People come from Jabiru to Darwin to compete in various competitions.

Mr Speaker, I believe that, as we increase our Sports Development Fund through the revenue of Sports Lotto, at some future date some allowance may be made to help promote sporting competitions between towns. However, I am unable to give any assurance that we will be addressing that problem in the immediate future.

Policy Statements on Education

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

This question follows on a question I asked last week. Can he advise

exactly when he will be in a position to release the promised policy statements on education and explain to the Assembly in this last sittings of 1982 why these statements have taken so long given that he has had the Green Paper since March 1981?

ANSWER

A policy statement could be issued forthwith on a number of areas. Indeed, a number of them have been prepared to date. I had hoped to be in a position to release a package rather than just dribble them out like confetti at a wedding. There are a number of other issues, however, about which a great deal of further investigation needs to be done over and above that which has already taken place. We must examine areas recommended for discussion in the Green Paper; for example, senior secondary colleges. In order to take a decision in respect of senior secondary colleges, we must examine the whole spectrum of education itself. We must examine the cost of providing such a system, the impact it will have on the pattern of secondary education and the number of years that will apply to secondary education which in turn affects the number of years which apply to primary education. We must also look at the type of curriculum which those secondary colleges will have. That in turn will affect the direction of education that will apply to secondary schools and the number of years and units involved. In turn, further down the line, that will affect what happens in primary education.

Until the decision at the top of the ladder is taken, it is very difficult to make a definitive policy statement covering the whole spectrum of education from pre-school through. I know the delay must be frustrating for many who have an intense interest in the area of government White Paper policy relating to the field of education. Nonetheless, it is far better to get the act right the first time rather than patching it up over the years and adding confusion thereby. I would prefer to face the occasional criticism which is levelled, and probably justifiably, in the minds of people for not having produced these statements earlier. Nonetheless, the process of assessing the impact of all these policies on neighbouring policies must be addressed before I make a definitive statement. The aims and objectives in Aboriginal education are well known and clear. Certainly, those sorts of policy statements can be made. The basic, objective, policy statement on education is available. I think the preamble to the Education Act itself is as clear a statement of that as any that I could produce by way of a White Paper. I believe this is something which needs to be done very thoroughly in the first instance. When I am satisfied that it is in the interests of education to put the government imprimatur on that policy statement, then I will bring it forward. I do not intend to do so beforehand.

Pets at Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Whilst taking into consideration the special conditions of the establishment of the township of Jabiru and in the interests of normal life for the people living there, can he assure me that all requests to keep animals and birds, with the exception of cats, for personal and recreational reasons at Jabiru will be treated with consideration by the JTDA?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in this context one must refer to the Plan of Management for the Kakadu National Park, the head lease under which the Jabiru Town

Development Authority was granted a right to occupy the townsite and the regulations made under the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Act. The special conditions under which Jabiru was established will clearly frustrate any attempt the government may make to seek relaxation of the current position. The Jabiru Town Development Authority is not in a position to allow pets, other than dogs and indigenous fish, to be kept in the town. The Plan of Management under which the development of the town and the national park is regulated comes up for review in 1985 and that will be our earliest opportunity to secure relaxation of any of the current restrictions should we deem it advisable. However, the extent to which the town cooperates in observing the current restrictions will no doubt have some influence on any revision of them.

Housing for Aboriginal Health Workers

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Aboriginal health workers employed by the Department of Health have indicated for some years their need for appropriate housing. Has any progress yet been made by the department towards provision of housing for Aboriginal health workers?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member is quite right when she says that Aboriginal health workers have expressed an interest in having accommodation made available to them in the areas in which they live. It is not an unreasonable proposition at all. One of the things that I have asked of 2 consecutive Conferences of Health Workers is that they let me know what their concept of housing is so that I can advise the Chief Minister whose responsibility it is to provide accommodation for public servants in the Northern Territory. I think that is very important because, all too often in the Northern Territory, government has built $30 000 to $60 000 homes out of tar and cement in its own traditional way that had no meaning for the people for whom they were built. Over a period of time, some of these places have been abandoned, some wrecked and, on quite a few occasions, they were accepted very graciously and lived in and maintained in the finest condition. Because of the diversity of our communities, I felt it absolutely essential that the health workers tell us what they believe to be the priorities for housing in their communities.

We already provide accommodation in most communities for medical staff and, where these staff are withdrawing and health workers are taking over, the health workers have said: 'Those places you built for the white sisters are not really what we want. They do not interest us. We have husbands and children and would rather live with our friends and relatives in another area'. In the last few weeks, I believe the health workers have arrived at a decision on what they see as the way they wish to handle accommodation. As I understand it, and this matter has yet to be considered by government, the health workers believe that funds for the accommodation of health workers could reasonably be made available by the government to the council or the housing association in their communities. That council or housing association would then have responsibility for providing suitable accommodation for the health workers involved. The standard and situation etc of the accommodation that is to be provided would then become a matter for the community as would the ultimate responsibility for maintaining that accommodation and the decision as to who should go into the house if the health work workers move on or whatever.

Mr Speaker, the short answer is that I have not received the proposition. I believe it exists and it sounds reasonable from what I have heard about it. In the course of time, the government will address itself to it and I will be able to pass the matter on to the Chief Minister for his final imprimatur.

Development Corporation Conference in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Would the honourable minister undertake to evaluate the many entrepreneurial ideas put forward at the recent Development Corporation Conference in Alice Springs and advertise at least those which are judged to have the best chance of success?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no problem agreeing with the implied suggestion that the government consider these ideas to see where they can be applied. Certainly, I think it is a good practice for the Small Business Advisory Service to conduct meetings of this nature and allow the minds of business people to range freely over subjects very close to their hearts. Indeed, I understand that at this particular meeting, pay, interest rates, the availability of land and things of that kind were very thoroughly discussed. I will take heed of what the honourable member has said and try to agree to everything he proposes.

Ro-Ro Facility for Darwin from Singapore

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is delaying the towing of the Ro-Ro facility from Singapore to Darwin? When is it expected the Ro-Ro will arrive and what effect will the delay have on the completion of the project?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, recently I had the satisfaction of attending a launching of a Ro-Ro. We have had some problems regarding the delivery of the Ro-Ro because the main contractor, Marine Contractors, has entered into some kind of dispute with Land and Sea, the constructors of the barge of the Ro-Ro. At the moment, negotiations are being conducted between solicitors for the Northern Territory and solicitors acting on behalf of Land and Sea and Marine Contractors. I will be in the position to answer this question more fully within the next 24 hours. There are legal problems and we hope they will be sorted out in the next 24 hours. If they are, the Ro-Ro will depart in the next few days and arrive in Darwin in about 3 weeks. If they are not resolved in the next couple of days, there could be problems because it would be very unlikely that we would be able to obtain insurance for it to sail after 30 November. It is very ticklish and complicated in legal terms. As I said earlier, I will be in a position to advise the Assembly more fully in regard to that particular problem within 24 hours.

Electricity Supply for Daly Waters

Mr VALE to TREASURER

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can he advise the Assembly what steps are being taken to provide electricity to the township and residents of Daly Waters?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am advised that the 5 or 6 consumers in the town of Daly Waters have an electricity supply. I further understand that probably it is not an entirely satisfactory one, and that steps are being considered to upgrade some of the equipment used. As far as the Northern Territory Electricity Commission is concerned, it is not in charge of the electricity supply at Daly Waters. At the time of self-government, NTEC took over most of the major operations of generating and distributing electricity throughout the Northern Territory. Quite a number of small centres, such as Daly Waters, are still under the control and administration of the Department of Transport and Works. This is largely because the towns are not served from a major power-station but have small in-house generators.

I am led to believe that the generators at Daly Waters are at the police station and there is a distribution system from there to the half dozen consumers in the town. Unfortunately, the cost of running small generators is very high and the estimated loss per annum on generating electricity for the consumers at Daly Waters is in the order of $45 000 to $50 000. This also takes into account the contribution for the standard Northern Territory electricity tariff which is applied right across the Territory. NTEC is not particularly interested in taking over all these small centres, not because it does not have the expertise but because picking up of such losses would further increase the very substantial losses that it incurs. Obviously, these losses are absorbed within the Department of Transport and Works' vote and perhaps some of it flows to the Department of Community Development because funds are provided for the purchase of fuel or diesel sets. In a nutshell, NTEC does not provide electricity to Daly Waters and does not propose to do so under any current arrangements. It is a very small town with very few consumers. Whoever generates electricity there will incur substantial losses. The real solution for these towns in the long term is that, as our major transmission system grows, large powerlines will be run down the track to put these small towns on a power supply from the major powerhouse. In time, NTEC would propose to supply Katherine from the Channel Island Power-station. When Darwin has a coal-fired power-station and the costs of generating electricity are reduced, the possibility of transmitting electricity down the track from Darwin will be a very favourable one from an economic point of view. At that time, I believe there will be further consideration of connecting more small towns throughout the Northern Territory to a major and more reliable supply of electricity.

Subdivision in Sanderson

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What requirements, if any, were imposed upon subdividers in the Sanderson area in respect of the provision of public open space?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would have to seek specific details to answer the honourable member's question. I can only recall, in a very broad sense, the requirement for buy-back of land by the Northern Territory government from these developers. There was also a requirement to provide land to the government for school sites etc, as part of the lease arrangements. I will have to seek information and provide it to the honourable member in due course.

Ablution Facilities for Kargaru Bush Camp

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the minister received advice from his department on improved ablution facilities which are urgently required at the Kargaru bush camp in Tennant Creek?

ANSWER

No.

Student Assessment Programs in NT

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Following the minister's statement to the Assembly regarding the results of Australian studies on the student performance project, many points were raised. One of those points was that the results of the student assessment programs in the NT would be used. Could the minister inform the Assembly what progress has been made in this matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am very pleased to advise the Assembly that, following the first meeting of a working party on assessment of student performance in Northern Territory schools on 18 November, consensus has now been reached on the major issues. The working party was comprised of representatives of the department, the principals association, the Northern Territory Teachers Federation and COGSO. Mr Speaker, if I may, I would like to depart from the normal procedure in question time and use notes rather extensively in answering this question. I would like the media to take note of the simplified agreement of which I shall now advise the Legislative Assembly.

The proposed guidelines were unanimously accepted and endorsed by the executive of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation over the weekend. I would like to commend the spirit with which the federation entered into these negotiations, notwithstanding publicity about opposition by it to so-called system-wide testing through its journals and press statements. I think the federation came to realise that there was nothing sinister in the government's proposal. There was nothing to fear from it but everything to gain from it. Again, I would like to place on record my commendation for the level of cooperation and assistance which the federation executive has given.

I have asked my staff to simplify the education jargon which was used in the agreement itself. It is designed for people in the profession and is of little use to parents or students and others vitally concerned in these matters. My staff has reduced it and I will now indicate what the agreement contains. Firstly, a report on student achievement would contain a description of the assessment program which will be related to curriculum undertaken in our schools. This would put any assessment in its correct context. Secondly, the report will indicate areas in which performance has been satisfactory on the basis of standards established by the particular subject committees and the working party. Here, the analysis would describe the results in general terms. Any more detailed analysis would be confidential but may also be used as the basis of a detailed report to principals which will allow them to compare their school level analysis with that of the overall Northern Territory analysis. Thirdly, the report will be a valuable instrument in that

it will give the department an indication of possible causes of any deficiencies in student performance together with remedial strategies to overcome such deficiencies. Examples of remedial strategies could include such things as curriculum revision, in-service activity and staffing considerations to name a few. Fourthly, there will continue to be emphasis on positive aspects of the program so that it may be developed and maintained in the interests of education in the Northern Territory. Fifthly, the report from the Northern Territory assessment program will, in the first instance, be prepared by the Evaluation and Assessment Unit of the Professional Services Branch of the department. This would then be considered by the working party mentioned before. It would then be presented to the Secretary of the Department of Education for consideration. Sixthly and finally, after consideration, the report would be released on a confidential basis to regional councils of principals, the Northern Territory Council of Government Schools Organisation and the Northern Territory Teachers Federation. Following study by these groups the report would be made available to principals, teachers and school councils. At a later date, a summary of the report would be made available for media release.

Mr Speaker, since the debate referred to by the honourable member for Port Darwin, a great deal of effort has gone into this program. It is a credit to all those who have been involved in it, not just the Northern Territory Teachers Federation but also the Northern Territory Council of Government Schools Organisation and the officers of the department. It is rare that I name any officer of my department but I would like to put on record my appreciation, and the appreciation of the government, of the efforts of Mr Geoff Spring in this very difficult exercise. I would like to put on record my appreciation of his very skilful handling of all of the people involved who had some reluctance about participating in this scheme which I believe will be of tremendous benefit to Northern Territory education.

Ablution Facilities at Kargaru Bush Camp

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer him to my previous question and his brief answer. Will he undertake to solicit from his department information on the current status of ablution facilities provided to the residents of Kargaru bush camp in Tennant Creek?

ANSWER

The first thing I would like to do is to assess the status, to use his own word, of the bush camp itself. If it has an appropriate status, then certainly I will look at the facilities available to it.

Water Reticulation in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the government doing about reticulating water in the rural area given the moratorium that was announced on subdivision below 20 acres about a year ago?

ANSWER

I have had forewarning of this question. So that we get the record right, I have a reply prepared because it is important. Many people in the

rural area have been wondering what has been going on.

There was a report. At the moment, the recommendations contained in that report are being studied by the government. One aspect of the study covered the provision of reticulated water supplied to the rural area. Private bores and wells will still be utilised and reticulated water only provided in instances where lot sizes prohibit certain criteria being met from within designated village areas. The cost of reticulation will be met by the developer. Consideration is being given by the Planning Authority to the lifting of the subdivision moratorium in conjunction with the adoption of a development policy designed to protect public health interests. This policy will cover requirements for proper construction standards for bores and wells and effluent disposal systems, and specified minimum separation distances between the fresh water and waste water systems.

Upgrading of Parap Primary School

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The stage 2 upgrading of Parap Primary School has not been completed because of the financial collapse of the builder. Will he ensure that such action as is necessary will be taken to have the work completed for the beginning of the 1983 school year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was anticipating a question from the honourable member regarding the Parap Primary School and the financial difficulties faced by the contractor. I would like to give the honourable member the information that I have. Without mentioning any names, the contractor is experiencing financial problems. He had apparently successfully negotiated materials from suppliers to enable him to proceed with the work on 11 November. However, a major subcontractor, Neata Glass, pulled its men off the site when it learned that the financial security arrangements had apparently fallen through. It is understood that it is waiting for confirmation of new financial security arrangements before returning to the site. Until this time, the contractor's rate of progress had been such that it was anticipated that the contract would be completed by the end of December. But this is in doubt now. Following the hearing of a petition to wind-up the company on 18 November, and in the event that the company folds up or is put into liquidation, the work will obviously take longer to complete.

We are confident, however, that the classrooms will be ready for occupation in time for the new school year. Should completion by direct management be required, we would first arrange for the classrooms to be made ready for occupation while other finishing work would be carried out after or, when the opportunity permits, during school hours.

Tourist Information Bay North of Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the fact that we have a tourist information bay on the Stuart Highway south of Alice Springs, can he advise if and when a similar installation will be installed on the Stuart Highway north of Alice Springs?

ANSWER

One will be installed north of Alice Springs. It has been brought forward on the 1982-83 minor capital works program and hopefully work will be completed by about April 1983.

Aboriginal Rangers at Ayers Rock Mount Olga National Park

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he give an undertaking to employ Aboriginal rangers at the Ayers Rock Mount Olga National Park in numbers comparable with those employed by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service at Kakadu National Park.

ANSWER

I should preface my answer to this question by saying that it is government policy that Aboriginal people be employed throughout the public service and not just in the ranger service of the Northern Territory Conservation Commission. Very early in the piece, I directed the attention of the Conservation Commission to government policy in that area. I understand that the Conservation Commission employs a considerable number of Aboriginal people in its ranks and that it employs Aboriginal rangers throughout the Territory. I am not in a position this morning to give any undertaking on behalf of the Conservation Commission that it will employ a specific number of rangers of Aboriginal descent in the Uluru National Park, but I can assure the honourable member that it is the desire of the government that the Conservation Commission continue to employ substantial numbers of Aboriginal people. I understand that a Cabinet submission is on its way from the Conservation Commission in relation to further Aboriginal ranger training programs and I hope that Cabinet will receive that submission before Christmas.

Community Centre for Malak

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The YWCA has a proposal to construct a community centre in Patterson Street, Malak. Can the minister confirm whether land has yet been made available for the erection of this building?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have only seen reference to it being processed through the lands allocation system. I can undertake to find out specifically for the honourable member and advise her.

Registration of Trailed Vehicles

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

A long time ago you mooted the idea of a system of interchanging

registration of trailed vehicles which may be only used intermittently to enable more rational and economical use of that registration. Has your idea grown to fruition and, if it has, could I have the details?

ANSWER

The department is investigating the scheme proposed by the honourable member for Tiwi. However, amendments must be made to the Motor Vehicles Act in conjunction with an examination of several other relevant registration issues. I have stated, on earlier occasions, both inside and outside this Assembly, that we were looking at methods to hasten the process of registration not only of motor vehicles but also caravans and trailers. The question the member asked relates to much of the same study. When I have that information, I will provide it to her.

Local Government for Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the government's discussion with Nhulunbuy leaseholders produced any means by which local government could be conferred on Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, negotiations that have taken place to date could only be described as being in the very early stages. It is a worthwhile project for us to take on in the New Year with considerable energy now that we have the obvious support of the honourable member for that area. It is a very complex issue. Most of the government's dealings with the joint venturers, having regard to the nature of the leased land in that area, are complex by inheritance. I would anticipate that any negotiations which may lead to a formal form of local government in Nhulunbuy would take quite some time. Nonetheless, I confirm that energetic overtures will be made to the joint venturers during the New Year.

Chan Park Nursing Home

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The Chan Park Nursing Home was recently opened at Palmerston. However, there is no bus service yet between Darwin and Palmerston. Is he considering providing such a bus service in order that friends and relations may visit the patients at the nursing home?

ANSWER

At the moment, a study is being carried out but it is very unlikely that a service into Palmerston will be provided for at least 12 months or 2 years or until it is warranted. The Darwin bus service is costing something like $2.5m a year. At this time, no funding arrangements have been made to provide an additional bus service into Palmerston. However, I have said outside this Assembly that I will be prepared to look at the possibility of private enterprise providing that service. Unfortunately, at the moment, I cannot really say to the honourable member that we will put a bus service in. However, a review is being carried out and, once we know the results of that review, the community will be advised.

Bilingual Programs in NT Schools

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he inform the Assembly of the present situation in respect to the evaluation of bilingual programs currently operating in Northern Territory schools? Further, does he believe that the bilingual education project is of value in the development of skills in literacy and numeracy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the answer to the last part of the question is a very strong affirmative. By coincidence, I have a statement which is fairly short and I wonder, with your leave, if I could deliver that in answer to the question. It is a fairly complex matter and one that I would rather not attempt to respond on off the cuff. Since in excess of $1m a year is spent on the program, the Assembly deserves some information. Perhaps I could frame it in a statement later on this morning.

School Crossings

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he yet received a report from the committee he established to examine the safety of school crossings? My insistence in this matter is because I would like it resolved before the beginning of the new school year.

ANSWER

I have received a report from the committee, which was comprised of the Police Commissioner and the Secretary of the Education Department. The Police Commissioner's recommendation was that there should be no distinction between crossings. In other words, motorists should not have to attempt to distinguish whether a particular marked crossing is a normal pedestrian crossing or a school crossing. The intent of his recommendation was that the law should be altered so that all crossings would become normal pedestrian crossings and, if schools wish to monitor these crossings, then it would be open to them to do so. I must say that I cannot find much fault with that sort of logic. If we need crossings outside schools, then why not be done with it and call them normal pedestrian crossings to which the normal laws apply. Schools can monitor them and teachers, parents or senior students can be present with flags to give motorists additional warning.

I have asked the Police Commissioner to prepare a Cabinet submission in consultation with the Education Department for an amendment to the act. I think it would be the Traffic Act. My colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works, will need to be involved because of that. I would expect the Cabinet submission fairly shortly. I do not know what Cabinet's view will be but the force of the Police Commissioner's logic impressed me. I will be arguing for that change. Although the legislation cannot be introduced in the Assembly this year, it should be possible to introduce it in the first session of next year.

Development in Storm Surge Areas

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Following the tabling of the storm surge report, what policy does the

government have towards land development proposals that would increase the number of residential blocks in storm surge areas?

ANSWER

I cannot recall specific details of the storm surge policy in relation to further development in storm surge areas. From recollection, it is not that development will definitely not occur in storm surge areas, although the policy is generally directed towards discouraging residential development in those areas.

A statement on the subject is still on the Notice Paper. One must bear in mind that fairly extensive areas of Darwin are within the secondary storm surge zone. To discount this land altogether for productive or even for more intensive use would not be a sensible development in view of the fact that already many people live in the storm surge areas. Many dwellings in fact survived Cyclone Tracy. The Emergency Services system for cyclones in the Territory relies heavily on the fact that people will have to be encouraged and assisted out of those areas in the event of a serious cyclone threat. There is no possibility of shifting them although the DRC, at one stage during its doodling with the replanning of Darwin, proposed to wipe these areas off the map completely until the citizens told it exactly what they thought of the idea. Bearing in mind that there will be an evacuation process for persons living in these areas, we need to consider rationally the prospect of allowing further development in the area.

Darwin Waste Water Treatment Plant

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

An article in yesterday's NT News was critical of the Fannie Bay Waste Water Treatment Plant and its operations. Were any of the allegations made in that paper correct?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have had the allegations in the newspaper report extracted in a question and answer form so that I can provide information to honourable members. In the last 3 days, the Darwin Waste Water Treatment Plant has become an emotive issue both on talk-back and in the NT News. For the benefit of honourable members, especially the members for Fannie Bay and Ludmilla, I will answer these allegations. I hope that the Assembly will be patient with me while I go through them so that not only will the Assembly know where we stand but also the general community.

In the article that appeared in the NT News of 23 November, the first allegation was that a $1m furnace had been shut down for 3 years because of an out-of-balance fan. When this furnace was designed, the cost of electricity was quite low and the burning of waste solids was seen as an economically viable method of disposal. With the steep rise in energy costs, this is no longer the case and, after taking advice from the Department of Health, the Department of Transport and Works elected to use the treated waste to fill the area immediately adjacent to the treatment plant. Allegation 2: 'Solids are now dumped into Ludmilla tidal flats polluting water and affecting fishing'. There is no evidence to suggest that this exercise is affecting either people living in the area or the fish. The high lime content of this sludge, resulting from the treatment process, makes it useful as a soil improver and it has been declared fit for such use by the Department of Health. The sludge

is not a problem. Allegation 3: 'Leaking of chlorine gas to the surrounding areas could be a disaster'. The leak of chlorine occurred in the chlorine room. There is a maximum discharge rate of 9 kg per hour. Obviously this would not be a major leak because within half an hour of detection by alarm sensors, the situation would be under control. If the gas storage cylinder were to rupture, it would not matter whether the men were present or not. They, and nearby residents, would have to be evacuated. I have been assured that the cylinders are extensively checked by the suppliers before refilling and that it is entering the realms of fantasy or sabotage for the idea of a disaster to be entertained. I would dismiss this allegation. Allegation 4: 'The chlorine room was not automatic and every valve had to be operated manually'. There are alarm sensors in the chlorine room - 2, in fact; one acting as a back up. As I pointed out, the maximum discharge rate is 9 kg per hour. Therefore, there is no need for concern in the unlikely event of a leak occurring. The equipment is checked regularly and repairs are carried out when required. Allegation 5: 'In the event of the Telecom lines going down and the alarm not working, leaks would continue unchecked'. The Department is at present having a new system put in. It is called a trace line. This is a direct line to Wormald which is electronically monitored every hour by that company. If this failed and the current system, which would act as a back up, did not work, the security company would call out the rostered staff who would be there until the fault was rectified. Allegation 6: 'The alarm system is presently connected to Wormald but not yet activated'. This work was carried out recently and, unfortunately, the person who made the allegation was out on strike and presumably had not made himself aware of that fact. Allegation 7: 'Some of the pipes are paper thin and leaking chlorinated water'. Close inspection of the work has not revealed this to be the case but, should any leaks become apparent, they will of course be attended to immediately. Allegation 8: 'The automatic generator did not switch on when there was a power failure'. Some trouble was experienced with this piece of equipment some time ago but it has been rectified and no difficulties are being experienced currently. Allegation 9: 'Raw sewage was discharged into Ludmilla Creek every time there was a malfunction'. There is, under normal working conditions, a holding capacity of up to 8 hours if there is a malfunction. This means that maintenance crews have plenty of time to carry out repairs. In heavy downpour conditions during the Wet, there could be a time when a by-pass situation is required. At these times, there would be a very diluted flow into the creek and the effects would be minimal and temporary. Allegation 10: 'Danger of tropical disease from outside influences because authorities insist all staff are inoculated against typhoid and cholera'. As far as inoculation against typhoid and cholera is concerned, this is standard procedure with all personnel in any type of sewerage works or sewerage-related works. Allegation 11: 'Plant now removing 8000 kg per day when only designed to remove 2800 kg per day of suspended solids'. The gentleman who made these allegations confused what is known as 'filter cake' with suspended solids. We remove 8000 kg per day on average by filter but that is not suspended solids. This is a cake consisting of solids, oils, grease, hexine extractable material and a considerable amount of water. It is estimated that the amount of suspended solids at present entering the plant is in the region of 1500 kg per day. The plant was designed to treat sewage from a population of 40 000. It is now servicing about 15 000. In other words,it has a capacity 2½ times greater than its current operation.

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable members for their patience in allowing me to answer the allegations. These things seem to develop into emotive issues. The community should know where it stands. I would hope that the answers to the allegations will be conveyed to the public by the NT News.

Group Examining Housing Finance

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer him to a press release he issued on 16 March this year in which he said that a think-tank group of government and private industry representatives would examine ways of boosting the amount of housing finance available to Territorians. Was that think-tank group in fact formed? If so, what policy initiatives flowed from its deliberations?

ANSWER

The think-tank group was formed and is still doing its work. Quite a range of innovative options has been put together by the group concerned in discussions with building societies and banks. I think we are hamstrung a little by the conservatism that seems to be inherent in financial institutions in this country. We need to examine truly innovative methods of using money. As was indicated in the budget speech, the government is prepared to put some funds towards an innovative scheme, yet to be designed, to extract more private funds for housing in the Northern Territory. The options are continuing to be explored. It is not a project that the government can undertake on its own. We cannot have sole control because we need the complete cooperation of financial institutions concerned. They will need to provide additional loan funds for housing in the Northern Territory and treat applications for housing in a different fashion than in the past otherwise we will not change the status quo at all. The matter has not been put to rest at all; it is still quite active. It is something that simply cannot be resolved easily or quickly. We will have to keep working at it until we find a resolution.

Technology Kit for Singapore Government

Mr VALE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

I understand that, following the recent government private sector business mission to Singapore, arrangements have been made to present a kit of Northern Territory technology to the Singapore government. Can he advise details of this?

ANSWER

As honourable members will be aware, a total of 12 Territory businessmen participated in the recent mission to Singapore and a number of important trade discussions were initiated. One of the mission members was John Parry of Quack Pest Control who has developed a system of injecting chemicals underneath trees to protect them from insect attacks for up to 25 years. Mr Parry had discussions with the Singapore authorities responsible for Singapore's Garden City and beautification schemes and they were most impressed with this technology. I have had communications with the Singapore Minister for National Development, Mr Teh Cheang Wan, the Singapore Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, Mr Key Chin Hin, and the Singapore Trade Development Board on Mr Parry's behalf.

I have also been in touch with Miss Jenny Lim who assisted our trade mission in so many ways. For the information of members I would like to read Miss Lim's communication which was received this morning: 'I am confident that our government and its relevant authorities concerned would certainly be much obliged of the presentation of technology contribution to our garden

environment. Singapore is a garden city and modern technology schemes are both a major aim and concept of our honourable government rewarding performances in the republic. Your attentive gestures towards our republic's surroundings will no doubt enhance deep appreciation of your keen participation in similar paramount objectives. I have liaised with Mr Chan Jin Fo, Deputy Director of our Trade Development Board, who has kindly agreed to coordinate this assignment with the board of authorities concerned who have received already your request. I will be in touch shortly regarding arrangements'.

Members will be aware that Mr Parry developed a unique system for treating trees against insect pests. In the simplest description, the technology involved use of an air-powered hydraulic jack to supply the tree's root system with chemicals which crystallise and keep white ants and insect pests away for between 10 and 25 years. I would like to place on record my appreciation to Mr Parry for deciding to present this technology free of charge to the Singapore government as a goodwill gesture. Mr Parry's decision will contribute towards the already substantial goodwill which exists between the Northern Territory and Singapore.

Government Staff Housing Scheme

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Last week in the adjournment debate, I outlined problems facing permanent public servants who wish to purchase their houses under the government staff housing scheme when the tenancy was placed originally in the spouse's name. Could the honourable minister advise if he has had time to study the problem and whether he has found a solution?

ANSWER

I have not had time to get to the bottom of this matter as yet. I have provided my staff with the information given to me by the honourable member. The Housing Commission, in conjunction with the Public Service Commissioner, is preparing a briefing for me with the options spelled out and reasons for actions taken to date. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, those papers will be with me and some decisions can be made.

Gunn Point Prison Farm

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he assure me that all help will be given to the Gunn Point Prison Farm in relation to the supply of equipment for its planned program for agricultural development this year.

ANSWER

Honourable members will be aware of a report by the Conservation Commission relating to the 3-year program for the Gunn Point recreational area. If anyone reads that report, he will note that a significant role is planned for the inmates of Gunn Point Prison in the development of that project. One would assume that the equipment required for agricultural projects will go largely hand in hand with any equipment required for the 3-year upgrading of the Gunn Point Recreational Reserve. At the risk of attracting the ire of the honourable member for Nightcliff, I might make the observation that, when I was out there I noticed quite a number of graders, bulldozers and slashers. I did not have a look at the toolshed but I did not see any picks and shovels around

the place. One tends to wonder what the meaning of the words 'hard labour' is.

Maco Tours

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Are the operators of Maco Tours in receipt of financial assistance from the Northern Territory Development Corporation?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any assistance to Maco Tours. I understand that it is in considerable financial difficulty at present and discussions are taking place today as to what the company's future may be.

Undergrounding of Electrical Reticulation

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

A development in McMinn Street is being frustrated at the present time through powerpole alignment. What is the government's policy with regard to the undergrounding of electrical reticulation in the older suburban areas and, in particular, McMinn Street?

ANSWER

I would wish that all my frustrations were merely powerpoles. It is not government policy generally to underground all powerlines in Darwin. Following Cyclone Tracy, it was decided to underground powerlines in the Central Business District of Darwin bounded by the Esplanade, Daly Street and McMinn Street, as well as the new residential areas in the northern suburbs. Parts of the northern suburbs and Palmerston have underground electricity reitculation. After the cyclone, Darwin Reconstruction Commission funds were provided for the undergrounding of electricity reticulation in the Central Business District of Darwin and those northern suburbs which were then under construction. All these funds were expended during the 1979-80 financial year. The Northern Territory Electricity Commission has no current plans for undergrounding existing assets in the older suburbs of Darwin but will continue to monitor areas of concentrated commercial development where undergrounding of assets may be expected to be carried out based upon the technical requirements of the particular development.

Cyclone Advice for Residents in Storm Surge Area

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In his comments when tabling the Storm Surge Report, he indicated that public warning systems on imminent cyclone situations should contain special advice for those people living in storm surge areas. When will this be implemented?

ANSWER

Responsibility for the Northern Territory Emergency Services belongs to the Chief Minister. I am not completely familiar with the emergency procedures around Darwin other than as I outlined them to the honourable member in answer to his earlier question. I am sure that, if he cares to place the question on notice,more specific details can be provided to him.

Proposed Recreation Site at Welatje Therre

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer him to the fact that officers of his department were pegging a road route to the proposed recreation lake site north of the old Telegraph Station in Alice Springs. Does this action indicate the government's intention to proceed with the construction of the proposed recreation lake?

ANSWER

The way the honourable gentleman keeps referring to things as facts when they are not never fails to amaze me. To the best of my knowledge, the Department of Community Development is rather short on surveyors and engineers and does not survey roads. The question itself is based on a false premiss. If the honourable member wants an answer on the attitude or intentions of the Northern Territory government - again, this is outside of my area - I am happy to answer it. On the question of whether we intend to proceed with the construction of the lake at the site referred to by the honourable gentleman, our answer is a very amphatic yes.

Pedestrian Crossings in Central Australia

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the present safety standards set on the construction of pedestrian crossings, will he give an undertaking to review these standards to allow for provision of pedestrian crossings in Larapinta Drive in central Australia and for the senior citizens in Head Street?

ANSWER

The 2 streets the honourable member mentions come under the province of the Alice Springs Town Council. However, standards are under constant review. Perhaps the question of standards could be raised in the submission to Cabinet which the Chief Minister mentioned earlier.

Accommodation for Isolated Students Attending Urban Schools

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it the government's intention to continue to provide urban accommodation such as is provided at Katherine House for students from isolated areas attending urban schools in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as demonstrated by the fact that we established Katherine House, quite clearly the government is most anxious that this type of arrangement continue. Where resources, facilities and people to carry out the task exist, and the need exists, we intend to expand that program. I am not saying that we will duplicate the colleges of the university; that would be beyond our resources. Honourable members would be aware of the report of the Education Advisory Council on need. Clearly, I accept its observations. There is a need; there is no question about that.

I might take the opportunity to inform you, in particular, Sir, of difficulties we have at Katherine House. The family which has been running it

wishes to terminate its contract at the end of this school year. The prospects of finding people of that calibre are extremely remote. We have been attempting for some time to attract applications from people who are capable of handling a place like that. I propose, therefore, in the absence of success in attracting replacements for the existing house parents, to approach church institutions and the like to see if we can obtain interest from them to take over the management of Katherine House. Obviously, it would involve a substantial government subsidy to make the thing worth while and viable. We would not expect them to take it on at a loss. Nonetheless, we are facing difficulties in ensuring the opening of Katherine House by the beginning of next school year. Every effort will be made to ensure that Katherine House does open but, between now and then, I am afraid we are going to have to talk to a number of church groups to see if indeed they can take on the management.

The government's commitment to St Phillips College in South Australia will continue. I think that Alice Springs and Katherine would be the logical areas for any extension of the program rather than, say, Tennant Creek or Darwin, particularly Darwin. That excludes of course the need for a different type of student accommodation; for example, accommodating students to attend the Darwin Community College. These matters are not only expensive in capital; they are extremely expensive in recurrent terms. Nonetheless, within the resources available to us, it is the government's intention not only to maintain the programs of student accommodation but to increase them if we can.

Todd River Bridge-Undoolya Road Connector

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

Are negotiations between the Department of Lands and the Sacred Sites Authority continuing regarding sacred sites in the path of the Todd River Bridge-Undoolya Road connector and, if so, what stage have negotiations reached?

ANSWER

Negotiations in Alice Springs with Aboriginal organisations, and even individual Aboriginals, have never really stopped. As I indicated before, the problems of settling a route for the road off the Todd River Bridge into Sadadeen and eventually towards the Undoolya area have been going on for a couple of years now. Capital works programs have been put off a number of times as a result of this inability to settle on a site. The last indication I had from officers of the Department in Alice Springs was that they were very close to a solution. I have not received any details but, hopefully, a solution has been found. Quite clearly, we cannot go on as we have in the past because that side of Alice Springs, the eastern side, has been growing all this time. There are major residential settlements. The traffic flow from east to west in Alice Springs is increasing all the time. The bridge was built as the major connector from east to west in Alice Springs but, at the moment, we have the absurdity that it virtually stops when it gets to the other side of the river and meanders through side streets. Hopefully, within the near future we can get on with the construction of the rest of the road.

TIO Investments

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

When does he propose to report to the Assembly on the number and type of investments undertaken by or on behalf of the Territory Insurance Office as he

committed himself to do on 12 October this year?

ANSWER

I do not think I undertook to do anything other than indicate by classification the types of investment of the TIO. The TIO is run as nearly as possible as an ordinary insurance company and it would be quite inappropriate for it to provide any more information in relation to its investment and loan portfolios than any other insurance company provides. Quite clearly, it is in a competitive market and needs to be seen as another insurance company that does its work well but keeps confidential those matters which should be kept confidential. This morning, I will be tabling the report of the Territory Insurance Office. I think there is some information in there that may satisfy the honourable member as to the nature of the investments of the TIO.

Encephalitis Case in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware of a recently reported case of encephalitis in Nhulunbuy and will he recommend the reintroduction of direct financial assistance for effective control?

ANSWER

I do not have any information on this at the moment. I am more than happy to obtain the information for the honourable member. I will write to him after the sittings.

Land Grant in Humpty Doo

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS

Can he assure me that an application for a grant of land adjoining the Humpty Doo School and Humpty Doo High School for use as a school farm, camping area or agricultural use will be given prompt and favourable consideration?

ANSWER

The information I have is that two 15 ha sites, which sounds like a lot of land to me, have already been identified near the school. The Department of Lands is waiting further information from the Department of Education as to the suitability of the sites for the activities proposed by the school.

Child Welfare Legislation

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Child welfare legislation has been in preparation for several years by his department. When I last asked a question on it, he indicated that he hoped it would be ready this year. Can he now indicate when that legislation will be ready for introduction into the Assembly?

ANSWER

I understand the honourable member's concern about this. The matter went to Cabinet and was extensively considered. It was in a bill form at that

stage. Cabinet was of the view that a number of operational changes needed to be made to it. This affected the entire legislation and it is now back with the draftsman for implementation of the wishes of Cabinet in that regard. It is clearly impossible to introduce it at this sittings but there should not be any difficulty in introducing it in the March sittings.

Occupational Therapist for Central Australia

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise if any steps are being undertaken by his department to obtain the services of an occupational therapist for central Australia?

ANSWER

I am happy to advise that the recruitment process is well under way and an appointment to that position will be made in the very near future.

Welatje Therre Recreational Lake

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer him to the answer given by the Minister for Community Development earlier in question time in which he gave an emphatic affirmation of the government's intention to proceed with the proposed recreational lake at Welatje Therre. Is he aware of the determined opposition to the development of this lake on the part of an erstwhile Country Liberal Party candidate employed on his personal staff?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think that I gather the drift of that almost indecipherable question. The Minister for Community Development outlined the government's position which has been well known to the honourable member opposite as well as to the general public, particularly in central Australia, for some time. The government has been negotiating with people who claim to have an interest in this area. I am not aware of the opposition to which the member for MacDonnell refers but no doubt negotiations will continue. An evaluation of alternative sites was carried out by myself as well as by the group which decided on the Telegraph Station site. I inspected alternative sites both by land and air. It is quite apparent that there is no other similar suitable site available in central Australia within reasonable reach of Alice Springs. Therefore, the government has no alternative but to pursue negotiations on the site in question if it wishes to proceed with a recreational lake for Alice Springs.

In relation to the area concerned, the government has made various offers to the people who claim to be interested and, at this stage, those offers have been spurned. The government certainly remains open to discussions and negotiations on the matter.

Welatje Therre Recreational Lake

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Would he inform the Assembly of the alternative proposals that have been spurned and which he referred to in answering the previous question?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I cannot recall the precise details of the negotiations because they took place last year. I recall that, at one particular site, various people saw a stand of gum trees as an impediment to the construction of a dam and lake in the area because the trees would be submerged. An offer was made to construct as near as possible to that site. A tableau was set up in a building specially designed in tasteful fashion for the purpose to recreate as nearly as possible the layout with the trees. As far as I am aware, that offer was not acceptable. A sacred site, which is the principal bone of contention, is a rock in the bed of the Charles River or the Todd River. That rock would not come to any harm as a result of a dam being built. It would simply be submerged which happens already when the river runs. However, the people who claim to have an interest in the area apparently do not want it to be submerged permanently.

Batchelor College

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he advise the Assembly of the status of fourth year accreditation for the Batchelor College?

ANSWER

I am not in a position to give the information that the honourable member seeks. Perhaps the best thing I can do is to arrange for a briefing for the honourable member. I will personally attend that briefing to fill him in on the exact position.

Sobering-up Centres

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he give details in regard to costs, administration etc of the sobering-up centres proposed to be built by the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the honourable member for giving me a few minutes notice of this question. At this stage, we have not identified any firm capital costs since we have committed ourselves to developing these facilities in conjunction with established regional drug and alcohol groups, local government, community organisations and interested religious groups where it is possible to do so within our existing resources. However, I would be more than happy to take a submission to Cabinet for additional funds for these projects. To this end, proposals are being sought from various communities so that services and facilities may be developed according to needs they have established and identified. Until these proposals are firm and have been considered, no definite estimated costs will be available. It is not clear what method of administration will apply nor the degree of involvement of government departments.

I can assure the honourable member that the government hopes to see these facilities developed and run by community groups with support and assistance being provided, where necessary, by relevant government departments. It would be absolutely tragic if the Department of Health set out a method for handling this problem, designed only for one community in the Northern Territory, and

tried to make that apply to all the communities. Our communities differ distinctively and answers to the problems will be different in each place.

Degree Courses at Darwin Community College

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Following the accreditation of a Bachelor of Arts course at the Darwin Community College, are there any plans under way for further degree courses to be accredited at that college?

ANSWER

At the moment, no. That is not because we do not want them but because we believe the time is not right. There is little point our putting forward a proposition to the Tertiary Education Commission for a further degree course knowing full well that it has absolutely no chance of success. I have indicated previously that the next degree course we need to offer locally is a Bachelor of Science, because it is the other part of the type of degree course necessary to establish a nucleus of secondary teacher education in the Northern Territory. We are quite convinced that we would have no prospect of getting the agreement of the TEC or the Commonwealth government for the establishment of such a degree course at this time. It is obviously important that a BSc be offered as soon as possible. Negotiations are now continuing in line with the Commonwealth government's decision to establish a school of external studies to tap into the resources of a university elsewhere so that tutorial assistance may be provided for students who wish to do a BSc through the Darwin Community College. That would seem the only course of action available to us and, accordingly, it is the course we are pursuing.

Lake Nash Meeting

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

An allegation was made this morning on the ABC's After Eight program that the Northern Territory government attempted to prevent the attendance of an ABC journalist at a meeting at Lake Nash today despite the fact that the journalist was invited to attend the meeting by the community. Is that allegation correct?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that the Office of Aboriginal Liaison indicated to the various other parties concerned in a meeting at Lake Nash that the Office of Aboriginal Liaison and the Department of Community Development representatives would not be interested in attending that meeting if media representatives were to be present. The view taken by responsible government officials was that they were there to attempt to reach a reasonable solution of the problems relating to the people at Lake Nash and not to provide some sort of Roman holiday and spectacle for the media. I fully support the actions of the officials concerned.

Mereenie Appraisal Drilling Program

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he advise the current status of the Mereenie appraisal drilling program?

ANSWER

For the benefit of the honourable member, who has always shown a keen interest in the development of this field, since the award of the lease in November, 6 wells have been drilled by Oilmin as operators for the Mereenie joint venture. More work still remains to assess the best methods of completing the wells so as to maximise economic recovery from the field. The good news is that reserves will almost certainly be more extensive than previously thought due to the discovery of what appears to be a new oil pool on the south-east nose of the Mereenie anticline. Flows of up to 548 barrels a day have been obtained from this sector of the Mereenie anticline.

Nitrate Levels in Watercourse at Bathurst Downs

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

My question relates to the question I just asked the honourable Chief Minister. Is it a fact that the watercourse found at Bathurst Downs, which is the site where attempts are being made to move Aboriginal people to, contains nitrates which exceed the levels acceptable to the World Health Organisation?

ANSWER

I am sorry to disappoint the honourable member but I do not carry around in my head details of the acceptable level of nitrates in water that should or should not be consumed by humans. I am happy to tell the honourable member that I would be prepared to investigate the matter as far as it involves my department. I point out to him that the investigations and negotiations taking place at Lake Nash are primarily the concern of the Department of Community

Development, the Department of Transport and Works and the Department of the Chief Minister's Office of Aboriginal Liaison, and that the Department of Health is acting in a consulting capacity where required. If it is necessary for us to advise the responsible departments on a matter of this nature, I should imagine that the public servants involved in the exercise would be quite capable of ascertaining that information themselves.

Maintenance of Parks and Gardens adjoining Block 8

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I understand that the Department of Transport and Works has responsibility for the maintenance of parks and gardens immediately bordering Block 8 and other government buildings nearby. Do the same conditions apply to the garden area beside the police headquarters and, if so, when will the Department of Transport and Works do something about bringing this garden up to the standard of others adjoining government offices in the area?

ANSWER

There is some confusion as to who owns those 2 particular blocks - blocks 4794 and 4328. The Department of Transport and Works has contract for a period to maintain the block adjacent to the Chan Building in Mitchell Street. The other lot the honourable member mentioned is being maintained by the Police Force itself. I believe that a long-term solution will have to be found in regard to the ownership of those particular lots. If it is felt necessary, we could transfer those areas to the council. However, I ask the honourable member to take the problem up with the Minister for Lands and Housing who has that responsibility.

Katherine Community Health Centre

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the Department of Health intend to divest itself of the Katherine Community Health Centre building by the end of 1982 as was recommended in the Kirton and Whiting Report on Community Health Services?

ANSWER

I have no knowledge of that recommendation in the Kirton and Whiting Report being adopted by the department. As I mentioned during the last sittings, the report was the basis for discussion and was circulated widely throughout the community. We are expecting a response from people in the Health Department in Katherine and, in fact, from other citizens of Katherine. If it is felt that the proposal by Kirton and Whiting, to shut the health centre in Katherine and transfer its activities to other areas, would be deleterious to the people of Katherine, it just would not proceed. I am not sitting in judgment in this particular matter. The proposals put forward in the report related to really very important issues and should be discussed widely through the community. When that discussion has taken place, we will be able to more seriously address ourselves to what happens to infrastructures such as the health centre at Katherine.

Port Charges

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Have new port charges been decided upon and, if so, when will they come

into effect?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, Cabinet is evaluating a proposal by the Port Authority for the various charges. Until such time as Cabinet completes its deliberations, I am unable to provide the information that the honourable member seeks.

Government Meeting with Aboriginal Organisations

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the government intend to hold a meeting with representatives of Aboriginal organisations in the Territory as a follow up to last year's Darwin meeting and, if so, when and where?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the particular meeting to which the member refers. The Northern Territory government is continually holding meetings with various Aboriginal organisations and persons. We hold an annual meeting with Aboriginal community councils. Perhaps that is the one that he is referring to. Also, every couple of months, we hold consultative meetings with land councils and we meet with the National Aboriginal Conference representatives from the Northern Territory from time to time. If the honourable member is, in fact, referring to the usual annual conference with Aboriginal community council representatives, as far as I am aware, it will be held again next year because that is what it is - an annual conference. Where it is held is pretty much in the hands of the people who attend it and the officials who organise it. Usually, they try to hold it at Kormilda College because there is residential accommodation there. Therefore, they are limited to school holidays. They might hold it during the first or second semester break. I seem to recall attending one at least 6 months ago so it must be in the first part of the year.

Stuart Highway

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise when the remaining narrow sections of the Stuart Highway will be widened and upgraded to national highway standards?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Department of Transport and Works, with assistance from the Commonwealth government, is constantly upgrading the Stuart Highway. In fact, there is only about 500 km to go to complete the widening of that section. It is hoped that, by 1988, some 350 km will have been widened, leaving about 150 km to go. Earlier this year we opened the section between Katherine and Darwin and that has reduced the travelling time by at least 1 hour. I understand that further sections between Katherine and Tennant Creek will be widened this year and other sections between Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. The government's program is to upgrade not only the Stuart Highway but also the Barkly and Victoria Highways. By 1988, hopefully, most of the Stuart Highway will have been widened with the exception of about 150 km.

Negotiations on Ro-Ro

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

On Tuesday, he indicated that, within 24 hours, he would have more definite information on the Ro-Ro dispute in Singapore. What is the current situation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am unable to advise the Assembly on the latest position regarding negotiations with the consortium and the builder. I understand that a meeting is being held in Singapore at 11.30 Darwin time. Hopefully, during the adjournment debate this afternoon, I will be able to advise on the latest position.

Government Meeting with Aboriginal Organisations

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

In my previous question, I was not referring to meetings the government holds with councils in Aboriginal communities of which I am aware. I was referring to a meeting which I understood took place last year with Aboriginal organisations, based in Alice Springs and other urban centres, such as the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and the Institute for Aboriginal Development.

ANSWER

I do not know whether another such meeting is proposed. I will have to seek advice from my officers.

Stockfeed Mill

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he advise if Australian Agricultural Consulting and Management Group have prepared a report on the need for, size and location of a Territory stockfeed mill and, if so, when will the report be released and what recommendations did it contain?

ANSWER

The stockfeed mill study commissioned from the Australian Agricultural Consulting and Management Group by the NT government through the NTDC in conjunction with ADMA has been received and is under consideration by government. The report is positive in that it recommends that a market exists in the Northern Territory to establish a stockfeed mill of around 20 000 t annual capacity provided there is a modest growth in the intensive livestock industries. The government is in the process of distributing copies of this report to various organisations and potential investors who have previously expressed interest in this area. Following recent trade missions to South-east Asia, discussions were held with a Singapore company which was extremely interested in the venture and indications are that a second Singapore-based company could well be interested. A contract to construct a feedmill could be negotiated between now and early 1984 and all the indicators are positive for such a conclusion.

High School for Sanderson

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to his advice to me in August that it was not expected that a high school would be required in Sanderson within the next 10 years. In view of the large number of primary school enrolments, can he inform me whether this decision has been subject to review?

ANSWER

Following mention of this matter by the member for Sanderson and by the Chief Minister, who is particularly concerned to ensure that adequate high school facilities are made available in the northern suburbs, I asked for a complete review of projected enrolments in secondary schools in the Darwin area. On present projections there may be accommodation difficulties for the year 1985. It is anticipated that at a school such as Dripstone, it may be necessary to provide demountable accommodation for one or perhaps two years at the most. From projections available to me it appears that when Palmerston High School is commissioned, the resultant relief on high school accommodation throughout the Darwin area generally will result in spare capacity.

Sufficient capacity is indicated by the figures given to me as a result of detailed analysis by demographers in the Department of Lands and the Department of Education. Capacity is sufficient to cope without the expenditure of some $6m or $7m with the exception perhaps of a little bit of difficulty in 1985. I am quite sure that honourable members would not wish us to spend that sort of money if it was not entirely necessary. Capacity within the present school system will be further enhanced with the commissioning, probably in 1986, of the high school at Palmerston. Nonetheless, the government will be keeping a very close eye on the situation.

Driving Licences for 16-year-olds

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I have pursued this matter through correspondence and questions previously. What is the current position with regard to 16-year-olds in country areas who have the necessary skills to warrant the issue of a licence but who are without access to high school driving schools and thus unable to obtain a driver's licence?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am unable to provide the honourable member with any further information other than to say that the Motor Vehicle Registry is examining that particular question. However, some further advice was given to me regarding people living in the Darwin area. There could be some 16-year-old apprentices in the motor mechanic trade for whom special provisions could be made provided they were able to get their licences through the student education driving section. I will take the matter on board and endeavour to give the honourable member update information regarding her proposal.

Lake Nash Site

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the government planning to spend approximately $1.5m to duplicate

facilities at Bathurst Downs that are currently available at Lake Nash despite the fact that the community has consistently advised members of various government departments, the Minister for Community Development and the station management, that it does not wish to move from the site it has occupied for over 50 years?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware that the provision of facilities for Aboriginal people in the Lake Nash area will cost in the order of $1.5m as indicated by the honourable Leader of the Opposition. Certainly, since the expenditure of a sum of that magnitude is no light undertaking, consultations and adequate planning should take place before authorisation of the project goes forward. I am of the understanding that officials of my department and the Department of Community Development were in fact requested, with other parties, to attempt to negotiate a living area on this station for the Aboriginal people at Lake Nash. At that time, I understand, the Aboriginal people were interested in the area known as Bathurst Downs. It has been stated recently that the Aboriginal people have changed their minds and wish to remain at Lake Nash. I understand that one of the purposes of the meeting to which the honourable Leader of the Opposition referred earlier is to try to resolve the position and find out what in fact are the true wishes of the Aboriginal people themselves rather than hear them from self-appointed spokesmen on their behalf. It is my earnest wish that the matter be resolved. It is a matter of complete indifference to the government where the people decide they want to live. We just want to know that they are satisfied with it, that there is water there and that they are going to stay there before we spend $1.5m. I think we must do that to satisfy the taxpayers' interests.

Auctioning Darwin Primary School Land

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

It has come to my notice that the government is giving consideration to the auctioning of blocks of land which form part of the Darwin Primary School. Is he able to inform me if my information is correct?

ANSWER

I am having this matter looked into to establish exactly whether it was proposed to sell land which, as I understood it, was in fact part of the Darwin Primary School. Apparently there are a series of separate leases on the block that it occupies. I think they have been in existence for many years but have never been alienated. I am having a brief put together on the subject so that I can review the situation and any proposal to sell the blocks.

Registrar-General's Office

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

An advertisement recently appeared in the Australian Financial Review relating to the advantages of conducting a business by means of a company incorporated in the Northern Territory. This resulted in a very critical article in the Bulletin which alleged that some advantages accrued because of the unsophistication of the Northern Territory Registrar-General's Office. Does the Chief Minister consider that that statement is justified and, if he does, has he taken any action to enhance the capacity and efficiency of that office?

ANSWER

I do not consider that the statement is justified. I may as well talk now about the National Companies and Securities Scheme because, apparently, that is what the honourable the Leader of the Opposition is referring to. The position is that Northern Territory corporations are still registered, and operate, under the Companies Act as amended from time to time. Recently, laws were enacted on national corporations and securities and a uniform code now exists between the states. Quite frankly, the sophistication of that code is well beyond the capacity of the Northern Territory, in its relatively unsophisticated, developmental stage of commerce, to undertake and absorb. The position is that the provisions of the Companies Act, if properly enforced, are quite satisfactory in respect of transactions likely to occur in the Northern Territory. When one knows that the NCSC is in fact stifling commerce in the south, fouling up almost every takeover bid, causing detriment to shareholders, creating a gold mine for QCs, one shudders at the thought of NCSC provisions coming into operation in the Northern Territory.

Mr Speaker, I believe that we must have the most simple and easily enforceable laws we possibly can. Judges have said that they cannot understand legislation under which the NCSC is established. They have said: 'Do not come before me again with that sort of legislation'. Apparently, the Leader of the Opposition is advocating that we should become a party to this scheme. The Northern Territory Companies Act is sufficient unto the day. Should there be any need to revise it at any time, this will be undertaken. Staffing of the Territory Companies Office is reasonably sufficient and I might say that the service offered by the Companies Office and the courts in the Territory is second to none. In Sydney, you have to do your own searches these days. In Brisbane, you have to wait months for searches because they have gone onto microfiche and they cannot work it out. In the Territory, you have your searches done the same day and documents are on the file in a matter of a few days. Titles are registered promptly. Court delays in the Territory are minimal. In that regard, the citizens of the Northern Territory live in a good place. It could well be that any sensible entrepreneur would see these things and say, 'If you want to do business in a less complicated, speedy, efficacious way, then register your company in the Northern Territory because that is where the best possible service is from any government anywhere in Australia'.

Apprentices for Department of Transport and Works

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Following reviews which have been undertaken in government circles over the past few weeks, can he indicate whether there is to be an increase in the intake of apprentices for 1983 within his department and, if so, by how many?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at the moment, I am unable to give exact details of our intake. In the debate last week regarding the employment situation for school leavers, I indicated that the Department of Transport and Works had already started to make progress in trying to encourage more apprenticeship, not only within the department but also with consultants. We are also trying to organise more apprenticeships with nominated subcontractors for the department. In the next couple of weeks, the department will have completed its review and will be in a position to make some recommendations to me for further

consideration. We are certainly very anxious to try to increase the intake of apprentices in the Department of Transport and Works for next year.

Todd River Bed

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

Will he undertake to investigate and, if necessary, rectify in the interests of flood mitigation the filling of the Todd Rover bed by dust, sand and dirt held in place by the introduced couch grass?

ANSWER

I will ask my department to provide me with some information regarding this.

Elsey Homestead Film Set

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question concerns a saga that is becoming almost as compelling as the film. Has the government now decided to call new tenders for the relocation and re-establishment of the Elsey Homestead film set and, if so, why?

ANSWER

The Chief Minister has been handling this in his capacity as minister responsible for conservation.

Tanami Highway

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise when the next stage of upgrading the Tanami Highway will commence and details of the work?

ANSWER

Hopefully, work will commence in June 1983 on 20 km of the highway and will cost something like $2m. I believe a further stage to seal the Papunya turn-off is proposed early in the 1983-84 financial year.

Elsey Homestead Film Set

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Speaker, I redirect my question on the Elsey Homestead film set to the honourable Chief Minister.

ANSWER

Over the last several weeks, some controversy has been generated by Mr Jack Taylor, formerly of Bloodwood Caravan Park, who is now a resident of Green Park Caravan Park at Larrimah. Mr Taylor claims that it is the best caravan park in the Northern Territory. He keeps crocodiles there, perhaps to handle unwary travellers. Mr Taylor is apparently very miffed that the homestead film set is not to be given to him to erect at his caravan park and he and I had a rather heated altercation on talk-back radio a few weeks ago. He shed many crocodile tears in the course of that altercation. This

altercation, and the controversy that has been generated by Mr Jack Taylor, has trampled on the feelings of a Mrs Sylvia Wolf of Mataranka who was to have provided the land on which the Conservation Commission was to have re-erected the film set in a more permanent fashion so that it would not blow away in the wind. The Conservation Commission was to have spent something like $80 000. It intended to erect a fence around it and Mrs Wolf was going to collect $1 admission fee from all applicants which she was to put in a bank account with which the Conservation Commission would administer and pay for repairs.

I should make it clear that not one cent of that $1 was to go to Mrs Wolf. She was making the land available until a recreational park of some sort is gazetted in that area and the Conservation Commission can place the set there permanently. Unfortunately, Mrs Wolf decided that she had had enough because of Mr Jack Taylor's allegations on radio, TV and everywhere else he could get his name in lights. She wrote me a very short and terse letter the other morning. She is known for her mercurial temperament. I like and admire the lady highly. She has guts and she is prepared to give things a go. Jack Taylor is the same. It is a bit of a blue between 2 pretty strong-willed people. She said: 'Well, you know what you can do with your film set'. Mr Speaker, there we were. I am jolly sick of this film set at this stage. To be honest, I almost wish the film company had burnt it.

In any event, I requested the Department of Community Development - for some reason it carries out the calling of tenders - to hurry up and advertise the thing again. I received a telex yesterday to the effect that Lambert and Sarny, the operators of the Mataranka Homestead, are now interested in tendering to put it up at their own expense, maintain it and keep it open to the public in the precincts of the Mataranka Homestead. That sounds jolly good to me. If they are the only applicants, I will be happy to authorise it.

Removal of Buildings at Dhupuma

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does the Department of Education intend to complete the removal of the buildings remaining at Dhupuma which, at the least, are an environmental blight?

Mr B. Collins: They are a frightful mess.

ANSWER

In answer to the member's question and also to the interjection of the honourable Leader of the Opposition in which he described them as a frightful mess, I have had a number of complaints, Mr Speaker, variously describing them as a frightful mess in language which you would have me thrown out for using. I understand they are in very poor shape. What can be done about it is rather a difficult question to answer. It is my belief that the property has been vested now in Mr Roy Marika. It was part of an arrangement between the Northern Territory government and Mr Marika. It is not government property. It is not on government land. Under the federal Land Rights Act, it would have belonged to the trust but there is an arrangement, as I understand it, whereby Mr Marika is in fact the proprietor of the whole. So, it is out of the government's hands altogether.

I understand that Mr Marika put the proposition to the government that he wanted it for family purposes. I hope I am right. If not, I would be the first to apologise to Mr Marika for the error. That is my understanding of it.

In any event, it is no longer the property of the government.

I do not know what can be done. The matter was first brought to my attention about a week ago and I will certainly look into it, not so much in my capacity as Minister for Education but because I dare say the Department of Community Development would have to have some input. I will instruct officers to look into the matter and report back as soon as possible.

Services to Humpty Doo

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

As the sum of $2 231 240 is to be expended at the Humpty Doo Village site for the provision of services of water, sewerage and electricity, when will the government consider extending these services to people who are already living in the area nearby?

ANSWER

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

Marlow's Lagoon at Palmerston

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

It has been suggested that Marlow's Lagoon, which is the lagoon situated at the town of Palmerston, should be filled in. Is he aware of such a suggestion and, if so, can he give me some assurance that this will not take place?

ANSWER

I would hope that the honourable member does not think that I authorised the filling in of the lagoon. This rumour came to my attention a while back and I understand that it stemmed from the discovery of a large stockpile of earth in the vicinity of the lagoon. The Chairman of the Palmerston Development Authority assures me that the earth has been there for some time and has not been placed there with a view to filling in the lagoon. Indeed, the Palmerston Development Authority would not even contemplate such a move. The lagoon will form part of an area which will include a golf course. It will be one of the nicest recreational areas in Palmerston. I can assure the honourable member that there is no intention whatsoever on the part of government or its authorities to in any way interfere with the natural state of Marlow's Lagoon.

East Arm Leprosarium

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the intended future use of the now disused East Arm leprosarium, both site and buildings?

ANSWER

The Department of Transport and Works has a caretaker role in relation to the East Arm leprosarium. In fact, any decision on it would have to be made by the Minister for Lands and Housing.

East Arm Leprosarium

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I redirect my question to the Minister for Lands and Housing.

ANSWER

It seems that I have responsibility. I cannot think who else I can pass it on to. There has been no final decision on the future use of the facilities. There are, however, a number of possibilities which I will not canvass because I cannot recall them all. I know some interest has been expressed by various people. It is tied in with the future of the East Arm area. Recently, a land offer was made to a company which proposes, initially, to put in a clinker-grinding plant and, eventually, a full cement factory. That should be a catalyst for further interest in the East Arm area to be expressed by persons proposing industry that needs to be near port facilities which, I think, in the very long term, will be at East Darwin. No specific decision has been made on the future of those buildings and the area. However, they are unlikely to remain unoccupied for very long.

Smith Street in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise what approaches have been made to him for assistance to reconstruct and widen Smith Street in Alice Springs and what action, if any, he will take?

ANSWER

I received representations from the honourable member for Stuart and the Mayor of Alice Springs, Mr Smith. I understand that the Department of Transport and Works has had discussions with the council and there is a proposal to widen Smith Street at a cost of some $400 000. The Department of Community Development has responsibility for providing those funds. When a decision has been made to widen Smith Street, no doubt I will receive instructions from the department to proceed.

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has agreement been reached with the Darwin City Council as to the future management of the East Point Reserve area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the answer is no. I am still awaiting a formal response from the city council to an offer made to it to take over the East Point Reserve plus adjacent areas, including most of the former golf course. We propose to vest control in the council provided we can reach agreement on matters of principle, such as funding. I understand from the Lord Mayor that he is having some work done by council officers on costs etc and will be putting a proposition back to government in the near future.

Motor Vehicle Registration

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What stage has been reached in the adoption of national standards for the registration of motor vehicles and motor cycles?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, my recollection is that a constant review is being carried out by the Motor Vehicle Registry. I will write to the honourable member advising him of the latest position.

Rural Old Timers' Association

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the current position regarding a block of land in the rural area for the Rural Old Timers' Association?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, honourable members would be aware from the statement I delivered in the Assembly some months ago that the government is seeking to identify an area of land in the rural area for the establishment of a senior citizens facility. As a result of discussions with the people concerned in the rural area, recently my department organised a bus tour of all the possible sites available for consideration. The conclusion of the group which made the tour was that the site picked out by officers from the Departments of Lands and Health was the best available. It is on the south side of Fred's Pass Reserve. I am happy to say that the Minister for Lands has agreed that about 7 ha of that 200 ha area will be set aside and held for the purpose of developing a senior citizens facility in the rural area. I hope that very early in the New Year plans will be made for the ultimate development of this area. I would be very keen to see funding made available in next year's budget at least for the development of the community centre hall. From there, the project will proceed at a fairly rapid rate.

Alice Springs Golf Course

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer him to this morning's news report of the successful completion of negotiations for a $90m development on the Alice Springs golf course. Has his department been involved in those negotiations and, if so, to what extent?

ANSWER

Obviously, the government has a role in this proposed development by the Alice Springs Golf Club, the holders of a special purposes lease. Since adjacent roads and Crown land are the responsibility of the government, the department in Alice Springs was involved during the last year or so of negotiations.

Answer to Question

Mr PERRON (by leave): The honourable member for Sanderson asked me if the government would grant a lease of land to the YWCA in the northern suburbs.

I advise that a lease in perpetuity to the YMCA was approved on 17 September 1982. Issue of the title is dependent upon rezoning which is currently being processed. The title is expected to be issued in about February or March 1983. The design documentation and tendering for the youth facility is being handled by the Northern Territory Housing Commission as agent for the YWCA.

The member for Sanderson also asked a question in relation to the provision of open space in private development subdivisions in the northern suburbs. I advise that the documentation included a requirement that open space be provided at the developer's expense and handed back to government. I am advised that, in relation to open space areas in both Leanyer and Karama, the developer has to service these blocks only to the extent of providing water to them. They will then vest in the government as vacant Crown land at nil cost to the government. The government has in fact commenced landscaping of the areas concerned in Leanyer and Karama.

Environmental Impact of Proposed Channel Island Power-station

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has he received advice on any likely rise in the temperature of the water adjacent to Channel Island when the coal-fired power-station is operational and, if not, will he undertake to ask for such information?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have any specific advice. All power-stations which require substantial quantities of water for cooling and distillation purposes usually discharge warm water back into the sea. This matter will be addressed no doubt in the environmental impact statement for Channel Island powerhouse which is being prepared at present and will go on public display later. I could also indicate that such temperature changes in the harbour would not necessarily be to the detriment of the fish. It seems that the environment can adjust to these things. I understand that the warm water outlet at Stokes Hill Powerhouse, for example, is a very popular fishing spot. The variation in temperature seems to attract small fish, and other marine life, which in turn attract bigger fish. Consequently, it is a fairly popular spot to fish. Whilst not saying that there will be no change to the marine environment in the vicinity of such outlets, it will not necessarily be for the worse.

Council Rates in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that in Alice Springs, the receipt of council rate bills followed closely by sewerage and water rate bills is causing financial hardship to some residents? Would he undertake to review, in consultation with the Alice Springs Town Council, the mailing dates of these accounts?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for the question. This matter has been brought to my attention by himself and other parties over the last few weeks. I suppose there is very little the council can do about the timing of its issue of rate notices. I suppose it could take on board the possibility of staggering the period of payment. That council, like any council, is tied to the financial year structure which is part and parcel of the financial management of this country. It is around October/November by the time rate

notices are issued. The same would apply to residents of Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin.

The matter goes beyond just the issue of council rates. It has been brought to my attention that the Department of Transport and Works, in the normal course of issuing accounts, has a cut-off date for payment of water bills of, I think, 20 December. Logically, there would be quarterly payments for telephone and electricity bills etc. I have no doubt at all, Sir, that this does not necessarily mean a happy Christmas at all. Council rates are $400 to $700 for the average residence. Electricity bills are in the order of $130. Add bills for a telephone service etc and it can become quite a problem.

I drafted a letter for the Chief Minister this morning for consideration by Cabinet as to what the government can do to stagger bills of this nature to the community. The government cannot forgo these charges. They do not even cover the cost of providing the services. But I think we could examine the timing of some government accounts. I think that councils could look at the possibility of having 2 payments a year to cover rates instead of one, particularly if rates are charged in the period October through to Christmas. It does not help people who are looking forward to having sufficient funds for Christmas. It does not help to have to make a $700 or $800 or even $1000 payment in the period November to December. To the average family, that is a lot of money.

Mr Speaker, I am aware of the problem. Certainly, the government will examine what methods can be used to lessen the impact of the timing of these imposts. The other matter, of course, is one that can be referred to local councils, and I undertake to do so.

Darwin Women's Centre

Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he undertake to consult with the Darwin Women's Centre organisation about the future use of the building it occupies in McLachlan Street, Darwin, before a decision is made as to the use of that building?

ANSWER

I do not have to give such an undertaking because consultations have already taken place. I understand meetings have occurred between my women's adviser and members of the collective that occupies the house in McLachlan Street. The honourable member for Nightcliff said a few words about all this in the adjournment debate the other day and I was going to address it in the adjournment debate myself.

The honourable member for Nightcliff said that a collective was ideally the organisation to run a centre such as this and that the Salvation Army was peculiarly unsuited to running it. On the contrary, my investigations would tend to disclose that only one such centre is run by a collective elsewhere and collectives have been progressively replaced. In any event, I will find those further details and say a few words on this subject in the adjournment debate today.

Consultations have taken place and included the Department of Community Development. I understand the sole reason for taking this action is that the place simply has not been run for the purpose for which it was intended.

Really it has just been used as a residence.

Use of Sanderson High School Site

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has consideration been given to using the site set aside for Sanderson High School for a technical high school?

ANSWER

Consideration has not been given to that use. However, the subject of a technical high school or a vocational high school similar in philosophy to the Sadadeen High School project has certainly been considered. At this stage, as I indicated in reply to an earlier question, the government is keeping a very close watch on student population trends in the Darwin area. For that reason, I can indicate to honourable members that it is the intention of the government to keep that land for the purpose of a high school should it be so required.

There is something that I did not mention. If we were to reach the population stability that exists in the southern cities, then another high school would be necessary. There are no indicators yet but, as all honourable members and the public would be aware, because of self-government and because of many of the efforts of this government, our population is a lot more stable than it has been in the past. That stability curve is improving all the time. If we attain the same sort of stability - although I hope that we do not because that would mean that we would be stagnating - as places like Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, then it would be quite likely that we would need that site at a later time. So, it will be kept for that purpose at least for the time being.

Alice Springs Lease

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer him to my previous question. Has he decided to extend the original Alice Springs Golf Club lease and, if so, when did he make that decision?

ANSWER

This matter is the subject of a briefing from my department, which I have not yet received. I am only aware of the matter in broad principle and the honourable member may care to place the question on notice.

Aboriginal -
  and Islander Medical Service 1051
  communities, essential services *1044
  health facilities, tour by journalists 1093
  Health Workers, housing 1113
  rangers at Ayers Rock Mt Olga National Park 1119
Admiralty House 1070
Aerial Medical Service 1101
Alice Springs -
  causeway 1056
  council rates 1145
  golf course 1144, 1147
  high-rise development 1054
  industrial subdivision 1055
  prison farm 1100
  school truancy 1093
  town basin 1080
Alpurrurrulam community 1058
Amoonguna, youth services 1111
Apprehension without arrest *1049
Apprentices in Department of Transport and Works 1139
Archives, Administrative Arrangements Orders 1080
Arnhem Highway, water points 1108
Banka Banka Station, education staff *1042
Batchelor College 1131
Bathurst Downs, nitrate levels in watercourse 1133
BCF fire extinguishers 1060
Beetaloo Station, access road 1055
Bellenger, Geoffrey Peter *1041
Bilingual program in NT schools 1121
Block 8, parks and gardens 1134
Bores in Darwin rural area 1083
Borroloola, community government 1057
Brinkin, traffic corridor 1098
BTB eradication strategy 1091
Buffaloes 1054
Bus passes 1083
Bynoe Harbour, access road *1043
Casuarina Shopping Centre, safety of pedestrians 1097
Chan Park Nursing Home 1120
Child welfare legislation 1129
Coal-fired power-station *1043, 1145
Coastal Plains Research Station, staffing levels 1088
Collia Tin Mine *1040
Commercial vehicles, regulations 1106
Community Health Medical Officers *1049
Community health nursing, diploma 1105
Community health sisters, visits to Rapid Creek School 1087, 1095
Commuter airline licences 1074
Crocodiles, salt water 1079, 1095
Cyclone advice for storm surge area residents 1126
Daly Waters, electricity supply 1114
Darwin Central Zone Sewage Treatment Plant *1050, 1072
Darwin City Council, houses *1042
Darwin civil airport terminal 1075
Darwin Community College 1085, 1132
Darwin Hospital -
  pathology laboratory *1039
  private hospital within 1081
  social workers 1086, 1091

Darwin Primary School, auction of land 1138
Darwin Women's Centre 1146
Degree course 1132
Department of Chief Minister, motor vehicles *1045
Department of Community Development, motor vehicles *1047
Department of Education, motor vehicles *1047
Department of Health, motor vehicles *1047
Department of Industrial Development and Tourism, motor vehicles *1046
Department of Lands and Housing, motor vehicles *1047
Department of Law, motor vehicles *1046
Department of Mines and Energy, motor vehicles *1048
Department of Primary Production, motor vehicles *1046
Department of Transport and Works, motor vehicles *1048
Department of the Treasury and NTEC, motor vehicles *1048
Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation, motor vehicles *1048
Development Corporation conference in Alice Springs 1114
Dhupuma College, removal of buildings 1141
Doctor-patient ratios in NT 1052
Drinking law, 2 km *1043
Driving licences for 16-year-olds 1137
Dump for noxious and hazardous substances 1106
East Arm Leprosarium 1142, 1143
East Point Reserve 1143
Education -
  budget 1982-83 *1045, 1064
  policy statements 1079, 1111
Electrical reticulation, undergrounding 1126
Elsey Homestead, film set 1140
Employment hot line 1089
Executive public servants, dismissals and resignations 1108
Fannie Bay -
  former Health Department stores building 1090
  waste water treatment plant 1122
Farm-fuel projects 1059
Federal Pacific Hotels, guarantee 1069
'Fellow Territorians' circular *1041
Film libraries 1092
FM radio stations, costs of establishing *1044
Frances Bay, oil storage area 1075
Freight subsidy scheme, sales tax 1108
Government meeting with Aboriginal organisations 1135, 1136
Government Printing Office *1044, 1062
Government staff housing scheme 1125
Grants-in-aid -
  community service organisations 1059
  scheme *1044
Grumman Trackers 1088
Gunn Point Prison Farm 1086, 1125
Health Department, internal reviews *1041
Health research, school of 1084
Heavitree Gap, construction work 1097
Herbicide subsidy scheme 1098
Horticultural industry, pests and diseases 1079
Horticultural seminar, Alice Springs 1077
Hospital patients, security for belongings 1051
Housing Act, hardship 1092
Housing finance, think-tank group 1124
Humpty Doo -
  land grant 1129
  services to 1142

Isolated students -
  accommodation 1127
  benefits 1083
Jabiru -
  motel 1106
  pets at 1112
Jape Building, fire 1069
Karguru bush camp, ablution facilities 1116, 1117
Katherine -
  Community Health Centre 1134
  Electricity supply, Donkey Camp *1039
  House *1050
  meatworks, loan 1054
  travel for sportsmen 1111
King's Canyon National Park 1097
Kirting and Whiting Report *1049
Lake Nash -
  meeting 1133
  school 1057
  site 1137
Land rights debate, opposition contribution 1109
Leprosy patients 1110
Liaison between government departments *1041
Liquor campaign *1040
Local industry preference policy 1073
MacDonnell Ranges, national park *1042
Maco Tours 1126
Magellen Petroleum, drilling and exploration 1053
Malak, community centre 1119
Marlow's Lagoon 1142
Mataranka Station, sale of subdivided land 1073
Meat Industry Bill 1097
Meat inspection service 1092
Medical engineering services 1095
Mereenie appraisal drilling program 1133
Minister for Transport and Works, Singapore visit *1045
Motor vehicle registration, national standards 1144
Mt Wells Battery *1042
Myilly Terrace, Crown land 1070
Newcastle Waters, power plant *1043
Nhulunbuy -
  encephalitis case 1129
  local government 1120
  purchase of Housing Commission homes 1084, 1110
Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd *1039
North-south rail-link 1069
NTEC, motor vehicles *1042
NT Library Service, book purchases 1063
Occupational therapist for Central Australia 1130
Parap Primary School, upgrading 1118
Parkinsonia, eradication 1058
Pastoral properties -
  advertisements in USA 1094
  covenants *1045
  road maintenance 1053
Pay for prisoners 1109
Pedestrian crossings, Central Australia 1127
Plenty-Sandover region, roads 1055
Poisonous substances, disposal 1099

Port charges 1134
Post-graduate courses in NT 1107
Prison farm, southern region 1099
Psychiatric services 1052
Public housing in NT *1040
Public servants, male *1041
Railway corridor, land acquisition 1091
Rapes in southern region *1039
Rapid Creek Primary School, repairs and maintenance *1042
Registrar-General's Office 1138
Rental rebate recipients 1104
Residential tenancies 1061
Ro-Ro facility 1114, 1136
Rural areas -
  electricity connections 1086
  water reticulation 1117
Rural Old Timers' Association 1144
Sadadeen hills, blasting *1042
Sanderson -
  high school 1137, 1147
  subdivision in 1115, 1144
School crossings 1093, 1121
Sexcual assault cases *1040
Singapore government, technology kit 1124
Smith Street, Alice Springs 1143
Sobering-up centres 1131
Specialist medical officers *1049
Statements of accounts for government undertakings 1067
Stockfeed mill 1136
Storm surge areas, development in 1121
Stuart Highway 1135
Student assessment programs 1116
System-wide testing, NT schools 1061
Tanami Highway 1140
Tancred Meats 1077
Tempe Downs, lease 1099
Tennant Creek -
  abattoir 1094
  stormwater canal 1055
Territory Insurance Office, investments 1128
Timber Creek School 1089
Todd River, bed 1140
Todd River Bridge - Undoolya Road connector 1128
Tourist Groups Ltd 1105
Tourist information bay north of Alice Springs 1119
Tourist operations, standards 1058
Tradesmen visiting remote areas, government assistance *1039
Trailed vehicles, registration 1119
Unemployment rates in NT 1077
Waste water treatment plant 1122
Welatje Therre, proposed recreation site 1127, 1130
Workmen's compensation -
  for crews of vessels 1104
  medical reports 1107
Yulara -
  publicity officer *1043
  solar power 1056

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.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 15 March 1983

Karguru Bush Camp - Lease

795 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Will he grant a special purposes lease to the Karguru bush camp, Tennant Creek, to enable the provision of adequate ablution facilities?
2. Was an application for a special purposes lease for the Karguru bush camp lodged with his department in January 1982 and rejected by him in October 1982?
3. On what date did he inform the applicants of his decision to reject the application?

Specialist Medical Services

799 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

Is it a function of Darwin and Alice Springs Hospitals to be a pool for specialist services such as pathology and radiology and, if so, is this function being performed satisfactorily?

Apprentices

800 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware that only 5 panelbeating firms in Darwin employ apprentices?
2. Do the Territory Insurance Office and other government authorities give preference to firms employing apprentices?
3. Are corporations such as Telecom encouraged to employ and apprentice local youths in their Northern Territory operations?

Aboriginal Land Claims

810 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that under the *Aboriginal Land (Northern Territory) Act* (a) water is a mineral, and (b) river beds can be claimed?

Timber Creek - Land Claim

811 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that the township of Timber Creek is under land claim?
2. If the claim is successful, will the houses and improvements become the property of Aboriginals?

Northern Land Council - Legal Advisers

813 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he able to say how many legal advisers are employed by the Northern Land Council?

Kalano Association - Department of Health

816 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

How are the financial arrangements with the Kalano Association and the Department of Health proceeding?

Railway Electrification

817 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of his predecessor's statement late 1982 about reticulating power from a gas-fired power station in Darwin to Daly Waters, and in view of the proposed gas-operated power station in Alice Springs, will consideration be given to electrifying the Darwin to Alice Springs railway?

Aerial Medical Services

818 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. What are the comparative costs of providing aerial medical services, including routine medical and aerial evacuations, at Katherine, Gove and Darwin?
2. In view of cost benefits will Katherine be considered as the regional centre for Top End aerial medical services?

Tindal - Education

819 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is being done to anticipate the educational needs of the proposed RAAF base at Tindal?

Electricity - Outback Communities

820 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Accepting that consumers of electricity in major NT centres, including Aboriginal communities, are heavily subsidised, will the NT government consider extending this scheme to outback communities on cattle stations, tourist ventures and mining operations so that town rates are charged for power consumed, with a subsidy to cover the actual cost of power generation and maintenance?

From 22 March 1983

Lot 384, Katherine

822 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Is he aware of the neglected condition of lot 384, Katherine Terrace, Katherine?
2. If so, when will this lot be brought into keeping with the Territory's tidiest town?

Noxious Weeds - Eradication

823 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

Are all property owners in the Daly River basin cooperating with the Department of Primary Production in eradicating noxious weeds such as noogoora burr?

Specialist Medical Officers

824 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

What is the (1) number, and (2) description of specialist medical officers (a) employed by his department in the year ended 31 December 1982 who have gone into private practice and have entered into sessional or similar arrangements with the department, (b) employed by his department at 1 January 1983 who are expected to enter private practice prior to 31 December 1983 and are negotiating sessional or similar arrangements with the department, (c) positions existed in the department at 1 January 1983, (d) positions vacant at 1 January 1983, and (e) does the department plan to be employing at 31 December 1983?

Kirton and Whiting Report - Cost

825 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

What were (a) consultants' fees, and (b) other costs incurred by his department in the production of the Kirton and Whiting Report on urban-based community health centres?

Community Health Medical Officers

826 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

How many community health medical officer positions (a) existed, and (b) were vacant at 1 March 1983?

Stuart Highway - Realignment

827 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of plans to realign the Stuart Highway and by-pass the township of Larrimah?

Police Administration Act

828 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Since its inception in 1979, in regard to Division 4 of Part VII of the *Police Administration Act*, on a yearly basis -

1. how many persons have been apprehended;
2. how many of those apprehended were (a) Aboriginal, and (b) non-Aboriginal;
3. how many of the persons apprehended were subject to subsequent apprehension;
4. what is the average period of apprehension;
5. how many persons were released under the provisions of section 131(1); and
6. how many persons were dealt with under section 132?

Education Budget 1982-83

829 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In regard to the 1982-83 Education budget -

1. what are the specific budget allocations for each primary and secondary school in the Northern Territory;

2. what is the overall allocation for remedial teachers in the Northern Territory education system;

3. what is the budget allocation for teacher recruitment;

4. what is the budget allocation set aside to establish and implement testing procedures and tests themselves;

5. in the sections of the Education budget where both Territory and Commonwealth money is spent, what is the actual allocation of each; and

6. what capital works items are budgeted for and what is the breakdown of their allocations?

2 km Drinking Law - Advertising

830 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was (a) the cost of preparation and distribution, including postage, of the 2 leaflets, (b) the cost of the recent TV advertisements, and (c) the cost of recent newspaper advertisements regarding the 2 km drinking law?

Newcastle Waters - Power Supply

831 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. When was Newcastle Waters (a) provided with a public power supply, and (b) what was the cost of the provision of that power supply?

2. What is (a) the capacity of the Newcastle power station, (b) how many consumers are using the power, and (c) how many people from Newcastle Waters township signed a petition seeking the provision of a public power supply in October 1980?

Crushing Mill - Darwin Power Station

832 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Will a crushing mill for converting lump coal into powder for use in the proposed coal-fired power station be constructed in Darwin?

2. If so, (a) where will it be constructed, and (b) what is the anticipated cost?

Mt Wells Battery

833 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Is the area of the Mt Wells battery still part of the Ban Ban pastoral lease?

2. If so, is this the reason for the delay in full payment by Jingellic Minerals to the government for the Mt Wells battery and associated leases?

3. If so, when will this be resolved?

'Boozers are Losers' Campaign

834 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. How much is being spent on the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign?

2. For what reason was the contract awarded to a southern firm?

3. Has any contact been made with the liquor industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

Pathology Laboratory - Darwin Hospital

835 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. Can he inform me as to the fate of the pathology laboratory at the Darwin Hospital?

2. Has he considered the future of the laboratory in the light of a lack of such scientific facilities in the Department of Primary Production?

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - LAPSED ON PROROGATION 1 DECEMBER 1982

Questions Nos.: 44, 133, 195, 210, 224, 379, 500, 512, 513, 517, 564, 611, 618, 640, 645, 649, 657, 663, 670, 675, 697, 707, 719, 723, 728, 731, 735, 736, 753, 758, 760, 761, 763, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793.

Karguru Bush Camp - Ablution Facilities

794 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has he received advice from his department that improved ablution facilities are urgently required at the Karguru bush camp in Tennant Creek?

ANSWER

On 6 October 1982 the then Acting Minister for Community Development, Hon. Marshall Perron, wrote to you concerning this same question.

The situation has not changed because the matter of a lease of a suitable site has not yet been resolved.

In an endeavour to stimulate consideration of the whole question a series of proposals was put to the town council earlier this month and a response is expected shortly.

Karguru Bush Camp - Children's Hospitalisation

796 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. How many times were infants and children under the age of 12 years, who are resident at the Karguru bush camp in Tennant Creek, hospitalised during (a) the previous 12 months, and (b) the previous wet season?
2. How many infants and children under the age of 12 years, who are resident at the Karguru bush camp in Tennant Creek, were hospitalised during (a) the previous 12 months, and (b) the previous wet season?
3. In general, what was the most prevalent cause of hospitalisation?

ANSWER

The permanent population of Karguru bush camp is 9 adults and 5 children. Sixteen others visit the camp.

1. (a) There were 9 admissions to hospital during the previous 12 months (1 child was admitted 4 times). Two of those admitted were not permanent residents.

   (b) There were 5 admissions to hospital during the previous wet season. Three of those admitted were not permanent residents.

2. (a) There were 5 children hospitalised during the previous 12 months, 2 of whom were not permanent residents.

   (b) There were 5 children hospitalised during the previous wet season, 3 of whom were not permanent residents.

3. Diarrhoea.

Power Station Costs

797 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the cost of operating power stations at (a) Bamyili, (b) Beswick Station, (c) Duck Creek (Djembere), (d) Maranboy Police Station, and Roper Settlement (Ngukurr)?

ANSWER

The cost of operating the following power stations during 1981-82 was as follows: Bamyili $291 313; Beswick $135 000; Duck Creek $30 000; Ngukurr $252 000; and Maranboy police station $13 000.

A small proportion of the above costs would be applicable to the provision of other essential services, e.g., water and sewerage, on the 4 Aboriginal communities.

The operating costs for the Maranboy police station power plant is for fuel only with daily maintenance handled by the policeman on duty.

Electricity Reticulation

798 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

At the November 1982 sittings the minister then in charge of NTEC spoke of supplying towns such as Daly Waters with electricity from a Darwin-based coal-fired power station. What preparations are being made to reticulate electricity when the station comes on line?

ANSWER

NTEC maintains ongoing review of the economics of supply of electricity from Channel Island power station to towns remote from Darwin. Formal proposals are anticipated in the near future.

Economic studies already completed examine cost benefits resulting from the connection of both Pine Creek and Mataranka to Katherine by 1984, i.e. prior to coal-fired generation in Darwin.

Further studies examine cost benefits of connecting Darwin to Katherine by 1988, to coincide with the commissioning of Channel Island power station.

It would seem that connection of other minor centres, such as Daly Waters, would not be shown to be economically justified at this stage.

Studies will be continued.

St Vidgeon Station - Caretaker

801 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

Has the government employed a caretaker to protect its recently purchased St Vidgeon Station or is it satisfied that its cattle, improvements and tourist attractions are safe?

ANSWER

No action has been taken to appoint a caretaker for St Vidgeon Station.

As very few cattle remain on the property, and all improvements are in an extremely poor state of repair, the appointment of a caretaker is not contemplated.

The government is reviewing long term land use in the area.

Clearing of Blocks - Katherine

802 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that there is no law or by-law whereby owners of vacant blocks of land in Katherine can be forced to keep their blocks clear of rubbish, vermin and long grass?

ANSWER

On 4 March 1983 the notification of Katherine Town Council By-laws was gazetted, and the by-laws came into effect. Members of this Assembly, as always, have an opportunity to consider these by-laws and move a motion to disallow all or part, during the 2 sitting days following notification.

By-law 6.13(1) states: 'Where there is upon any land or premises any material or accumulation of materials which is likely to cause a public nuisance, to give rise to a condition dangerous to public health, or to attract vermin to that land or premises or to form a harbourage form vermin the Council may cause a notice in writing to be given to the occupier of the land or premises requiring him -

(a) to place such material in a vermin-proof receptacle or receptacles of a kind specified in the notice within the time specified therein; or

(b) to remove, dispose of, destroy or otherwise deal with such material within the time specified in the notice.".

Other by-laws give the Council the authority to rectify the situation if the occupier does not comply, and recover the expenses.

Fitzroy Pastoral Lease - Land Claim

803 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Is he aware that the viability of the Fitzroy pastoral lease will be threatened by an Aboriginal land claim on the permanent water called the 12-mile waterhole?

2. Has the government, as landlord, agreed to this action?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has no record of an Aboriginal land claim over the 12-mile waterhole on Fitzroy Station.

Pedestrian Crossings - Katherine

804 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Is he aware that recently 4 pedestrian crossings were eliminated in Katherine because they were not 'up to standard'?

2. Was the Road Safety Council and or any organisation consulted or was the decision to alter what had been a satisfactory circumstance an arbitrary one disregarding local knowledge?

ANSWER

1. Yes. During a recent visit to Katherine I inspected the areas where these crossings had been removed and discussed the issue with the Mayor of Katherine.

2. The crossings in Katherine had usage levels far below nationally accepted standards and constituted a potential hazard to pedestrians.

   National experience has demonstrated that pedestrian crossings which do not attract sufficient usage represent a greater hazard than crossing the road where no road markings are provided at all.

   The Road Safety Council is in agreement with this proposal and prior to removal of the crossings in Katherine advertisements were placed in the local newspaper which attracted no response.

Aboriginal Interpreter Service

805 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Can he advise whether the federal government has given any commitment in relation to the necessary funds sought to establish an interpreter service as recommended by the working party?

2. If the federal government has not been prepared to provide such funding for an Aboriginal interpreter service, will the Northern Territory government make a firm and unequivocal commitment to establish, as soon as possible, an interpreter service, whether or not the Commonwealth government is prepared to partly fund the project?

ANSWER

1. To date the Commonwealth government has not committed funding to establish a separate Aboriginal interpreter service as recommended in the 'Report on the Need for Aboriginal Interpreting in the Northern Territory'. Representations have been made to both the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs seeking comment on the report as this is a Commonwealth responsibility elsewhere.

   The former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs indicated that the matter was being considered jointly with his ministerial colleague responsible for ethnic affairs. In the interim the language services section of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs is now providing interpreting services in Aboriginal languages. Similarly, the NT Interpreting-Translating Service maintains a list of Aboriginal interpreters who are called upon by government departments.

   It is anticipated that discussions will be undertaken with the Commonwealth in March-April 1983 to consider the NT government submission to provide improved interpreting-translating services particularly for Aboriginal languages.

2. The NT government cannot pre-empt these discussions by unilaterally implementing the working party report recommendations. The government is, however, firm in its commitment to provide multilingual services and information including Aboriginal languages.

Mineral Leases - CRA

812 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that CRA has negotiated mineral leases with Aboriginals but cannot get access?

ANSWER

I assume that the honourable member's question relates only to CRA interests in his electorate. The company is of course negotiating on mining matters elsewhere as well.

In the Katherine area CRA is a party to a joint venture agreement over the Mt Todd mineral leases which are within the area claimed as the Katherine Aboriginal Land Claim. At the moment, there is nothing to prevent access to these leases. The company intends to make submissions to the Aboriginal Land Commissioner during the hearing of this land claim, in order to protect access to the leases (which were issued before the claim was lodged).

Fitzroy Station - Occupation

815 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. What are the details of the occupation of the Fitzroy Station pastoral lease by Aboriginals?

2. If the lease is occupied by squatting, is it with the consent of the owners of the lease?

ANSWER

1. A group of up to about 30 Aboriginals has been occupying an area of land adjoining the 12-mile waterhole on Fitzroy Station for about 2 years.

2. These people are squatting on the area, apparently without the consent of the owners.

Air Service - Darwin/Alice Springs

821 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will the 'milk run' service between Darwin and Alice Springs be made a regional airline by forbidding competition against it by TAA and Ansett as competition against Qantas by TAA and Ansett is forbidden on intra-state services?

ANSWER

The 'milk-run' (Darwin-Katherine-Tennant Creek-Alice Springs-return) is very definitely a part of the regional air service provided by Airlines of Northern Australia.

The service is protected thorugh the exclusivity provisions of ANA's RPT licence, which forbids commercial activity along the route without the express permission of the licensee.

Direct Darwin-Alice Springs-Darwin services provided by TAA and Ansett will continue as part of the national trunk network.

Use of Firearms by Security Guards

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the serious deficiencies in training security guards in the use of firearms disclosed in the case of R v Giuseppe Truglio, is the government revising its present policy in relation to tightening the regulations on the use of firearms by security guards?

ANSWER

During the last session, I had an exchange of questions and answers with the honourable Leader of the Opposition on this subject. The Registrar of Firearms, who is also the Commissioner of Police, is an expert in the use of firearms. It has been his attitude that the existing requirements for anyone, let alone security guards, to obtain a firearms licence have been more than sufficient to ensure that no one who would not use a firearm responsibly would ever receive a licence. A noticeable amount of the correspondence that passes over my desk is from persons who have been unsuccessful in obtaining a firearms licence. On the face of it, some of these applicants seem to have good and sufficient reason to obtain a licence. Nonetheless, I must say that, in all cases, I have upheld the registrar's decision.

Mr Speaker, the registrar is still of the opinion that his standards are sufficient. However, having received what amounts to a representation from the Leader of the Opposition, I will take the matter up with him again. I think I advised the Leader of the Opposition last year of the various requirements laid down by the registrar. Nonetheless, I will look at the matter again and see if the registrar has had any change of viewpoint.

Barramundi Fishery

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Comments have been made that the poor wet season could have an effect on the Northern Territory barramundi fishery. What is the current state of the industry, and is the barramundi fishery threatened as a result of the poor wet season?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the impact of the lateness of the Wet on the barramundi fishery was a matter of concern to the government. Cabinet was briefed by one of the department's fisheries experts on the impact it was likely to have on the fishery. Barramundi fishermen seem to be taking a reasonable catch at this stage of the season. It has been suggested that this level of catch might be short-lived. It might peak and then drop off very quickly, and the rest of the season may not be as good. It has also been put to us by the fisheries expert that, if there is any adverse impact on the fishery as a result of the late Wet and a possibility of fishermen catching fish with roe at this early stage of the season, the impact on the fishery would be seen in 3 to 4 years' time rather than later this year or in the next season.

Mr Speaker, this matter is of great concern to the government because the barramundi fishery is a unique asset of the Northern Territory. We will watch it very closely and follow the advice of the fisheries experts.

Hospital Bed Charges

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the federal government's commitment to a system of free public hospital in-patient treatment for all Australians, can he give an undertaking that he will not increase hospital bed charges prior to the introduction of that scheme?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask that the question be placed on notice.

Stuart Highway at Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise when work will actually start on the realignment and reconstruction of the Stuart Highway through the town of Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was able to obtain agreement from the previous Minister for Transport that the Commonwealth would fund 75% of this project - a total amount of approximately $3m. Tenders are expected to be called on 21 March and it is anticipated that a contract will be let in late May. Work on the project should be completed by June 1984.

Wildman River Station

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS

For what public purpose was the Wildman River Station acquired or bought by the government?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not want to make an exhaustive statement on the reasons for which Wildman River Station was purchased. The honourable member for Nightcliff would know the location and virtues of that property which, unfortunately, has not been run very successfully since it was first released to the public. My recollection is that Wildman River was first leased to Mr E.J. Connellan of Alice Springs, who either turned in the lease or forfeited it. It appears that no greater success has been achieved by subsequent owners because the government tendered to purchase Wildman River Station at either a receiver's or liquidator's sale. From memory, that occurred late last year. A very detailed examination of the property is being undertaken now by a working party. Wildman River has been used as a safari camp by Wimray Safaris over the last several years and therefore it has tourist potential. As Minister for Lands, I have in hand an application from Wimray Safaris for a lease for safari purposes over a portion of the station. I have directed the Secretary of the Department of Lands to issue a lease upon reasonable terms to Wimray Safaris so that it can establish a base safari camp at a location on Wildman River. It has also applied for what amounts to a game reserve on another part of Wildman River and that application is being held in abeyance pending the complete examination of the assets of the property.

I am informed that, on the agricultural and horticultural side, there is land there suitable for growing horticultural products quite extensively. I

might indicate, Mr Speaker, that very serious approaches have been made by persons who wish to engage in agriculture and horticulture on a large scale. It may be possible to accommodate these people from the land that will become available on Wildman River.

Basically, I think that you could say that there are a number of reasons for the purchase of the area; for example, tourism and conservation. There are areas on Wildman River which we want to dedicate for conservation purposes, and also for agricultural and horticultural purposes. Of course, any remnant of the property would still be available for buffalo domestication projects should it be decided to extend those there. The owners of Point Stuart Station have shown interest in purchasing part of Wildman River.

There are a number of reasons for the government purchasing a property such as Wildman River Station. This sort of move will not be uncommon in the future as the government attempts to rationalise land holdings in the Territory and to obtain maximum utilisation of land in the community interest.

Sunday Air Service for Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he say when a replacement air service into and out of Nhulunbuy on Sundays will commence?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, Nhulunbuy is not serviced by any other means of transport. The road is closed during the wet season. It is a hopeless situation. The people there rightly feel very isolated when there is a disruption to the air services provided. In recent weeks there have been changes to the air services to the disadvantage of the community there. The Chief Minister and I went to Nhulunbuy to talk to various people, particularly the Confederation of Industry. Airline representatives went there at my request and talked to a number of townspeople affected by changes in the air services. I understand that Airlines of Northern Australia has committed itself to review schedules so that a Tuesday service can be returned to Nhulunbuy. I understand from Mr Jack Cue, the TAA South Australian manager, that he has undertaken to review Sunday services. The government is not in a position to impose a strict schedule on services that emanate from other states. We can only try to cooperate with the airlines so that they will provide the best service that they can to the people of Nhulunbuy.

Schwartz Crescent Crossing

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has he had any response to his letter to Alice Springs Town Council urging it to use money provided in the 1982-83 budget to build the Schwartz Crescent crossing?

ANSWER

I have not seen any such letter but that does not mean that there is not one in my office. I will advise the honourable member later.

Community Health Programs

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

The Australian Labor Party platform in the recent federal election committed an injection of $20m into community health programs. Can he undertake not to reduce Northern Territory community health centres staff or services any further until details of these programs are negotiated?

ANSWER

It will take time for us to assess the impact of the Labor health policy on the Northern Territory. Until such time as a proper assessment is made, I am unable to answer the honourable member.

Brandt Road

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

After repeated requests to Department of Transport and Works officers for repairs to be done at Brandt Road in Berrimah, will he give consideration to such repairs?

ANSWER

The road in question is outside the municipal boundary and is regularly maintained by the Department of Transport and Works. During the current financial year, some major repairs have been made to one section by raising the road level and installing a relief culvert. The estimated cost of this work is $10 000. Like much of Knuckey's Lagoon area, there are severe drainage problems on Brandt Road. The road was not constructed to a high standard and a need has been identified for upgrading. That project is included on a list of roads in the rural area for upgrading to seal standard in 1984-85. Apparently, some local residents have suggested that the proposed Knuckey arterial road should follow Brandt Road rather than the Secrett Road line. This will be discussed by local residents at a public meeting at Berrimah on 9 April and one of my officers will attend that meeting.

Meadowfresh Products

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Could he indicate if a milk-type product known as Meadowfresh is currently being sold in the Northern Territory and if approval has been given for its sale? Can he indicate why the Queensland government banned that particular product in that state?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member has given me notice of this question. A company known as Meadowfresh Farms of Australia is marketing a dairy-based food drink in some areas of Australia of which, it is claimed, 75% is derived from cow's milk plus vegetable fats, sweeteners, butters, stabilisers, emulsifiers, vitamins and flavouring. Queensland has just prohibited the sale of the product in that state on the ground that it does not comply with the provisions of Queensland's Field Milk Act. Previously, Western Australia and Victoria banned sales. Whilst sales have not been prohibited formally in South Australia and New South Wales, both states have not approved sales of the product as current labelling does not conform to the requirements of the Pure

Foods Act and health authorities are querying the vitamin and mineral supplement of the product. I am advised that, provided these matters are resolved, there will be no trade restrictions on sales of the product in South Australia and New South Wales.

Mr Speaker, unlike Queensland, the Northern Territory has no field milk legislation and there is no impediment to the sale of the product in the Northern Territory from the agricultural point of view. However, I understand that the Northern Territory Food Standards Act, administered by the Department of Health, contains a provision that a food cannot be sold in the Territory unless it is approved for sale in the states of Australia. The Minister for Health has asked his department to ascertain the details of the market requirements for the product in the states and the ACT and it is not appropriate for me to comment further at this stage. I am not able to say why Queensland refused the right of sale of that product recently other than that I believe Queensland has a very strong dairy lobby which may have had some influence in the matter.

Statement by Women's Adviser

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Are the views expressed by his Women's Adviser, Mrs Lynn Ryan, at a public meeting to mark International Women's Day on 8 March last the views of his government and, if not, what steps has he taken to assure the public that the views expressed by Mrs Ryan on that occasion are not the views of his government?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, my recollection is that my Women's Adviser spoke to a meeting a week ago on the occasion of International Women's Day. She brought to the attention of a wide audience in the Territory the provisions of the international convention relating to discrimination against women. It is surprising to me that the honourable member for Sanderson would even raise the subject by way of a question because it has been debated in this Assembly before today. The honourable member for Sanderson was in the Assembly at the time and needs only to refresh her memory by reference to Hansard to see that the Northern Territory, together with all other Australian governments including the federal government, was at that time examining the convention. I think it had been signed at that stage by the federal government and was subject to a federal clause. This, of course, entailed ratification. The convention was being examined clause by clause and, in due course, that process was finalised. The convention is supported by all Australian governments. I think that the Women's Adviser, Mrs Lynn Ryan, performed a useful service in bringing this convention, which is virtually unknown outside a select circle, to the notice of the community generally. Based on the response to my office, the community certainly is concerned with some provisions of the convention. The fact is that this document is not just a Northern Territory document nor an Australian document, but a world document. In some places that document is the only thing that women have as legal support in circumstances that are much more adverse to women than they are in Australia.

I feel that the airing given the subject by my Women's Adviser has been well worth while in that it has brought the matter to attention. I notice that none of the honourable members opposite really did anything about bringing to public attention the provision of the document before that was done by my appointee.

Members interjecting.

Mr EVERINGHAM: The honourable squawky members opposite have been very silent on the subject out in the electorate. The various provisions of this convention will now become much more familiar to women in the Territory because many of them who had never heard of it, despite the fact that we have 4 women members in this Assembly, will now make further inquiries.

Mr Speaker, although the support of my government for the convention is well known, the speech made by the Women's Adviser has been extremely useful and has indicated to Territory women the existence of this convention, which certainly has now been agreed to by all of us in this Assembly.

Statement by Women's Adviser

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that, at a public rally held on 8 March to mark the occasion of the International Women's Day, his Women's Adviser, Mrs Lynn Ryan, called for the rejection of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women? In view of the fact that he now thinks Mrs Lynn Ryan performed a commendable service to the women of the Northern Territory, does the statement that she made on that occasion signal retraction of the support of government members expressed in this Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I wonder where the honourable member for Sanderson was on the day of the rally. As I understand it, she was not present to point out the positive sides, as she sees them, of this particular document. It is a shame that my appointee was the only representative of government there. I was in Alice Springs at the time and, as far as I know, there were no honourable members of this Assembly present at the rally, which is a matter of considerable shame. As far as the government is concerned, its policy is settled. We do not run an organisation in which no other views are tolerated. I would have thought that criticism would have been forthcoming if my Women's Adviser did exactly as I told her to do on all occasions. She is entitled to her own views and, whilst those views do not necessarily represent the government's view, I think that what she has done has been very useful.

Corporal Punishment in Schools

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he assure me that common sense will prevail when regulations currently being considered pertaining to the use of corporal punishment in schools are decided upon?

ANSWER

Whether the view expressed is common sense or not will depend on one's own outlook. The policy statement on education which I will be tabling during the course of the sittings has a section on discipline and in that section the subject of corporal punishment is mentioned. Although it has yet to be tabled, I will quote from the document a short passage on the subject of corporal punishment. There has been a lot of interest in this subject. I am not sure if honourable members receive the sort of mail I receive on the subject of corporal punishment but many people in this country are concerned about it. I quote from the document:

If, in the extreme cases, corporal punishment is considered necessary, it should be carried out. It will, however, be kept to a minimum, not administered in the presence of other students and administered only by the head teacher or a person authorised by the head teacher.

Mr Speaker, we believe that that is a sensible and reasonable approach to the subject. Obviously, it will not be one that will meet universal acclaim. However, we believe that, taking views generally in the community, it will be supported.

Medical Over-servicing and Fraud

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Medical over-servicing and fraud have been alleged to be a major cost to the Australian taxpayer. In view of the proposed return to a free hospital system, can he indicate what measures have been adopted in the Northern Territory to control this problem since it was given wide publicity some months ago?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, to my knowledge, no medical fraud has been carried out in the Northern Territory but I could be wrong. The system has been implemented by the department so that the hospital charges are very varied. In their dealings with the medical societies or health funds, to my knowledge the doctors in the Northern Territory have acted very correctly. Of course, we are always looking for any loopholes that may eventuate. The honourable member's question is quite unfounded.

Corporal Punishment in Schools

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

My question is supplementary to one asked by the honourable member for Tiwi. I too have a vital interest in this area. What will be the legal position under the new policy and the regulations to be promulgated if parents or guardians of a child advise the principal of a school, in writing, that they do not wish their child to be subjected to corporal punishment?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member asks for a legal interpretation which I certainly could not provide to her off the cuff. I will take the question on board with a view to giving some sort of response during the course of the sittings.

Government Printing Contracts

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does the government have an expectation that, when the Government Printing Office lets printing contracts to private printing firms, the work will be done within Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware that printing had been undertaken outside of Australia on behalf of the Government Printing Office although, on occasion,

there could be a need for some printing to be undertaken in support of exhibitions and trade missions conducted by the government overseas. If the honourable member has any instances that need examination, I will be pleased to accept his representations on the matter.

Old Darwin Hospital Site

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS

Expressions of interest have been called for the future use of the old Darwin hospital site. Is he able to inform me what responses have been received to date?

ANSWER

The government has been receiving expressions of interest regarding the whole of, and various parts of, the old Darwin Hospital site and proposals for its usage. I considered that the frequency of these applications warranted the government taking action to determine what purpose the site could be put to and what degree of interest there was in using it for those purposes. Last year I requested the Secretary of the Department of Lands to examine the best purposes to which the site might be put. Mr Speaker, I would remind you and honourable members that the site consists of several hectares. It is a unique site. It is what a real estate agent might describe as the 'never to be repeated offer'. It is adjacent to Darwin Harbour and is a very large area of land contiguous to the central business district. It even has a small beach adjacent to it.

It seems to me that, in putting this site to use, the government must ensure that it selects the best possible proposal. After taking advice, it became clear that, to break the site up and farm it out in small parcels willy-nilly or piecemeal, would not be the best way to deal with it. In my opinion, it would be a bad way of dealing with that site. By arrangement with the secretary of the department, the proposed usage was determined and advertisements were prepared and have appeared throughout Australia. They appeared in the Territory and even worldwide in various publications. I recall seeing a copy of the advertisement in the Economist, the English weekly news journal, only a couple of weeks ago. No doubt, honourable members will have seen the advertisement in Australian publications recently.

Mr Speaker, I have had no comment at all from anyone on the proposed uses for this site as outlined in the advertisements. I have not kept track of any applications or proposals that may have come into the Department of Lands at this stage. I believe the closing date for applications is still many weeks away. By intention, we set quite a long period for response because one wants to give people at a distance from the Territory the chance to put in very detailed proposals. They may well need to travel to the Territory and engage local consultants in order to put a detailed proposal to government.

When the applications close, I expect a report from the Department of Lands telling me how many responses have been received with a brief description of each application. Even then, the matter will be far from over. There will need to be a detailed evaluation of the proposals by ourselves and by the government's own specialists. It may be necessary to engage some outside specialists to help on that. When this evaluation is completed, Cabinet will need to examine the whole thing and satisfy itself that the best proposal is to be accepted and then, obviously, an approach will have to be made to that applicant to seal an agreement in watertight terms. I would say the whole process will take several months yet. Personally, I would not expect it to be

completed by the end of June.

While I am on my feet, Mr Speaker, I might just speak about the site adjacent to the Casuarina Square which has been subject to a similar process. Although I have not seen any of the applications, I understand that we have 3 proposals: 2 by southern concerns and another involving at least some local people perhaps with some southern backing. That is all I know about them because the process of evaluation is being carried out by officers in the Department of Lands. When they have formed an evaluation, no doubt they will come to me with their recommendations. At that time, I will have a look at the whole thing myself and then put it before Cabinet. We will proceed to deal with the proponent who is offering the best deal for the Territory and for the people who live in that area.

Maintenance for Aerial Medical Aircraft

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

What new maintenance procedures have been adopted for the Aerial Medical Service Nomad aircraft, which are to be returned to Nhulunbuy, to correct the appalling maintenance record described 8 months ago by the previous Minister for Health?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, we have 6 Nomads and one of them operated out of Nhulunbuy last year. As outlined by the former Minister for Health, it was a terrible aircraft. One wheel had fallen off after take-off. Hub-caps fell off. The door fell off. The engine caught fire. Those incidents did not give the nursing federation members in that area any confidence. Consequently, a request was put to the former minister to make alternative arrangements for air evacuation services out of Nhulunbuy.

After examining the situation, and after discussions with nursing federation members in that area, they agreed to the Nomads returning to Nhulunbuy provided certain requests were met. The first was that we had to give them a guarantee that the aircraft would be maintained at a level that they would accept. We accept as adequate the level of maintenance that is being carried out on Nomads in the Broken Hill Royal Flying Doctor Service. The second request was that the Nomads be air-conditioned. Air-conditioning kits are available from the manufacturer free of charge to the government. We will have them installed. The third request was for sound-proofing for passenger and patient comfort. The fourth request was for a communication mode between the rear of the cabin and the pilot. Those measures will be undertaken. The Nomads will be upgraded. Two will be based in Darwin and 2 will be based in Gove. As well we will employ an extra maintenance operator in Gove to ensure that the aircraft in that area receive proper maintenance. When those aircraft are used to evacuate people to Darwin, they will be checked in Darwin. Therefore, we feel that we have the maintenance side covered.

Mr Speaker, if we were to replace those 4 aircraft with another 2, which might not be sufficient, it would require an outlay of some $5m. By spending $110 000, we feel that the service can be provided to the people of Nhulunbuy and the east and the west regions of the Arnhem area. We are even investigating the possibility of using those aircraft as far down as Borroloola. Charter operators will be used in the event that the 4 Nomad aircraft are all in use at any one time. We have a procedure which will enable doctors in those regions to organise the charter of aircraft from one of our local operators at very short notice. I am happy to say, Mr Speaker, that the Royal Australian Nursing

Federation is happy with those arrangements. I would like to get that service into operation as soon as possible. It will take several weeks to update and improve the condition of the aircraft because of the type of work that will be carried out on them. That work will be evaluated in about 12 months time. The consensus is that, provided the aircraft that was stationed originally in Gove is no longer in the area, they are quite happy to accept the Nomads. Consequently, I have instructed the department to dispose of that particular aircraft and also another one because we feel that 4 should do the job.

Valuer-General in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise if there is a proposal to open an office of the Valuer-General in Alice Springs and, if so, when this might occur?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Valuer-General of the Northern Territory is a Commonwealth official. Nonetheless, he is appointed by the Northern Territory government under the provisions of the Valuation of Land Act. He is based in Adelaide but he has a substantial number of valuers in Darwin - 14 from memory. This agency operation, where the Territory uses Commonwealth valuers as its agents, is quite satisfactory. It has worked well in the past. I can see no reason why it will not continue to work well in the future. In fact, it is a similar arrangement to the one that we had with the Auditor-General. You will recall that that arrangement, which was working satisfactorily, was terminated and the Territory had to secure the services of private firms of accountants to audit government departments' accounts and accounts of statutory authorities and other government agencies under the general supervision of the Territory Auditor-General and a small office staffed by 7 or 8 people.

It has been a matter of concern to me that no valuer has been based in Alice Springs. With the expansion of that town, delays were experienced, although one could not really complain about the service. I spoke to the Valuer-General on his last visit to Darwin and mentioned to him the problems that we were experiencing in Alice Springs. He agreed to consider the appointment of a valuer to be based in Alice Springs to look after valuation in central Australia. I am confident that this step will be taken. It requires approval by the Commonwealth government as well as the Territory government and its processes are much slower than ours even though ours sometimes work slowly enough. It will probably have to obtain approval from the Public Service Board in Canberra. I would expect that, within the year, a valuer should be based in Alice Springs to operate an office on behalf of the Valuer-General. I think this reflects the continuing growth of Alice Springs and central Australia, and the needs of that community.

Toy Library at Batchelor School

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it the intention of the Department of Education to increase funds to their previous level in order to finance activities for the toy library at Batchelor School as the school council believes that the toy library provides a most valuable service to the general public?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have before me details of the specific activities of

the toy library at Batchelor School. If the member is referring to the Northern Territory Toy Library Association, the government has recently agreed to assist with funds after the association was informed a few weeks ago that federal funds would not be forthcoming. The reason the Northern Territory has agreed to support the organisation is that the Department of Education, in particular, uses extensively the facilities that the Toy Library Association provides as do some other government agencies such as the Department of Community Development and the Department of Health. Subsequent to the Territory government's decision to assist with the funding, the Commonwealth agreed to fund the organisation again. Previously, the association was wholly funded by the Commonwealth. We are now waiting to see what funds will be provided by the Commonwealth with a view to assessing what funds will need to be provided by the Territory to continue these services. Certainly, we see value in the work that is being done and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it is continued.

Local Government in the Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he outline the criteria upon which people were selected as members of the advisory council to look at the question of local government in the rural area?

ANSWER

There were no specific criteria under which people could apply to become members of the advisory board. In fact, that was done quite deliberately. Often, when applications are called for, people take up position as of right under certain criteria. They become carved in stone and regard it as their divine right to be there forever.

The government sought applications from people who had an active interest in the rural area and in the concept of local government for that area. I was quite open-minded, Mr Speaker, about anybody who was prepared to apply. I noted with interest that members of the Darwin City Council felt it was their right to be on the new committee. I noted other people saying that nobody from Humpty Doo is included. In fact, 2 people from Humpty Doo are on the committee. Someone else has complained that a representative of small businesses should have been included. The list could go on forever. I am of the view that the committee is very well-balanced and is broadly representative of the rural community. I would be quite happy to discuss the matter with anybody who has some dissatisfaction with the selection. I believe that all the members are very capable. They will play a very positive role in discussion of the concept of local government for the rural area and I intend to work very closely with them. I do not have a deadline for the committee to complete its work. I was involved in a similar exercise over many years with the Town Management Board in Tennant Creek. Discussions and consultations with the government and the community went on for nearly 7 years. That was rather a long time. It could have been cut shorter if various parties had so wished. If the people in the rural community wish to take 3 or 5 years to arrive at a conclusion about local government for their area, I do not have a problem with that.

Half-yearly Water Bills

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it still the government's intention to introduce half-yearly water billing?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question of water billing is under review and it may be that further flexibility is desirable. At present, I am not able to say that we will introduce half-yearly billing.

Liquor Act

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

As a result of an amendment to the Liquor Act passed last year by the government, a person who was innocent of any offences had his property forfeited under the act. Will the government amend the act urgently so that property of innocent persons is not at risk?

ANSWER

I am aware of the concerns of the honourable member for Fannie Bay relating to the strict legal interpretation of section 101 of the Liquor Act. Because of this, I have sought a legal opinion and I will advise the Assembly of this opinion at a later date. Section 96(1) of the act says: 'A thing seized under this part is, by the force of this section, on the conviction of a person for an offence in connection with which it was seized, forfeited to the Territory'. Section 101 states: 'All things forfeited under this part may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of in such manner as the chairman thinks fit'.

I did some more research and looked at the original debates regarding this legislation. Of course, the member quite rightly said that the opposition had an amendment which was defeated in the Assembly. I had a good look at what the former Minister for Health said and, in some respects, the intention in the debates tended to favour an owner of a vehicle which had been forfeited to the court. I give the honourable member an undertaking that we will have a good look at it. As I said earlier, I have asked for a legal opinion and I will be in a position to provide the member with that information at a later date. However, the information I have to hand is that the Acting Liquor Commissioner has acted within the law and has not done anything wrong. I believe it is for us as legislators to try to work out what the method should be.

Sand Mining in Alice Springs Area

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

Has a decision been made regarding the future of sand mining in the Alice Springs area, particularly in relation to the Todd River and allied areas?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am well aware that the honourable member has raised this issue with me before. There is little doubt that the amount of sand required in the Alice Springs area for construction work and so on greatly exceeds that which would be available in the Todd River bed and probably in all riverbeds adjacent to Alice Springs. A final policy has not been determined because clearly we have not arrived at a position of grave crisis yet. As I have indicated, in the longer term, the resources available for that purpose within the riverbeds around Alice Springs will not be adequate. This means that further survey work has to be done on different types of deposits for the purposes of sand extraction. Recently, I wrote to the honourable member pointing this out. A study is being undertaken by the Department of Mines and Energy on likely sand resources for future needs.

Velodrome in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Is he aware of a near fatal accident which involved 4 young cyclists in Alice Springs early in March and can he advise when and what funding will be made available to the Alice Springs Amateur Cycling Club for the construction of a velodrome in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

I am aware of the near fatal accident that those young cyclists had. The only information that I can give the honourable member is that discussions have taken place between the Amateur Cycling Club in Alice Springs, an officer of the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation and myself. In the 1982-83 allocation, some $19 000 was made available to the Alice Springs Amateur Cycling Club for the development of a velodrome in that area. Unfortunately, the advice that I have is that the club does not want to proceed at this stage because it feels that $19 000 might not be sufficient to carry out the type of construction that will be most suitable in the long term. Discussions are continuing. Hopefully, within the next financial year, we will be able to come up with a sensible development arrangement.

Floods in Alice Springs

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he advise the Assembly of the situation in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The problems in Alice Springs became rather more intense last night than they have been since it commenced raining there several days ago. I understand that torrential rain commenced in Alice Springs at about 5 pm yesterday and that some 120 mm of rain, which I think is somewhat over 6 inches, fell by 9 pm. As a consequence, there was a great rise in the level of the Todd River and considerable flooding of low-lying areas of Alice Springs. I was called to a meeting at police headquarters last evening. The Police Commissioner convened a meeting consisting of himself, the Acting Secretary of the Department of Transport and Works, the Chairman of NTEC, the Director of Emergency Services and various senior police officers including the Deputy Commissioner. The purpose of that meeting was to assess the situation in Alice Springs and decide what measures, if any, needed to be taken to lend assistance to the town and to ensure that normal services were brought back into operation as quickly as possible. I was fortunate in that, before the meeting, I had been contacted by a number of people whom I know in Alice Springs and they apprised me of their personal circumstances. Almost everyone who spoke to me was in pretty good humour. In fact, the mood of the people who spoke to me was that they were almost enjoying what one might call the crisis situation. It seems that human beings respond well in an emergency.

The main problem was that the Alice Springs power-station had had to close down because of seepage due to the very heavy rainfall. Honourable members may not be familiar with the location of the Alice Springs powerhouse. It is located in a valley behind the Alice Springs golf course. I have requested the Minister for Mines and Energy, the minister responsible for NTEC, to institute an in-house inquiry to ascertain precisely the reasons for the shut-down of the power-station. I cannot say this with any certainty at this stage, but I imagine that the 120 mm of rain within a 4-hour period caused a

considerable run-off into the valley.

Apparently, the powerhouse was not flooded directly but there was seepage of water into a pit or basement underneath the generators or turbines. The pit is there to enable maintenance to take place. This problem would have been easy to rectify if it had been possible to bring pumps from the other side of the Todd River. The pumps were dispatched and were transported over the town bridge which I understand at no stage was submerged. Unfortunately, there is a 400 m stretch of road which is not bituminised. It is referred to as the back way to the power-station. That 400 m of road has not been bituminised because of a dispute between persons desirous of registering a sacred site and the government. The fire engine which was taking the pumps to the power-station bogged on that stretch of road and the pumps were not used. That occurred some 1.5 km from the power-station and a sizeable hill lay between. For that reason, those pumps did not reach the power-station. Therefore we decided in Darwin that, if need be, we would dispatch pumps from here to the power-station. In any event, other pumps were located and I believe that they are now operating at the power-station to extract the water from the pit. Infra-red drying machines were dispatched from Darwin at midnight last night after a meeting I attended where a decision was taken to charter an aircraft to take them down. They will be needed to help dry the equipment. I might say that the equipment itself was not submerged but, apparently, there was flashing because of the presence of water in the pits. If that had continued, it might well have destroyed the equipment which, for that reason, had to be shut down.

Mr Speaker, in summary, the main consequence was that the people of Alice Springs had to have a candlelight supper last night. That is not necessarily a laughing matter or one that I take lightly. We are doing all we can to have power restored as quickly as possible. I hope that will occur very soon. To the best of the knowledge of the people who are advising me, there has been no loss of life as a result of these floods. However, a report is being investigated which could result in a finding that there has been one drowning. This is a very vague report.

Undoubtedly, there are some pretty wet households around Alice Springs at the moment, but the local office of the Department of Transport and Works has advised that it considers that it can handle the situation in the town without needing to call on resources from outside. I would say that it looks as though the damage to private and government property is relatively minimal. Almost certainly there will be erosion of causeways. There were reports on the radio that the causeway to the casino had been washed away. I understand that that report is incorrect. That causeway was submerged but not washed away.

All in all, Sir, I think we will have gained some valuable experience from this exercise. It has been a flash flood. One of the problems that we had to face last night was that we knew we could get the plane into the Alice Springs airport but did not know whether we could get the equipment from Alice Springs airport to the powerhouse. There were helicopters at the Alice Springs airport but the pilots were at home in town. The problem was to get from the airport to the town in spite of the water surging through Heavitree Gap. There is really no way of getting through the gap when water is surging through with the terrific force generated by these torrential downpours.

I understand that the weather is easing now. I might say that there are beneficial aspects to this rain. Certainly, it has alleviated the situation of pastoralists in central Australia. I believe it should do a great deal to take them well into the season and, in that way, there is a silver lining to the

cloud. We hope that the clouds over Alice Springs disperse soon because the town is anticipating the arrival of His Royal Highness Prince Charles and Her Royal Highness Princess Diana, Prince and Princess of Wales, on Sunday.

Mr B. Collins: I want an answer, not a travel guide.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, order!

Mr EVERINGHAM: I am sorry, Sir, that the members opposite seem so disrespectful of my comment in relation to the members of the Royal Family who are shortly to visit Alice Springs. I was asked what the situation is in Alice Springs and I think it fairly relevant to let the public of Alice Springs know whether the Leader of the Opposition was sincere in his question or just trying to grab a few headlines. The people of Alice Springs are interested in this visit. The Leader of the Opposition may not be. Their Royal Highnesses should experience no problems in pursuing their visit to central Australia provided that the weather abates. After all this rain, I would expect that the town would be able to put on a much better face than if the season had been dry.

I believe that Emergency Services in Alice Springs have learnt several valuable lessons from this experience, as has NTEC. I can assure you, Sir, that pumps will be based and maintained at the Alice Springs power-station in the future.

Transient Camps at Kulaluk

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

He has been engaged in correspondence and discussion with Gwalwa Daraniki, the people who have the lease of Kulaluk, with a view to establishing transient camps. Could he advise at what stage those discussions are at present and, if the transient camps are to be established, what assistance will be given to Gwalwa Daraniki to control behaviour in the area?

ANSWER

I am sure that the honourable member for Nightcliff will be pleased to know that I cannot stretch my answer out for 18 minutes. If I could, I would. In fairness to the honourable member, I would like to report that both my predecessors had discussions with the Gwalwa Daraniki people concerning the establishment of camps at Kulaluk. Until recently, I was of the view that those discussions had reached a certain degree of finality and that things were getting into place. The government has committed itself to assist with the establishment of these camps if that is possible.

In recent days, I have had correspondence from Mr Day who says he believes the course that we are embarked upon is not satisfactory so far as the people are concerned and he would like to have more discussions and perhaps review the whole proposition concerning the establishment of the camps on the Kulaluk area. I do not have any strong commitment other than to try to help the people to a reasonable solution of the problem. At this stage, the matter is in abeyance and I will try to talk to the people as soon as possible. I will be happy to keep the honourable member informed of the results and content of relevant discussions because I appreciate that the area is very close to her electorate and many of the people involved are her constituents.

Humpty Doo High School Farm

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the situation at present with regard to the establishment of a farm at the new Humpty Doo High School?

ANSWER

The stage 2 proposals will incorporate an agricultural facility at the high school designed to accommodate a number of agricultural science courses. It is intended to make agricultural science a compulsory subject for years 8 to 10 and a full-time study option for years 11 and 12. The school farm which will form the focus of these courses will contain facilities to teach farm mechanics, livestock management, plant propogation and cultural practices. Stage 2 of the high school is currently undergoing design development and is an item on the 1982-83 design list. Current planning is for the work to be completed by June 1984.

Northern Territory Development Corporation

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he advise on progress of the investigation into the Northern Territory Development Corporation?

ANSWER

As Minister for Lands, Industrial Development and Tourism, it has been interesting to become involved with the operations of the Northern Territory Development Corporation. Might I say at the outset that there has been no investigation of the NTDC. There has been a review of the NTDC's administration and procedures. This review was commissioned last year when Mr Ted Simpson was Chairman of the Northern Territory Development Corporation and the present Minister for Transport and Works was the minister responsible for the corporation. It has been a fairly lengthy and all-encompassing review. The NTDC had seconded to it from the Commonwealth Development Bank a fairly senior officer who is normally based in Sydney. He has been given the task of reviewing the administrative procedures of the NTDC, its forms, its securities, the way it deals with its applicants and the way it handles the administration of loans, the collection of moneys outstanding and the taking of security for loans. This review has been proceeding steadily. I understand that the NTDC has already implemented certain changes.

At this stage, there has been no final report from the consultant. To the best of my knowledge, I have not had any report from the consultant although the chairman has reported to me from time to time on the various steps that the consultant has taken. I cannot recall all those various steps but I could provide this information to the Leader of the Opposition by way of briefing. I would be happy for him to have a briefing by the Chairman of the NTDC. As I indicated in this Assembly yesterday, there is a bill relating to the NTDC brought before this Assembly by the opposition. I understand from my colleague, the Leader of the House, that there will probably be a general business day next week if the circumstances of the sittings so allow. I anticipate making a very full reply to the second-reading speech of the honourable member for Sanderson, the sponsor of the bill. I would prefer to wait until then to give any further particular details on this matter. However, I am ready to arrange a briefing of the Leader of the Opposition on the subject of the review of NTDC's operations by the consultant at any time convenient to him and the

chairman of the corporation. I believe the new chairman has taken up office efficiently and it seems to me that a certain reinvigoration of the board has already taken place.

Various changes that have been made over a period are now beginning to gel and I think that credit for some of these changes should be given to the former Chairman of the Northern Territory Development Corporation, Ted Simpson. We now have on the corporation a merchant banker and so have that tremendous expertise available in considering the day-to-day business of the NTDC. We have on the board a chartered accountant, Mr Ellis of Adelaide. There is no reason, in theory, why a local chartered accountant should not have been appointed to the board of the NTDC. There are many reputable local accountants well able to handle the task. The only problem is that a local chap would probably have many conflicts of interest because usually accountants handle applications to the NTDC. Those are 2 reforms instituted by Mr Ted Simpson.

Unfortunately, when in the business of lending money, there are always people who have to be turned down, people on whom the screws have to be tightened when they do not meet the terms that they have agreed to. There are people to whom money is lent who spend more than they should and come asking for more. All these people tend to become dissatisfied if the answer they receive is negative or not quite what they want. I think one must take all that into account when construing criticism of previous Chairmen of the Northern Territory Development Corporation. Any person in that job is under tremendous pressure and always open to a great deal of criticism from dissatisfied applicants. Personally, I believe that Mr Simpson, in his tenure of the office, did as good a job as anyone could. You have only to look at the record.

There was only one default - the Buntine case - in a time when the NTDC had lent well over $20m and given a number of guarantees. Certainly, the NTDC has a number of bad debts, or what I prefer to call doubtful debts at this stage, but we are moving to restructure these. We are moving to come to arrangements and compositions with the people involved. Many of these doubtful debts are in the fishing industry. Under the direction of the government, the NTDC was there to take a punt on things like the fishing industry. The punt has not worked out in some cases but this government will not back off because it believes that the Territory economy needs the injection of venture finance through the NTDC. I will report at much greater length to the Assembly in the course of debate next week but I am more than happy for the Leader of the Opposition to have briefings from the chairman on any subject concerning the NTDC at any time.

Future of Northern Territory Aerial Work

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise on the future of the company, Northern Territory Aerial Work, if the Grumman Trackers are returned for surveillance work in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The company, Northern Territory Aerial Work, is engaged in 4 distinct activities: maritime surveillance, coastal surveillance, aerial medical and aircraft maintenance. The company is a separately-registered member company of the Ansett group. The fortunes of NTAW have been of interest to government because they have been linked with the general viability of ANA. This is no longer a valid concept since the company faces a number of challenges to its

future which, in all probability, will result in a significant reduction in its overall level of activity. One is the cancellation of maritime surveillance, carried out on behalf of the Commonwealth, using 2 specially-equipped L-series Nomad aircraft. This ceases at the end of March 1983 because the Commonwealth no longer perceives the flights to be necessary. Northern Territory Aerial Work is currently tendering to use one of these aircraft for surveillance on the Barrier Reef. It has also approached the Commonwealth for relief for some of the capital costs of $4m entailed in purchasing a special aircraft for what ultimately proved to be only 2 years work.

The littoral surveillance task utilising 3 Nomad aircraft is currently guaranteed only to mid-year. The Commonwealth government has stated it intends to reintroduce Navy tracker aircraft for this task. It is therefore probable that this source of work will also dry up. Loss of the coastal surveillance contract by Northern Territory Aerial Work could have a direct impact on up to 36 jobs. The contract supports 9 pilots and 12 observers. These jobs would definitely be lost. In addition, 15 ground staff, which includes engineers and clerical people, are employed by the company. At the moment, Northern Territory Aerial Work is trying to obtain more maintenance work to protect those 15 jobs.

Mr Speaker, representations are being made to the new Minister for Aviation in respect of this crisis. We hope to put those facts before the new minister so that some sympathetic consideration can be given in respect of NTAW.

Issuing of Bookmakers' Licences

Mr LEO to TREASURER

Will the Racing and Gaming Commission continue to issue bookmakers' licences to applicants from outside the Territory, despite submissions from numerous local applicants?

ANSWER

To my knowledge, the Racing and Gaming Commission, which calls applications for every bookmaker's licence available in the Northern Territory, has never issued a licence to a person outside the Northern Territory. The policy on which the commission operates, with the government's complete concurrence, is that the most suitable applicant will be the successful applicant for a bookmaker's licence. There are no other criteria that we should adopt in an area as sensitive as gaming and gambling. It is something on which we keep a fairly close eye in this industry and one for which we want the very best people that we can possibly find. Every bookmaker's licence which becomes available is advertised. Applicants are scrutinised and screened. The licence goes to the best person available. The question of who has been in the Northern Territory longest is not a criterion in these circumstances.

Unsold Reserves from Nabarlek and Ranger

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Approximately what percentage of reserves from Nabarlek mine are currently unsold? Approximately what percentage of reserves from the Ranger mine are currently unsold?

ANSWER

I am surprised that the honourable Leader of the Opposition would ask a

question seeking such detailed information. I can seek the information from the respective companies. I guess the purpose of the honourable member's question was to seek information to cast further doubt upon the marketing ability of the uranium mines which have yet to get off the ground.

As the Chief Minister indicated, it is for those companies to indicate to the present federal minister their prospects for sales. My information is that there is a very significant market for new products from the uranium province.

It is not just a matter of looking at the spot price in isolation. The utilities are anxious to diversify their sources of supply. This diversification motive on the part of utilities and users of uranium oxide will ensure the future of the industry. The principals of the 2 firms proposing to establish uranium mines in the province are quite confident the markets are there. With the greatest respect to the new federal minister, I found it rather extraordinary that he should ask where the contracts were when no one would sign a firm contract without having an export licence. The difficulty is that neither of those 2 companies has been able to get into the position to get an export licence.

The other nonsensical thing, which has been brought out in the press mainly through the auspices of the honourable Senator Walsh and the honourable Leader of the Opposition, is the statement by Queensland Mines in relation to the world market. I think Queensland Mines would be very foolish indeed if it went about actively encouraging competition to its own business. It is a standard practice in times of a perceived tight market for one to do everything one can to protect the market. I am not saying that the directors of Queensland Mines have, in any way, told anything to any minister or the Leader of the Opposition that is untrue. However, I must say that that particular company is not going to say anything which would encourage the establishment of competition. It is also very curious that, if the position Queensland Mines put forward is the world position in uranium mining and the availability of markets, that very same company plans to expand its operations and continue exploration. It would not throw its money down the drain if it thought there was no market.

Jabiru Area School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the urgency of the situation of the Jabiru Area School with regard to establishment of a science laboratory facility, can he inform me when this will be built?

ANSWER

The story behind the establishment of a science laboratory facility at Jabiru Area School is a very good example of why the Northern Territory government has always believed that the control of uranium mining should belong to the states as should control of such things as activities in national parks. At this stage, I cannot provide the honourable member with an answer as to when an adequate science facility will be provided at the Jabiru Area School. It was proposed last year to convert a couple of classrooms at the school to a science laboratory and some funds were allocated for that. However, as demographic figures were taken and reanalysed, it was quite clear that was not the course to take and that an additional facility should be provided at the school for the science laboratory. It seems that the most economic way to go about the project would be to provide a transportable science classroom which

would cost an estimated $120 000.

The project to provide a transportable classroom is subject to funding being provided by the Commonwealth government through the Jabiru Special Purpose Grant Agreement. Honourable members will know that funding for infrastructure at Jabiru, as part of the uranium province and being within a national park, is provided by the Commonwealth government specific purpose payment to the Territory for these purposes. This arrangement is designed to keep the Territory happy while it does not have control of matters such as the levying of uranium royalties. However, a submission was made to the Commonwealth government to provide additional funds for an extra classroom at the Jabiru school. The Commonwealth came to us recently seeking more details. Since that time, we have not been able to get any further answers from it. This situation is quite unsatisfactory and I will be making immediate representations to the relevant ministers in Canberra to see if funds can be provided urgently for this project.

Obviously, the area school should have these facilities. Hopefully, Jabiru will eventually grow to be the third largest town in the Northern Territory, and we should have all the infrastructure there that those people require. To have a situation persist whereby we have to go to the Commonwealth to get essential infrastructure is simply an outrage to people in the Northern Territory and demonstrates the reasons why these affairs should be totally under the control of the Northern Territory government. We will continue to argue that point as well.

Floods in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the flooding experienced last week, can he advise the current situation in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I reported to the Assembly last week in relation to the flooding that was experienced in Alice Springs. Together with most other people, I thought that the worst was over by Thursday afternoon. Unfortunately, when I got home at about 8.30 that evening, a call was waiting for me from the Commissioner of Police requesting that I accompany him to Alice Springs on a special charter flight because the Alice Springs powerhouse had been flooded again. Indeed, things were at a fairly critical stage and it was thought that the alternators would be inundated. The powerhouse had then been out of commission for quite some time. During the time that we were flying to Alice Springs, NTEC and the Department of Transport and Works staff managed to get a couple of large pumps into the powerhouse and controlled the flooding. A bund wall was built as an emergency measure. Steps are now being taken to ensure that work is carried out to bleed the water from the pits and alter the drainage arrangements around the power-station so that such an indicent cannot recur.

The main damage caused by the floods was to roads and to the causeways that cross the river. I understand, from estimates prepared by the Department of Transport and Works, that the cost of reinstating roads and causeways will run in the order of $1m. It may be possible for the NT government to recoup some of these funds from the federal government under special programs it has for such things as flood damage relief. The situation with the Alice Springs Town Council is not clear to me yet. I understand that the damage caused to council roads, causeways and property may be in addition to the $1m estimate that the government has to hand.

Private damage amounted principally to water flooding into houses and causing damage to floor coverings and the like. There were incidents of roofs leaking and damage to goods in shops. In one case, a man in Gregory Terrace who runs a small computer business had about $40 000 worth of equipment damaged when his roof leaked. The damage was so bad that his equipment was a write-off. I extend the sympathy of the government to people who suffered loss and damage as a result of the floods.

As well as that, some lives were lost. We are not sure how many. Two fatalities have been confirmed. One was an old gentleman who lived in a caravan in the middle of the Todd River. I am told that, whenever he heard that the Todd was coming down, he would have his caravan towed out of the river bed. He lived somewhere behind the Old Timer's Home, past Heavitree Gap. This time he was not warned and was swept away with his caravan. His body was recovered the next day or the day after.

A young fellow from New Zealand, who had been working in Alice Springs for a time, somehow or other became stranded on the Heavitree Gap causeway. He strapped himself to a post with his trouser belt. A semi-trailer went in to rescue him but, in trying to get on to the semi-trailer, he missed his hold and away he went down the river. They found his body yesterday. There are other reports as well. The police are trying to verify these as quickly as they can, realising the inconvenience, apprehension and anxiety that it must be causing to the people concerned.

Mr Speaker, basically, that is the situation as I learnt it whilst in the Alice. The town rallied magnificently. At the same time, the weather came good in a big way. One minute the rain was pouring down, the river was running a banker and then all of a sudden, next morning, there were blue skies, the river was down and we are able to get on with the task of restoring facilities. Frankly, I did not expect that things could be righted as quickly as they were.

Everyone involved should be thanked by the government: the Emergency Services personnel, police, community development people, transport and works, the Alice Springs council employees, NTEC, volunteers and relief agencies. Generally speaking, it was a crisis but matters turned out well. It could have been a lot worse. We have learnt some things and we will try to make sure, as far as is humanly possible, that such a situation does not arise at the Alice Springs power-station again.

Free Trade Zone for Darwin

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the submission regarding a free trade zone for Darwin, which he announced would be submitted to the new Labor government, the same submission that was under preparation last year for submission to the Liberal Country Party government and, if so, can he advise whether that submission was ever submitted to Canberra?

ANSWER

I advise the Leader of the Opposition that no detailed submission has ever been put forward by the Northern Territory government to the federal government in respect of a free trade zone for Darwin. We were convinced that we should get the decision on the railway line and the timing of its construction right first. Having achieved those objectives, we proceeded with the detailed submission on a free trade zone. This will go to the new federal government during the course of this year. I might say that there is nothing terribly unique about free trade zones. They exist in the United Kingdom. Certainly, there are many in the United States, some in quite small places. I understand that later in the year some personal inspection may be made of one of the most successful of the United States free trade zones near Miami in Florida. We will put a detailed submission together as quickly as possible and pass it on to the federal government. I do not expect that it will go to the federal government before the second half of this year.

Marrara Sporting Complex

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Has he called for plans for the distribution of land at the Marrara Sporting Complex and can he give details?

ANSWER

The land in question at Marrara has been allocated by the Darwin City Council to various sporting organisations. I think the honourable member's question may stem from a desire to know what is to happen as far as the Northern Territory Football League is concerned. Recently, the Treasurer and I, with officers of the Darwin City Council, members of the Northern Territory Football League and staff of the Department of Community Development, had discussions regarding the future of Gardens Oval. As the population of Darwin increases, Gardens Oval No 1 could become too small for the Northern Territory

Football League. A proposal has been put to the Northern Territory Football League and the council that perhaps we should discuss, and hopefully decide, the future of the Northern Territory Football League by allocating some land at Marrara to it with the hope at some stage in the very near future of building a Northern Territory Football League headquarters at Marrara. Discussions are taking place between football league officials, the council and government and should result in the submission of a proposal in mid-April.

An announcement has been made on the new indoor basketball stadium at Marrara. A stadium of national standard is under construction and will be completed by November this year. A decision is under consideration by government at the moment to proceed with the basketball stadium which is stage 2. Land has been allocated to the South Darwin Sports Club and its playing field has been established and hopefully will be in use this year. The Northern Territory Rugby Union's headquarters has been established and I understand competition fixtures of the Northern Territory Rugby Union will be played at Marrara. It is anticipated that the juniors will commence playing there within 3 or 4 months.

Land has been allocated to Darwin Gun Club. I understand the Darwin Gun Club facility at Marrara is considered to be one of the most attractive in Australia. Land has recently been allocated to Jingili BMX. It is getting its act together. Hopefully, competition will start very shortly. The Darwin Bow Hunters are there. Of course, there is not very much land. I have a plan of the area. If the honourable member wishes to see it, I am only too pleased to give it to her.

TIO Insurance against Flooding in Cyclone Surge Zones

Mr SMITH to TREASURER

Does the TIO provide insurance against flooding in cyclone surge zones and, if it does, is the insurance available both for buildings and contents?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Territory Insurance Office does not normally cover insurance against flood. I indicated that to the Assembly before. However, there is an option in most policies to take out flood insurance and the TIO would be prepared to consider applications for insurance against storm surge. I am informed that each situation would have to be examined individually to determine the exact degree of risk. As honourable members would be aware, insurance companies operate on the probability of an event occurring and obviously must structure their premiums to make an overall profit. At the same time, they must give a degree of protection and assurance to persons who take out policies with them.

The TIO would look at individual applications from persons living in surge areas in the Territory and would compute a special premium. It would apply to the contents of a house if required, as well as to the house itself. The premium would be computed on a percentage of the value of the items to be insured.

Wildman River Station

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

This follows the exhaustive and welcome reply he gave to my previous question regarding Wildman River Station. Would he undertake to table in the

Assembly, or otherwise make public, a map of the area with hatching showing areas already alienated and those it is proposed to alienate prior to any further lease in the area being granted?

ANSWER

No.

Sealing of Road to Alice Springs Power-station

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What plans has the government to seal the remaining section of road to the back entrance of the Alice Springs power-station and why has it not been sealed before?

ANSWER

The road into the back entrance of the Alice Springs power-station will enable that facility to be serviced from the other side of the Todd River during times similar to those we have just experienced. It will also enable servicing of the new golf course subdivision, the Alice Springs Country Club Casino and the other establishments down the east bank of the Todd River. There are a number of houses in what used to be called the old inner farm area. I think that that valley, the Mount John valley, will gradually become more and more residential. Obviously, the golf course subdivision is the first manifestation of that though it is perhaps a little bit more exclusive than the sort of subdivisions I am thinking of.

Together with other improvements, the road was scheduled as part of the Sadadeen East Industrial Subdivision, but there were disputes regarding sacred sites and the whole thing was deferred for a considerable period. However, I am informed that, in the last few weeks, the road itself has been cleared in relation to sacred sites. Funds have been committed and the roadworks will proceed now without any further unnecessary delay. I shall propose to my Cabinet colleagues that the road be constructed and alterations made to the powerhouse premises to ensure that the road will service the golf course subdivision and the Alice Springs Casino and its environs during times of flooding and wet weather. In fact, no one in his right mind would bother to use the road other than at those times because, in normal circumstances, there is much more direct and convenient access.

Contract to Reprographics Holdings (NT) Pty Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to the TREASURER

Can he explain how a contract for aerial survey was let under the General Tender Board's local preference policy to a company named Reprographics Holdings (NT) Pty Ltd in April 1982 when that company was not incorporated until 25 May in that year?

ANSWER

If I recall correctly, I answered some questions on the letting of this contract at the November sittings. The matter was somewhat complex but I addressed the subject of the incorporation of the company. I think I made the point that the registration of a company in the Northern Territory was not, in itself, a requirement for a company to receive local preference. Indeed, quite a number of companies have operated for many years in the Territory, have

substantial holdings and create employment in the Northern Territory, but are not necessarily registered locally. I can seek further details for the honourable member, but certainly this company fitted within the guidelines of the letting of the contract. Analysis of the tenders indicated that the successful tenderer would have been successful even without the award of local preference percentage. That fact overruled all other considerations. That company was indeed the lowest tenderer.

Sale of Housing Commission Houses in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HOUSING

Can he say, with any degree of certainty, when Housing Commission houses in Nhulunbuy will be available for sale to interested tenants?

ANSWER

I am unable to give the honourable member for Nhulunbuy any clear and precise idea of when the Housing Commission will be able to sell its properties in Nhulunbuy. Recently, at a meeting in Nhulunbuy of the general business community, I understand the Chief Minister castigated the joint venturers, Nabalco, for its lack of attention in trying to come to grips with the land question in Nhulunbuy. Apparently, the Sydney-based manager was at that particular meeting. He has returned to Sydney and I believe that the wheels are now turning towards an opportunity for the government to be able to negotiate finally lease arrangements on land in Nhulunbuy. The only information I can give the honourable member is that, on 17 March, a meeting was held between interested parties. At this stage, discussions are still taking place.

Power Reticulation to Acacia Hills Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What plans does NTEC have to reticulate power to the Acacia Hills area?

ANSWER

As the honourable member is no doubt well aware, NTEC has a policy on rural reticulation. Basically, that involves a maximum subsidy of $2000 paid by NTEC to the potential consumer.

The position in Acacia Hills is that, of 48 blocks in the subdivision, the owners of 15 have indicated a wish to have electricity connected. The cost is in the order of $220 000 to reticulate electricity to the subdivision. Simple arithmetic would indicate that the amount payable by those 15 would be in the order of $12 000. Of course, if more of the people who hold blocks were to come into the scheme, then the cost for each block would be less.

Mr Speaker, the danger from the point of view of the owners of those 15 blocks is that they will pay their $12 000 and receive only $2000 in subsidy while the rest of their friends wait around to benefit from the reticulation of electricity. The rules of the game are quite clear. Any person who wished to come into the scheme after the electricity is connected - largely at the expense of those block holders in the area who previously indicated their desire to have electricity - would have to pay full tote odds. In other words, the NTEC subsidy of $2000 would not be made available to them.

It is a lot of money to pay to have electricity connected to their blocks. Nonetheless, NTEC must act, as far as possible, as a commercial

undertaking. That situation is created statutorily through the commission's own act and, more importantly, because of the arrangements we have with the federal government for a 50% subsidy from the taxpayers of this country for the provision of electricity to Northern Territory consumers.

NTEC is of the view, and I cannot dispute it at this stage, that the offer of $2000 subsidy per block is about as good as the commission can possibly be expected to offer in all the circumstances.

I know, Mr Speaker, that you have raised on behalf of your constituents areas of concern in relation to people who are not normally defined as Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine or Tennant Creek rural. Of course, Sir, you have raised the question of subsidies and assistance to such people as pastoralists. Sir, I note the point made by you as the member for Elsey that, where a 50% subsidy is made available to people who choose to live in urban areas, then it would be reasonable for people in rural areas to expect that a 50% subsidy be made available to them as well. I am talking about tourist operators, pastoralists etc. The request would involve many additional millions of dollars. The matter will be kept under review. I have quite a bit of sympathy for the situation as, no doubt, you have, Sir, having raised the matter.

Nonetheless, the position of NTEC at the moment is that it incurs a loss of some $50m a year. That loss is subsidised by the taxpayers of this country and I dare say there is a limit to how far those taxpayers will go in the provision of further subsidies, particularly if they were almost to double as a result of such a proposal. As I say, I have sympathy for the position of your constituents and those of the honourable member for Tiwi. These matters will be kept subject to review. If resources become available in future years, those needs will be taken into account by the government.

Motor Accidents (Compensation) Act

Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is he aware of the comments made by Mr Justice Nader in a recent judgment regarding the case Roberts v The Board of the TIO when his Honour referred to various sections of the Motor Accidents (Compensation) Act by saying, among other things, 'Unfortunately, it can be seen that the drafting of these provisions would not have won prizes for clear expressions of thought. The obscurity of some of these passages is the main reason for this costly litigation.'? Can the Attorney-General indicate whether this legislation is to be reviewed?

ANSWER

Firstly, I would like to point out to the honourable Leader of the Opposition that any proposal to amend the Territory Insurance Office Act would be brought forward to Cabinet by my colleague, the Treasurer. He is the minister responsible for that legislation. I have read the comments of his Honour. At the risk of giving an opinion which Standing Orders prohibit and which I am not qualified to give anyway, the facts are that, having had the law settled in relation to those provisions - and I have read the judgment and forwarded a copy of it to my colleague, the Treasurer - any further cost of litigation in respect of those sections is now most unlikely. If we start to tamper with those same provisions, then any meaning which counsel representing claimants or the TIO itself may wish to impose on them would have to be assessed again. The law has now been settled and it would seem illogical to tamper with it.

Facilities for Psychiatric Patients

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of continued concern expressed in courts and elsewhere about the lack of appropriate accommodation in the Northern Territory for psychiatric patients, what action is he taking to provide such a facility?

ANSWER

I advise the honourable member that, during the course of this sittings, I will be making a full statement on that matter.

Carinya Flats

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HOUSING

Carinya flats is a very old block of Housing Commission flats situated in the inner city area. Is he aware of the problems associated with the hot water system in those flats and can he indicate what is being done to upgrade the existing inadequate service?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware of some of the problems at Carinya flats. I asked the Housing Commission for a full briefing before this sittings. Unfortunately, I have not followed it through. However, I will obtain the information for the honourable member during the course of this sittings.

Literature Production Supervisor at Maningrida

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the Territory government's stated commitment to the further development of bilingual education, can he say when the position of Literature Production Supervisor at Maningrida school will be made a permanent one?

ANSWER

I cannot give the honourable member an undertaking. The position he refers to at Maningrida is under no threat at present. The bilingual program is continuing. There appears to be an enormous amount of concern about years beyond the present one and, beyond doubt, the matter must be settled. I will address it when I can.

Dual Carriageways

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

With regard to the problem of drivers keeping their vehicles abreast of each other on dual carriageways, has he given thought to amending the legislation to stop this sometimes dangerous practice?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the practice is very annoying. The matter has been discussed in national forums. There is no Territory proposal to change the legislation. Indeed, it would be difficult to effect legislation to satisfy the honourable member's requirement. However, there is a need to come to grips with this

particular problem. I believe that the Road Safety Council of the Northern Territory should look again at the matter and the department should try to resolve the problem by signposting along the relevant highways.

Land at Bynoe Harbour

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS

His predecessor in that capacity announced that an auction of land at Bynoe Harbour would be held, including land presently occupied illegally. Could he indicate if that auction will proceed and, if so, give a likely time?

ANSWER

It will proceed soon.

Remote Area Power Supply Investigation

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the current status of the remote area power supply investigation announced by the government some 3 years ago and, if this investigation is still active, will he undertake to report progress to date?

ANSWER

Certainly, I will have the matter investigated. There are a number of investigatory projects under way, including that into the provision of power to all the smaller communities between here and Katherine. Quite obviously, energy resources which will be made available through the connection of piped gas to Alice Springs are also under examination to determine what use can be made of them. There are investigations into the use of small solar plants to be made available to small communities throughout the Northern Territory. These range from the type of proposal which came from the McDonald Douglas Corporation to solar ponds to small solar units such as those used by Telecom. Extensive investigations are continuing. The success or otherwise of investigations of this kind takes time simply because of the nature of the evolution of technology in these areas. There is little point in coming to a firm conclusion as to the provision of power to small communities in remote areas when the technology is in its infancy. We could embark upon a program using existing technology which, in 2 years time, could become obsolete. I know that that can be seen as a good excuse for never doing anything because technology will always improve. Nonetheless, in the area of straight conversion of solar energy into electricity via reflectors into heat exchangers or in the technology of solar ponds, great advances are being made now. I think it would be wise to leave it for a little while at least - perhaps a couple of years - to allow these projects to be proven up. They are very exciting indeed. Recently, I wrote to all members and invited them to inspect the projects we have under way, particularly with solar air-conditioning. The solar pond experiments in Alice Springs are fascinating. I commend a visit to all honourable members to obtain an understanding of just what good work is being done in this area. Technical problems still exist in every one of these areas but we are quite confident that, within a couple of years, a technology will be made available to the Northern Territory for use in the very communities referred to by the honourable member for Sanderson.

Management of East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS

Now that it seems probable that the Darwin City Council will refuse to accept responsibility for East Point Reserve, what arrangements is the government considering for the future management of this important area of land?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, frankly, I am amazed at the attitude displayed by the Darwin City Council over the East Point Reserve. For years we have been the subject of complaint by the city council for taking our time in disposing of the trust established at present to maintain the reserve. Now that action can and will be taken to dispose of the matter without further delay, we find that the council wants $4m or $5m from the government to upgrade East Point Reserve before it is handed over. As I explained to the Lord Mayor, the Northern Territory government accepts considerable responsibility for urban beautification in Darwin and in towns throughout the Northern Territory. However, we feel that our responsibility should relate principally to areas not just of interest to a particular municipality but to those that would be of interest and significance right through the Territory and perhaps even nationally. Of course, we feel a commitment to beautify those areas that open up, such as the new northern suburbs - Karama, Leanyer and the like. Work on urban beautification will proceed apace there this year. That work will be carried out almost entirely by the Conservation Commission on behalf of the Northern Territory government. When the roadsides and parks have been brought into shipshape order, they will be handed over to the council for maintenance, although we find more and more that the council is reluctant to accept that responsibility.

Mr Speaker, the Territory government is prepared to pay in the order of $1m over the next couple of years in a 2 or 3-stage program to improve and upgrade the Botanical Gardens. In fact, that program was created on our initiative. It was not even at the council's initiative. We instigated it. We said to the council: we will help you because we want the Darwin Botanical Gardens to become not just another gardens but a national showplace if possible, just as they were regarded before the cyclone. The Conservation Commission and the Darwin City Council have been working well together in the gardens. I must pay some tribute to George Brown. I might not agree on everything with George Brown but we agree on many things, particularly in the area of making this city, as far as possible, an example to the rest of the country. I think that he and I would both like to see it as green as Singapore. That will happen. It might be when he and I are pushing up daisies and being used as human fertiliser but it will happen.

I just cannot see how, as the person responsible for the overall management of this government, I can hand $5m of Territory and Australian taxpayers' money to the Darwin City Council so that it can do up, to its satisfaction apparently, the East Point Reserve. East Point Reserve is virtually a passive recreation area for the people of Darwin. We could give the council an initial establishment grant by transferring the funds we allocate to the trust every year to maintain the reserve - some hundreds of thousands of dollars. If he, as representative of the people of Darwin, wants to upgrade East Point Reserve - and I think many people would like to see it remain much the way it is now - he and his aldermen should not come cap in hand with their rice bowl to the government, asking for more and saying: 'Give me, give me'. He must go out and ask Darwin people - as mayors in other states do - if they want this project. If the people want it, then they must accept another 20¢ or whatever

on their rate notices. That is what happens in Queensland. It happens in Cairns. That is the way local government must operate in this Territory, and not keep coming to the government and saying: 'Give us some more'. It must start operating as local governments operate elsewhere in Australia and make the people within the municipalities recognise where the money comes from. It must win from those people the support for projects that they want.

Shortly, the Northern Territory government will vest the East Point Reserve in the Conservation Commission. We are sure it will manage it well until the city council comes to its senses and decides that it does in fact want to control parks within its boundaries. As far as I am concerned - and I have to talk to my Cabinet colleagues about this - I would like to see the existing organisations which use the East Point Reserve continue to use the area. I do not think we would give exclusive tenancy to anyone. We want to see the fliers of model aeroplanes, the Equestrian Club etc continue to use the area. Also, we want to protect the interests of Mr Dave West, the curator of the East Point Reserve, who lives at Peewee Camp. We will see that he gets some sort of security of tenure over his place there and will not be thrown out on the street after all the years of good work that he has done.

High Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Department of Education grossly underestimated the demographic trends in the northern suburbs of Darwin? Is it true that a decision not to build Sanderson High School will cause both Casuarina and Dripstone High Schools to take in an additional 300 students each within the next 2 years?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will obtain some details for the honourable member. Unfortunately, I cannot carry around in my head the results of demographic studies of the Department of Education, which are quite extensive. However, it appears on the surface that there has been some miscalculation. Student numbers did not accord with projections. The matter is under review and I am taking a personal interest in the subject of school facilities. Decisions will be taken in due course on exactly which way the government should approach the subject. The government is prepared at all times to look at the most appropriate way to go about the provision of educational facilities in the Northern Territory and I will do exactly that. If the honourable member wants specific details of the demographic projections and the numbers of students turning up at schools, I will be happy to provide them to him.

Resource Teachers in Primary Schools

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the government's current policy with respect to the provision of resource teachers in primary schools?

ANSWER

The situation in regard to resource teachers in primary schools has not changed, to my knowledge, for some time. Her question seems to imply that there have been some recent changes to the formulae provided to schools by the department.

Aboriginal Teachers

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he advise of his government's current policy on the replacement of Aboriginal teachers in Aboriginal schools who go to ATEC at Batchelor?

ANSWER

I think that honourable members opposite had better get used either to placing such questions on notice or giving me some advance warning of them. If honourable members expect me to carry in my head the whole range of education policies, they are very much mistaken. I give them forewarning now that I will not be able to answer questions off the cuff.

Mr B. Collins: You had better liven up your departmental briefing procedures.

Mr PERRON: The honourable Leader of the Opposition is obviously getting a bit flappy over there in his corner. He does not like the idea. He can try a little bit harder and have a bit more influence in the Northern Territory to do the things that he really thinks should be done.

Yipirinya School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he advise the current state of legal action in respect of the funding of Yipirinya School?

ANSWER

The carriage of the legal action related to Yipirinya School is in the hands of the Attorney-General.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr PERRON (Education) (by leave): The honourable member for Nightcliff asked if parents had the right to prevent corporal punishment being administered to their children in schools in the Northern Territory. I am advised that parents, in fact, can remove a principal's authority to administer corporal punishment in a school either by an oral or written request and principals must comply with that request. However, if parents take this action and a principal deems that a particular child is obviously quite troublesome in a particular school, he has the right to request the parents to take some appropriate disciplinary action themselves.

Core Curricula for Northern Territory High Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How far advanced is the program of developing core curricula for Northern Territory High Schools?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is pretty difficult to put a finger on the degree of advancement. If the honourable member wishes specific information, I will be happy to provide it to him. I do not know whether it happens to be 26% or 36%.

Unfortunately, I do not have the figures with me.

Rural Roads Conference

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise where and when the next Rural Roads Conference will be held?

ANSWER

The annual Rural Roads Conference will be held in Alice Springs on 11 April. This will provide a forum for pastoralists, road users, tourist operators and so on to state their problems to government and provide some input for the budget to be brought down in August of this year.

Sand Mining at Howard Springs

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I ask him this question on behalf of a well-known Territory prospector, Mr Fabian. It relates to an application to mine sand at Howard Springs. Why is the registrar the sole objector to his application? Did Howard River Sand Supplies knowingly overpeg with the department's approval? Why was the permit which was to have been issued to the company subject only to readvertising and withdrawal from private land? Why has the application been readvertised under the same number, EPN18, when, after inspection by the Department of Mines and Energy and Mr Fabian, no such data existed as that readvertised?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in answer to the speech just made by the honourable member for Victoria River, I would suggest that he obtain a copy of a letter which I have written to the gentleman setting out the matters in detail. It is a pretty complex matter. It is not the only one of this nature so I hope that I have the right one. I have written in detail to the gentleman concerned explaining the position. That gentleman, if it is the same one, has written back to me apologising for the confusion and saying that he did not understand the rules.

Relief Teachers' Salaries

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it government policy to pay relief teachers as if they were not qualified until such time as they produce documentary evidence of their qualifications? Is it government policy to back pay teachers at the appropriate rate once evidence of their qualifications has been produced?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I suggest that the honourable member place the question on notice.

Security at Katherine Rural College

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

He will be aware that there have been security problems at the Katherine Rural College with students at times being harassed by inebriated persons,

presumably from the environs and township of Katherine. Could he indicate what steps have been taken to overcome these problems?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Katherine Rural College went through a period of some turmoil, particularly over the Christmas period. The matter has been addressed in some detail. Officers of the Department of Education have investigated the matter. I would rather not give a lot of detail on that. The college now has a new principal who is a man in whom everyone has placed a great deal of faith. From my brief chat with that gentleman when I went to meet him in Katherine, he seems to be a very upstanding sort of man who could pull the Katherine Rural College together. Some of the difficulty there stems from the fact that we have people working there with 2 distinct backgrounds. There are lecturers, educationists, professionals and also farm workers who are there to do the more manual and practical tasks of instruction on tractors and farm work etc. In the past, a degree of jealousy has built up between them and I think that is unfortunate. I can see that being dissipated by sensible discussion. Altogether, only about 9 people are involved. If it is not possible for them to sort a few problems out round a table, we will have to look at the question again.

However, I can assure the honourable member that the matter is very much under the eye of the Department of Education. I have given specific directions about the chain of command to the principal of the Katherine Rural College so that he will not have to go through a number of people to get urgent decisions if he needs them. We have to bear in mind that it is a residential college. It is not an institution that opens its doors at 8 or 9 in the morning and shuts down at 5 o'clock. I hope that the bubble that we have had over the past 3 months has now burst. I would be interested to hear if there is any recurrence of the problem.

Northern Territory University

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

If the government's current submission is approved by the TEC in June, what is the timeframe for the establishment of a Northern Territory university?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the submission indicates that the Northern Territory government is seeking funding in the 1985 to 1988 triennium. If the Tertiary Education Commission accepts the submission, and certainly we hope it will, particularly now that the full weight of the new federal government is behind the establishment of a full university in the Northern Territory, we will be watching very anxiously for evidence of that government's support. As the honourable member will be aware, the submission argues for the progressive establishment of a university. We do not propose it would be built in one capital works program and then filled with a couple of hundred lecturers and a couple of thousand students. It is a matter of developing full university facilities in the Northern Territory.

I think the honourable member has asked a fairly facetious question. If he reads the submission, he can see quite clearly the section which relates to the timing of the establishment facilities.

Fire Control in Darwin Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the fact that he has responsibility for the Police Force which has responsibility for the Fire Brigade which has responsibility for fire control in the Darwin rural area, has consideration been given to forming a fire management committee to look into fire control in the rural area and, if so, will there be representatives from the rural area on this committee?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have had discussions recently with the Commissioner of Police and senior representatives of the fire service as well as representatives of the Conservation Commission and the Bushfires Council in relation to currently foreseen fire control problems in the rural area. The fire authorities informed me that they foresee no greater fire danger for this year than in any previous Territory dry season. In relation to burning off, the fire control authorities believe that slow, early burn-off should take place rather than at a later time when it could get out of control or occur accidentally.

At this stage, the matter is more under the control of the Minister for Conservation, although I formulated the policy in relation to the rural areas. At this stage, I am not entirely familiar with progress. I know that the matter is progressing. I believe that it may be at a stage where consultants have been engaged to provide a further report to Cabinet subsequent upon various public meetings held last year to gain views from people. I cannot say at this stage whether a fire management committee will be formed. Therefore, I cannot give any undertaking in respect of representation on it by people from the rural area. I will bring the question to the attention of the Minister for Conservation when he returns to Darwin. I am sure that he will be able to write to the honourable member and give her a detailed response.

Northern Territory Air Charter

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he advise the present situation regarding Northern Territory Air Charter Pty Ltd?

ANSWER

There has been some media coverage of events concerning Northern Territory Air Charter Pty Ltd. I have a copy of a telex sent to the Managing Director of Northern Territory Air Charter Pty Ltd by the Department of Aviation, South Australia-Northern Territory region, concerning that company:

> *It has been brought to my attention that there are serious doubts regarding the safety of your commercial flying operation. These doubts have been raised following direct communications from your approved Chief Pilot, Mr S. Mailer, that he has withdrawn his services and no longer oversights your operations. Operational competency of your flight crew has been highlighted through 2 incident reports involving Piper PA 31 aircraft VH WJK: an unscheduled diversion during a flight Darwin/ Goulburn Island/Croker Island due to fuel shortage or management problems on 21 March 1983 and a forced landing today on the beach near Charles Point due to engine failure. Other allegations which require investigation are related to pilot qualifications, route checking, recent experience, flight time limitations, aircraft serviceability.*
>
> *In consideration of the matters before me, I consider sufficient doubt exists regarding the safety of your operations to suspend your operating licence. In accordance with my delegated powers under Air Navigation Regulation 200A, I herewith suspend your charter and aerial work licence No SANTA69 and your supplementary airline licence No SANT3 for the purpose of investigating these matters. The suspension of your licences is effective forthwith. Letter following providing more details.*

The Northern Territory government has written to the managing director of the company and asked him to show cause under section 14 of Northern Territory legislation. Air North has been asked to provide the services for the time being.

Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

A number of parasites have been introduced into the environment to control the palm leaf beetle. Is he able to inform me whether the spread of the parasites is going according to plan?

ANSWER

The palm leaf beetle parasite has been released in the Darwin city, Stuart Park, Kahlin, Parap and Fannie Bay areas. Releases in the northern suburbs are about to commence. Before the end of March, the first surveys will be made to see how successful the establishment has been. Members of the public are advised not to expect improvements to their coconut palms overnight as it will be some months before any effect of the parasite may be seen, even after the insect has become well established.

Medical Fraud and Over-servicing Recommendation

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

One of the recommendations of the medical fraud and over-servicing progress report of the Commonwealth Joint Committee on Public Accounts was: 'State and Commonwealth governments, in consultation, could introduce uniform medical registration legislation to provide for national registration of medical practitioners'. Does the Northern Territory government support this recommendation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am unable to provide the honourable member with the information she requires. However, I undertake to provide it during this sittings.

Insurance against Flood Damage

Mr VALE to TREASURER

Has he directed the Territory Insurance Office to advise people that they are not covered under normal household policies for flood damage?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the short answer is yes. I would like to elaborate a little. Yesterday morning, I addressed a conference of state government insurance managers, which is being held in Darwin. I took the opportunity to suggest to them all that they revamp some of their forms of application for insurance for householders to make it absolutely clear exactly what is covered when insurance is taken with a particular company. There are, of course, quite a number of what one might call ordinary exclusions from a householder's policy. Most of them can be picked up for a small extra premium. Certainly, the question in the Territory at present relates to flood insurance rather than any other type. But there are such things as: high water resulting in inundation from the sea, including storm surge; erosion or earth movement which, in some areas in the Territory, could be a significant factor; storm damage to gates, fences and retaining walls; and another normal exclusion under a householder policy is plate glass unless a specific request is made for it to be included. There are other general limits and exclusions. There are limits to the amount that an insurance company will pay on the loss of valuable items such as furs, jewellery, curios, works of art etc. They are normally covered but there is a fairly low limit set on the amount that the insurance company will pay without specific provision being made at the time of taking out the policy. Some items are not covered at all unless specified; for example, deeds, securities and coin and stamp collections. No doubt, that will be of interest to a number of Territorians who have those things. Accidental damage and breakage is covered only in limited circumstances. That refers to things like plate glass. In some insurance policies, damage by tenants is not covered unless specifically asked for.

I have asked the Territory Insurance Office to revise completely its application form for householders insurance to make it absolutely clear that, when a person takes out a policy, he has to specifically indicate what he wants cover for. The policy will show what extras are available so people will know without any shadow of doubt exactly what they are covered for in the event of disaster. Unfortunately, insurance is one of those things we all take a little for granted. People hope that their house will not be damaged in a

storm, fire or flood. It is very easy to just pay the basic minimum premium and say: 'Well, I am covered'. Of course, once the damage is done, people feel sorry afterwards that they were not adequately insured.

I will ensure that the Territory Insurance Office heeds my request and improves its system of advising at least policy holders and potential customers exactly what the position is. I am talking about the TIO because it is one of my portfolio responsibilities. There are, however, many other insurance companies in the Northern Territory which hopefully will heed similar warnings. I will be writing to most of those companies requesting that they take similar action.

Insurance Cover for Storm Surge Areas

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

This relates to the answer just given. In the list of the exclusions which can be covered by the payment of an extra premium, he mentioned storm surge as damage due to cyclone. Can he confirm that the Territory Insurance Office will not cover that area of insurance at any premium? In fact, it is my understanding that no private insurance company in the Northern Territory will either.

ANSWER

Advice given to me over the last few days is that an applicant who wishes to insure against storm surge will have his application assessed. There may be situations where the Territory Insurance Office may not give storm surge coverage at all. I believe that there are areas where it will give it. There are a number of surge zones in Darwin. The possibility of cyclone surge can be determined statistically. Provided that an insurance company is very careful about how it calculates its premiums, there would seem to be no particular reason why coverage should not be offered in this field. I must admit that such coverage could be fairly expensive.

Cost of Royal Visit

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What has been the cost to the Northern Territory government of the visit of their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales?

ANSWER

The matter of cost of the royal visit was raised yesterday or the day before during the course of some ravings by a political activist, Gary Foley. He was in Alice Springs purporting to launch a book about Aboriginal health that was published in 1981 and which is already out of date if it ever was factually correct, for the most part anyway.

It is not possible at this moment to give a precise estimate of the cost to the Northern Territory of the royal visit. However, I must say that I believe that the royal visit was of untold benefit to central Australia and to the Northern Territory generally from the point of view of the enormous amount of national and international media coverage which just could not have been bought. Frankly, if $100m had been budgeted, it would not have bought the sort of publicity resulting from the juxtaposition of the royal visit and the flooding at Alice Springs. I express my sympathy

for the people who have suffered as a result of the floods but, if you look at the silver lining in the cloud, those 2 or 3 days of crisis in Alice Springs rivetted the attention of the world on the centre of Australia. The arrival of the Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince William maintained that interest for another 2 or 3 days. The royal couple visited Ayers Rock and highlighted that remarkable tourist attraction in central Australia. Judging from the number of calls that I received from international media organisations, such as the NBC network in the United States and the BBC in Great Britain, I am sure that the coverage of the whole event was extraordinary. Photographs of establishments such as the Alice Springs Hotel Casino and the Gap Hotel Motel featured on the front pages of papers overseas. Thus those people have benefited tremendously from the visit.

Everyone associated with the visit worked very hard. I would like to pay a tribute to the people in the Northern Territory protocol area, the Northern Territory police and 11 other organisations concerned with the visit. Everything went pretty smoothly considering that we had to deal with 150 media people, many of whom were hard to please and all of whom had spent a lot of money to get here and wanted the best photographs or the closest closeup. Aside from 1 relatively small incident at Ayers Rock, everything went pretty smoothly although there have been complaints by the public in Alice Springs that the media, to some extent, prevented the ordinary people of Alice Springs getting to see as much of their Royal Highnesses as they would have liked. I am sure that we all appreciate that the extreme popularity and newsworthiness of the royal couple means that they will always be surrounded by a large group of people.

Mr Speaker, the town of Alice Springs must settle down now after the excitement and clean up the flood damage. The government will be helping the town council to meet its expenses. Our own expenses to repair damage will run in the order of $1m. I think the people of Alice Springs behaved pretty well in all the circumstances, responding as they did to the royal visit. I think the visit was a morale booster to the people.

Our preliminary estimate of costs of the visit is $50 000. I can provide more detailed information later. It was the bargain of the century for the Northern Territory taxpayer because normally we spend $5m or so a year in tourist promotion. This was just beyond price.

Ro-Ro Facility

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that seawater was used as ballast in the Ro-Ro facility on its journey from Singapore to Darwin? Is it a fact that the internal section of the Ro-Ro has not been painted and, as a result, extensive corrosion has occurred?

ANSWER

I am not aware whether seawater was used as ballast in the Ro-Ro or not. I know that there are continuing differences between the contractor and the subcontractor and those matters are yet to be resolved.

Reprographics Holdings (NT) Pty Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

This relates again to the letting of a contract to a particular firm.

Will he confirm his previous advice to this Assembly that a tender for aerial photography was let to Reprographics Holdings (NT) Pty Ltd on 30 April 1982 and not to the Queensland company Reprographics Pty Ltd to which his answer of yesterday related? If so, will he advise the Assembly how it was possible to let a tender on 30 April 1982 to a company which was not incorporated until 26 May 1982?

ANSWER

I will seek the information the honourable member has asked for. I referred yesterday to answers I gave in a previous sittings on the subject when this tender was first let and caused some concern. Now she has created some confusion in my mind on the companies by mentioning Queensland and so on. The word 'reprographics' rang a bell with me of course. Whether she referred yesterday to Reprographics Northern Territory or Reprographics Queensland, I am not quite sure. In the light of this, I had better have a look at the subject and provide a written reply. It is a sensitive matter, of course, once one goes into the letting of past contracts. However, from time to time we examine complaints on this subject. This one has been looked at thoroughly by the Tender Board at least twice to my knowledge. Both times, it confirmed completely the course that was taken and I am sure that any future review will do the same. However, I will endeavour to provide a written statement to the honourable member on this subject.

Repair of Flood Damaged Property in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Would he be prepared to meet, at an early date, with the Acting Mayor of Alice Springs and the aldermen to discuss repairs to the many facilities under the control of the Alice Springs Town Council, which were damaged by recent floods?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, during my visit to Alice Springs this week, the acting mayor expressed his concern at some of the liabilities the council might incur as a result of flood damage in the town. He indicated that he would be very keen to meet with the government, and myself in particular, as soon as the council has made an assessment of its position. I accept that so much effort was put in during the 2 or 3 days before the visit of their Royal Highnesses that there was little opportunity for the council to make a comprehensive assessment of its position. As soon as the council has done that, I will be only too pleased to meet with it and discuss any problems created by the flood damage.

Inmates at Gunn Point Prison Farm and Darwin Prison

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I ask, on behalf of the member for Tiwi, if it is correct that numbers of inmates at the Gunn Point Prison Farm and Darwin Prison are down and whether he can suggest reasons for this?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, numbers are down in all the Northern Territory prisons. In fact, at this stage, we have more warders than we have prisoners. This is a phenomenon that has not occurred very often in the past and it has raised some

questions within the department as to where we are going. Preliminary investigations have started as to why the prison numbers may be dropping at their present rate and where they will level out. At this stage, no definite information is available to suggest why jail numbers are continuing at a low level. If any solid information becomes available to explain the trend, I will be only too pleased to bring it to the attention of the honourable member.

Class Sizes in NT Primary Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Given that a working party was appointed some time ago to look into the issue of class sizes in Northern Territory primary schools and that that group made recommendations to the department in September last year, can he indicate when he intends to make those recommendations available to the Assembly and what action he will take on them?

ANSWER

I cannot advise the honourable member when I will make those recommendations available to the Assembly or indeed if I will. The subject that he refers to is covered to some degree in a document I will be tabling in the Assembly this morning. If I recall correctly, class sizes for primary schools will also be considered by the Northern Territory government in the near future in the budgetary context. Until that time, I am reluctant to give out any further information on the subject.

Former Federal Member for the NT

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the former federal member for the Northern Territory been interviewed for a job in the Northern Territory Public Service or any of the Northern Territory statutory organisations?

ANSWER

I cannot say that I envy the honourable member for Nhulunbuy his mind which must lurk somewhere in the dimmer recesses of the sewer. The former federal member for the Northern Territory - whose friendship I value and who served the Northern Territory well in the term for which he was elected to represent this Territory - has only just become officially aware that he has lost the seat. As far as I know, he has not been interviewed by any public or governmental body for a position. However, I cannot give any categorical assurance in relation to that because I do not know to what area the innuendoes of the so-called honourable member for Nhulunbuy refer. I can say that the services of the former member for the Northern Territory, Mr Grant Tambling, would be an asset to any government. I notice that, down in Victoria, the Cain government is hiring Labor Party hacks as fast as it can. In New South Wales, we have the example that the former Leader of the Opposition for the Northern Territory, Mr Jon Isaacs, is second in charge of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, which obviously has not helped Aboriginal affairs in New South Wales. I understand that Mr Wran is in really hot water with land rights in New South Wales. Aborigines in New South Wales want the same land rights as apply in the Northern Territory. Mr Isaacs, Mr Wran and Mr Walker are just not prepared to give that to them.

Mr Speaker, if I receive an application from the former member for the

Northern Territory for any position in the government, I will treat that application on its merits. Mr Tambling is a person of some considerable merit.

Katherine Hospital Facilities

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware of the strain placed on the operation of Katherine Hospital by the lack of facilities for the care of geriatric and convalescent patients who should not be hospitalised?

ANSWER

I am aware of the problem in Katherine. I would like to advise the honourable member that in June 1981 the Department of Health funded a study to the tune of $6000 for a steering committee to look at that precise problem. I understand that that steering committee has made a recommendation to the Department of Health and the Commonwealth government. Once the results of those discussions are known, I will provide the honourable member with the relevant information.

Provident Fund for NTEC Employees

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I am aware that he has had discussions with union delegates regarding the establishment of a provident fund for some categories of NTEC employees. Can he advise if it is his intention to establish such a fund and, if not, what alternative arrangements will be made?

ANSWER

I am sorry that the honourable member for Nightcliff was absent from the Assembly yesterday when I made my statement on superannuation. If the member had heard that statement made yesterday morning in relation to the Superannuation Bill, she would know that arrangements have been made for industrial category employees of NTEC with their union, that these arrangements are apparently satisfactory to all the parties and that they will be implemented under the provisions of the Superannuation Bill when it becomes an act.

Research Activities of Department of Primary Production

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he give details of investigations being carried out by his department into rationalisation of its research activities?

ANSWER

I can assure the honourable member that the new Secretary of the Department of Primary Production is very keen to review all activities within the department at the moment. He has expressed concern about some of them and has asked me to take an interest in 1 project in particular which I had the opportunity to visit last week. I refer to Tortilla Flats. The new secretary has indicated his concern that it will be extremely difficult to sell rice at a viable price in the years to come and that the Tortilla Flats project should be reviewed in that light.

As I understand it, Tortilla Flats has operated in the Northern Territory

as a rice support investigation project for about 20 years and it has had various degrees of activity during that time. At the moment, about 10 people work on the Tortilla Flats rice project and we spend $230 000 to $240 000 a year in that area. The work is very interesting and fairly comprehensive. At this stage, the rice agronomists are concentrating their efforts on establishing rice varieties which might do particularly well in that environment. The agronomists have shown that they can hope to harvest about 5 t of rice per hectare from a wet season crop. It is unlikely that anybody will make any money from a harvest of 5 t of rice per hectare on a wet season crop. Additional attention has now been turned to the possibility of cultivating a dry season crop as well which, ultimately, would give the rice farmers viability.

Even if wet season and dry season crops can be established and proven economic for a farmer, there remains the difficulty of having a single-crop farm. Most agriculturalists like to produce a variety of crops so that they can benefit from the highs and lows of markets that develop during the course of time. If we were to look for farmers to come to this area and suggest to them that they grow only a single crop, that would not be in the best interest of the farmers or ourselves.

It has been put to me that Australian rice production at the moment is about 700 000 t a year. 85% of this product is exported and the 15% that we consume locally is sold at very high prices when compared to the export price. From the Northern Territory's point of view, we would have to produce very high quality rice to benefit from the high domestic price or, alternatively, accept that our rice would all have to be export quality. That would present more problems for the fledgling rice industry that we would have to establish. There has been a complete upheaval in the international rice market in the last 2 to 5 years as a result of several factors, Mr Speaker. The first is that former rice importing countries in the world have made a very concentrated effort to become self-sufficient in rice. Secondly, the former exporters of rice, such as Japan and Indonesia, have now reached the stage of production where there is a glut of rice in their own countries and they are unable to sell it.

Against this background, cultivation and marketing of rice by the Northern Territory would seem a pretty precarious proposition. Another aspect of the development of rice production in the Northern Territory is the contribution that someone would have to make to infrastructure. The level of infrastructure necessary would be almost unbelievable. If we look at production of dry season crop, we are talking about irrigation for that crop that would require the construction of a dam, particularly in the upper Adelaide River area. That dam would cost in the order of $40m in 1979-80 dollars. We would also have to take into consideration the cost of drainage to alleviate the possibility of flooding for 3 farms at a cost of about $500 000. On-farm development costs in that area would be particularly expensive because access roads to the rice fields would not be cheap to build. Further to that, the cost of infrastructure relating to the milling, storing and handling requirements for a rice facility in the Northern Territory would be in the vicinity of $10m. The initial capital necessary for a concentrated rice effort is pretty considerable.

Because of the doubts that have arisen in the secretary's mind and the obvious arguments that confront us, I have asked him to obtain for me some papers from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the New South Wales Ricegrowers Cooperative that would give an indication as to where the rice market is heading, because we are really looking at a long-term project. As

I said last week, I had the opportunity to talk to the staff involved in the Tortilla Flats rice project, and they expressed to me concern that the programs they are conducting currently could take between 5 and 20 years of intensive agricultural investigation and, at the end of that period, we could find that rice is not a viable proposition in the Northern Territory.

Against that background, it is important for us to consider our options. There is an urgent need for us to evaluate the agricultural and horticultural priorities and opportunities that are available to us. There are areas close to Darwin for instance, that would accommodate the establishment of 10 to 15 horticultural farms, each of about 100 ha. The obvious advantage of such farms would be that, in the short term, we would know without much doubt whether they would be viable. I think that, within a very short period, the ADMA experience has given us a great deal of hope and encouragement that agriculture in that area will be viable if we persevere with it. We need to develop some horticultural farms around Darwin to see whether we can make them viable. If so, then we can grow locally the food that we can consume ourselves and stop spending our hard-earned money on importing all our food.

In the Katherine district, Mr Speaker, which you know particularly well, private investment in recent years has established that there are some exciting market prospects for horticultural projects. As a result of that horticultural investment, it is not unreasonable for the department to offer a great deal more support to the horticulturalists in that area to have more people involved in growing things, particularly with a view to exporting products to the southern markets.

Further south, it is possible to establish a table grape industry in the Ti Tree basin. Honourable members might recall that I referred to this briefly the other day during debate on the address in reply. This is a great opportunity for horticulture in the southern part of the Territory. The table grape industry developing there will operate without any competition at all. Their table grapes come on the market 2 to 3 weeks before grapes are available from other parts of Australia. There is nothing like being first into the market with any product and I am sure, Mr Speaker, that, as a pastoralist, you appreciate the value of that.

The other day the Chief Minister indicated that there is a need for us to centre our investigative efforts in agriculture and horticulture in the Northern Territory into a concentrated area rather than spreading them too thinly. Mr Speaker, I was very encouraged to hear the Leader of the Opposition say: 'If we are to have an industry of any scale here, we must be able to produce crops that are competitive in an international commodity market'. That is pretty sound thinking on which agriculture and horticulture in the Northern Territory should go forward.

That is the background against which the secretary of my department is looking at the priorities in the agricultural and horticultural areas within the department. There is no big secret about anything that is going on. If members have a particular interest in any project, I will be happy to open up the files to them and let them be a part of the investigations and considerations that are proceeding. If any member has a point to make in relation to this particular matter or other assessments that the department will be making in the course of time, I will be only too pleased to listen to what he has to say.

Australia Day Date

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

What has been the reaction from industry, unions and community groups to the Chief Minister's proposal to celebrate Australia Day on 26 January?

ANSWER

As I mentioned when introducing the bill to amend the Public Holidays Act last week, I had indicated the government's intention on Australia Day itself. Since then, I have sent telexes to all the state premiers, to the Prime Minister, to Australia Day Councils throughout the various states and I have written to all the various industrial groups in the Northern Territory. When I say industrial, I mean organisations such as Master Builders, Chamber of Industries, Trades and Labour Council and the like.

To date, the response has been somewhat disappointing. Although there has been quite massive support from within the community for the change in relation to the celebration of Australia Day on the day itself, and indeed surveys show that quite an overwhelming majority of the community wants that, nonetheless the response from the 2 state governments from whom I have since heard has disappointed me. Both Victoria and Queensland came back with a negative response. They have indicated that the present situation suits them. It seems to me that I have a job in front of me to convince those 2 states to change that attitude.

One of the brighter lights on the horizon, of course, is the support of New South Wales and, hopefully, the continued support of the Commonwealth government. The former Prime Minister was of this mind and I hope that the new Prime Minister is also. Within the Northern Territory there has been a great deal of support and it is sad to say that the only opposition has come from the Trades and Labour Council which has written back to me and said that it can see absolutely no point in changing the date for the celebration of Australia Day. Therefore, it appears that the government will not have the support of the unions at the time that it makes any meaningful application to an industrial tribunal in relation to the changing of various federal awards which also run in the Northern Territory.

This is a great pity because I believe that we will never get Australia Day off the ground as a day for national consideration of what this country is all about rather than just a day of national celebration, although I celebrate the fact that I am an Australian. I think all of us have cause to celebrate the fact that we are Australians, no matter what colour and what race we may be. It does seem a pity that the Trades and Labour Council seems to be putting other considerations in front of those which should, in these circumstances, motivate it.

Archives Building in Alice Springs

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I preface my question by advising that on 5 February the honourable minister announced that, because of climatic conditions, he intends to establish an archives building in Alice Springs. The honourable minister will be well aware that that is a lot of rot because any archives building is humidity and temperature controlled. Has he sought or received advice on the disadvantage of establishing the archives in Alice Springs over 1000 miles from the major research institutions in the Northern Territory, particularly the

hoped for university?

ANSWER

The decision to place the archives in Alice Springs was taken for very good reasons. Firstly, there is a difference in cost of establishing such a facility in an arid zone rather than in a humid area like Darwin. I can also advise the honourable member that, since that statement was made and the position was reiterated, I have received a great deal of correspondence on the matter from people who are particularly interested in the archives establishment and its activities.

As well, I visited both the Queensland and Western Australian archival operations to inspect the way in which things are done there and what problems they have. The government intends to review the location of the establishment of the archives in the foreseeable future. When the consideration has taken place, I will be happy to give the honourable member advice on the final outcome.

Dundas House

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the Department of Health intend to take over the premises known as Dundas House in my electorate from the Department of Community Development and, if so, to what use does the Department of Health intend to put this property?

ANSWER

At the moment, the rehabilitation centre is operating out of the old Darwin Hospital in association with the Commonwealth Department of Health and the Northern Territory Department of Health. The Secretary of the Department of Health has examined the Dundas House operation with a view to the possible transfer of that operation from the Darwin site to the Dundas House site in Parap. At the moment, it is only a proposal. Until such time as the secretary of the department has a chance to make a proper assessment, I am unable to provide the honourable member with any further information.

Education for Children at Larrimah

Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise when the 12 children of school age at Larrimah will have a school room and a teacher?

ANSWER

I am advised that officers of the Department of Education have been to Larrimah twice - in February and about a week ago - to assess the situation there. Eleven children there have been identified as being of school age. A report has been written on the subject for the Secretary of the Department of Education recommending facilities that could be provided at Larrimah so that these children can attend school. I understand that some of the children are doing correspondence work but a number of them probably are not receiving any schooling at all. I will ensure that the department makes an early decision on this subject and that it is communicated to the honourable member and the people of Larrimah.

Activities of Conservation Commission

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

I refer him to the Auditor-General's comments on the Conservation Commission's Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30 June 1980 which was only tabled in this Assembly on 24 November last year. Will he give an undertaking to provide full details of the substantial amounts of money expended on certain forestry, soil conservation and environmental activities which were performed outside of the commission's terms of reference?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the honourable member to put the question on notice.

Employment Strategy for School Leavers

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the outcome of government strategy as outlined in the last sittings to employ people who left school at the end of the 1982 school year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, whilst I cannot give the honourable member full and precise details of the outcome of the government's strategy in that regard, I welcome this question because it highlights the steps the government has taken since December last year to put in train various moves to open job opportunities, particularly for young people in the Northern Territory.

It is always the government's concern to maintain a high level of employment in the Northern Territory. Whilst the national economy is straining at present, I think we have done fairly well to keep the level of job creation in the Northern Territory rising. During the last 12 months or so, there has been an increase in the number of jobs available in the Northern Territory by about 1000. I would hope that job opportunities in the Northern Territory during the course of this year are considerably enhanced by the commencement of construction of at least one of the large uranium mining facilities in Arnhem Land, either Jabiluka or Koongarra. From the point of view of jobs, one would have to prefer Jabiluka because it will create about 1500 to 2000 jobs in the construction phase and several hundred permanent jobs once construction is complete.

I have outlined the opportunities that will be available in relation to the railway. There is also the new civil terminal for Darwin airport, the works associated with the basing here of the squadron of Mirage Fighters from Butterworth and the major work associated with the upgrading of Tindal and the construction in Katherine of many more houses to accommodate defence personnel. One of the side effects of the commencement of Jabiluka will be the fact that Jabiru will almost double in size. The present federal government has said many times that it believes the expenditure of money on housing is one of the best ways to prime the pump.

Mr Speaker, we hope all those projects will proceed this year. As His Honour the Administrator said in his speech last week: 'Prosperity is the best antidote to welfare'. Where there is prosperity, where there are jobs, there are many less disadvantaged people. There will be fewer disadvantaged people when more people have the opportunity for employment.

There were 100 jobs made available at base-grade level in the public service and set aside for school leavers. I believe that almost all those positions have now been filled. In many ways it was almost a struggle to fill them despite the suggestion that there were no jobs available for school leavers. Apparently, many school leavers prefer to wait until they get the sort of job they want. I believe they ought to obtain work experience in any job at all so that they will know something about the employment market and receive an income. In any event, almost all those jobs made available at base-grades have now been filled. Also, apprenticeship positions were created in various departments and authorities and I understand that they have been filled.

The Conservation Commission had certain positions made available to it which effectively amounted to hard work in the hot sun. We found some difficulty in filling all those positions. We had no trouble at all in filling 4 positions of computer technician in training for which we received 100 applications. Unfortunately, not everyone can be a computer technician. Let us hope that that area does not have the same experience as the teaching profession and, indeed, professions such as medicine, law, engineering and geology, which have passed through such phases of over-popularity at different times. They all seem to have their vogue. When I started in law, there were 60 students in the whole state of Queensland. Then Perry Mason started on television and, in the first year alone, there were something like 600.

Mr Speaker, in one way or another, I will publicise the precise details of the government's program. Honourable members would have heard last week of the job-creation program whereby federal funds are to be made available to the Northern Territory pursuant to savings made as a result of the wages pause. We were able to hand the first cheque, by way of instalment, to the Fred's Pass trustees last week. They are employing a number of people for quite a long period at Fred's Pass to put in some rather good facilities for the people of the rural area.

Every municipal council in the Territory has been successful in gaining some of those funds. I understand that further details are being sought from them and from other applicants to that we can acquit these funds to the federal Treasury or Department of Finance or whoever we get them from in the federal organisation. As soon as all these details are in hand, the funds will be disbursed. We would like to disburse them as quickly as we can.

We saved some money for Nhulunbuy because there was not even one application for funding of job-creation projects in the Nhulunbuy area. If the honourable member for Nhulunbuy is living in such an idyllic place that there is absolutely no room whatsoever for job-creation projects of any sort, where there is no unemployment and everything is fine, then I would be pleased if he would let us know during the adjournment debate or otherwise. If he can tell us what the story is, we can dispose of those funds down the track or in the bush or here in Darwin. In the meantime, until we hear something one way or the other, we are keeping quite a swag of money for Nhulunbuy.

Southern Section of Department of Primary Production

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has he any plans to give a degree of autonomy to the southern section of the Department of Primary Production?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no plans for the devolution of autonomy to the southern area of the Northern Territory but I understand the secretary of the department is looking at this as a matter of urgency. It would seem that, with the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication program and some of the horticultural activities that are going on in central Australia at the moment, there is a need for a fair degree of autonomy and responsibility in that region so that the people who are working on the ground can be directly responsible for the decisions they have to make every day. As an example, last year in the Northern Territory we spent a total of $6m on the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication program. This year, that amount of money is likely to quadruple and I say that in anticipation that the Commonwealth government will support the program that was ratified at the Agricultural Council ministers' meeting recently.

So far as I can see, and I know that the secretary of the department holds the same view, it is pretty unreasonable to quadruple the amount of activity and expenditure in an area such as the southern part of the Territory, which is heavily involved in this program, and at the same time try to administer it from Darwin. I think that it is reasonable that there should be a devolution of responsibility and autonomy in that direction. When it is likely to take place and how it is likely to be done, I do not know. As I receive information, I will make it available to the honourable member.

Dick Ward Drive and Ross Smith Avenue Intersection

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I understand that a consultant to the Darwin City Council recommended that action should be taken to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety at the intersection of Dick Ward Drive and Ross Smith Avenue. Does the government intend to provide funds to the council to enable it to overcome problems with this intersection which have resulted from the government's decision to build the connector road?

ANSWER

We have conflicting advice as to the best way to improve the intersection of Ross Smith Avenue and Dick Ward Drive to lessen the impact that those thoroughfare have on the Fannie Bay shopping centre and the people who live in Kurringal flats. Recently, I had a meeting with the Lord Mayor of Darwin and we agreed that changes would be made to the thoroughfare to improve the flow of traffic with minimum disruption to those people who live in the area. One of the difficulties that we are experiencing is the bussing of people from Kurringal flats to Darwin. We are looking at alternative sites for that bus stop and rerouting of the bus. Decisions on those possibilities have not been finalised. As soon as that is done, I will write to the honourable member for Fannie Bay with the relevant information.

Water Supply for Napperby Station

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Following investigations by the Department of Transport and Works into ways of providing a reliable water supply to the Aboriginal people on Napperby Station, a number of recommendations have gone to the minister. When does he expect to make a decision so that this ongoing difficult problem may be resolved?

ANSWER

Immediate action is taking place concerning the establishment of a tank and the cartage of water in the short term so that the Aboriginal people of Napperby can move to the special purposes lease that has been made available to them. Since I became Minister for Community Development, the member for Stuart has been with me on several occasions at meetings with the Aboriginal people at Napperby to try to resolve the water problem. It is not as simple as it may appear.

I will outline for the honourable member some of the difficulties. We have 200 people at Napperby who are keen to move on to their lease and one thing that is preventing that is the lack of an adequate water supply. One option is to pump the water from a bore about 17 km away. That possibility has a price tag of well over $1m. However, the government has not ruled it out. Another option is to put a spear system into the reservoir near the creek and take water from there. Again, there are problems with that in that the quality and quantity of the water cannot be guaranteed. Another option is to cart water by truck from the bore. The bore is 17 km away and, in economic terms, that is quite a realistic proposition. Another proposition that is not totally outside the realms of possibility and is being examined at the moment by the Water Division of the Department of Transport and Works is the establishment of a dam on the creek to hold enough water to provide a regular water supply.

The immediate job is for us to have a tank established on the lease for the Aboriginal people so that they can move down and set up their camp. I might add that the Aboriginal people already have a health clinic there. It does not have services to it but they are able to work from it. Once the tank is in position, in the short term we will be able to cart water until the Water Division has further assessed the options available to us and a decision can be made.

I would emphasise for the benefit of the honourable member and also the member for Stuart, who has a very sincere interest in this matter, that we are determined to provide a reliable water supply for the people of Napperby. The government is working hard on it and the matter will be resolved as soon as possible.

Children's Ward at Katherine Hospital

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can he advise when the children's ward at the Katherine Hospital will be replaced?

ANSWER

The Department of Health is examining development proposals for the

Katherine Hospital in the light of the extension of the RAAF base at Tindal. At the moment, the Katherine Hospital Board, in conjunction with the Department of Health, is examining proposals to redevelop the whole of the Katherine site. Originally, there was a proposal simply to rebuild the children's ward but the Katherine population has expanded in the last few years and the trend is expected to continue. In that light, I have asked that it be put on the 1983-84 design list. If it is successful in a budgetary context, construction should start between 1984 and 1985.

Pensioner Concession Scheme

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I understand that he received a submission from his department regarding anomalies in the present pensioner concession scheme. Could he outline if he intends to extend that scheme to include widows, invalid pensioners and particularly those on repatriation benefits?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can advise the honourable member that we will review the scheme in the next few months. As soon as there is news, the honourable member will be the first to hear about it.

Betting Shop at Casino

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Is he aware of a proposal, reported in the NT News yesterday, to establish a betting shop at the casino and is such a proposal permissible under the act?

ANSWER

The Racing and Gaming Commission and I were as surprised as anyone to see the article in the Northern Territory News about a proposal to open a betting shop at the new Mindil Beach Hotel Casino. Certainly, no approach has been made to the Racing and Gaming Commission on the subject by either Federal Hotels, the owners of the casino, or any other concern. Such an application, in fact, would be contrary to a provision in the Racing and Betting Act which provides that a bookmaker's shop shall not be in the vicinity of premises where liquor is sold and consumed. If such an application were entertained, it would probably require an amendment to the act.

Also, it is current policy that the Racing and Gaming Commission advertises for applications before a new bookmaker's licence is issued so as to enable selection of the most appropriate person to hold that licence. We have a fair way to go should a serious application be received by the Racing and Gaming Commission for an additional bookmaker's licence.

Education Statement Booklets

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the general nature of the education statement released yesterday, can he advise when the supplementary booklets referred to in that document will be available and if they will be released all at once or progressively?

ANSWER

A number of the documents are virtually ready for release. To date, there are about 9. We can release the completed ones shortly. As new areas of interest emerge in the education field, more documents will be produced. We can release those that are in hand and I will endeavour to see that all members receive copies of them as soon as possible.

Funding for BTB Program

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he advise if the government will ensure that the $24m required to fund the BTB program is made available to the cattle industry immediately so that the BTB program can use the short mustering season to full advantage?

ANSWER

The honourable member would be aware that, for some time now, I have been canvassing with the federal government the possibility of the Northern Territory speeding up its BTB eradication program. The federal government is the prime funder in this area. Funding of the BTB eradication program, and the $24m that the honourable member refers to, was made up by 50% from the Commonwealth, 25% from the meat industry through a levy charge and 25% from the Northern Territory government. The program is considerably behind the level of activity in the states and we need to press on with it and make some progress. Prior to the federal election, the Northern Territory's program was endorsed at the Agricultural Council ministers' meeting. It was regarded as a sensible program to proceed with this year. We received a commitment by the then government that funds would be available.

The Northern Territory has made representations through the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister and from myself to the new Minister for Primary Industries, Mr Kerin, seeking confirmation that the Commonwealth funding will be available. I am happy to read the context of a telegram sent from the Chief Minister's office on 15 March 1983 and to which there has been no reply:

To the Right Honourable R.J. Hawke AC MP, Prime Minister.

Northern Territory Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Program.

No doubt you will be aware that the Northern Territory fully supports the accelerated program for the eradication of brucellosis and tuberculosis as agreed recently in Agricultural Council, and endorsed in your government's policy speech. The immediate implementation of this program in the Northern Territory is essential so that the additional assistance measures can be in place for the opening of the cattle working season around April of this year.

I therefore seek your assistance in concluding negotiations for the BTB campaign funding arrangements and in executing an agreement between the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth as soon as possible. The Northern Territory Minister for Primary Production, Ian Tuxworth, has today contacted the Honourable John Kerin on this matter which is of vital importance to the Northern Territory. Officers of the Northern Territory Department of Primary Production have been discussing this matter with Commonwealth officials and I understand that the agreement is now close to its final form. I trust that arrangements can be made to have funding available in the Northern Territory for the accelerated

program in the last quarter of the 1982-83 financial year. Any assistance you can give to the speedy conclusion of the execution of the agreement and the funding program for the Territory's BTB campaign would be appreciated.

Paul Everingham, Chief Minister.

Mr Speaker, I thought that the response from the federal government would be reasonably prompt considering the urgency of the matter for the government's program. I was concerned that the Leader of the Opposition indicated during debate in this Assembly that he believed this whole program would be subject to financial assessment along with everything else that the federal government had on its plate and that we could not expect that this program would proceed automatically.

Mr Speaker, I make the point again that I believe that programs to stamp out disease in this country are above party politics and I hope that the federal government will respond in an affirmative manner in the very near future.

Family Law Court in the Territory

Mrs LAWRIE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

He will be well aware of the shortcomings and lack of privacy presently faced by people attending the family law court in Darwin, and possibly in Alice Springs. Has he made, or is he making, any approach to the federal Attorney-General to have separate facilities established for a family law court in the Territory?

ANSWER

This difficulty relates to the Chidlren's Court also. I have not had any specific information given to me in relation to privacy of the family law court. I would not think that the federal government would be of a mind to spend money on those sorts of court buildings. Nonetheless, now that the honourable member has raised it, I will certainly take the matter up with officials of the department and perhaps court staff themselves to see what proposals may be put to the Commonwealth government to alleviate the problem. To construct a completely separate family law court for the needs of Darwin might be thought to be somewhat excessive. It would require a library, facilities for counsel, interview rooms, judges' facilities and so on. It would be an enormously expensive undertaking, having regard to the number of family law matters which go through the family law courts in the Northern Territory. Nonetheless, I will certainly raise the matter with the appropriate officials and see what the position is. We will follow it up from there.

Ophthalmologist for Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What efforts are or have been made by the Department of Health to attract an ophthalmologist to Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The department has advertised extensively for an ophthalmologist for Alice Springs. I had discussions with the Vice-President of the Royal College of Ophthalmology to see whether we could obtain assistance in recruiting an

ophthalmologist for the Alice Springs area. I am unable to give the honourable member any further information other than that the department is continuing at all times to try to fill that position.

Carriageway Intersections on Vanderlin Drive

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When is it expected that improvements to carriageway intersections will be effected on Vanderlin Drive between Lee Point Road and McMillans Road?

ANSWER

Improvements to those intersections will take place in the next couple of months. I have been advised that 3 sets of traffic lights will be installed in the northern suburbs. One will be at the intersection the honourable member refers to. Another will be just a bit further down opposite the garage. As well, lights will be installed where Lakeside Drive enters Trower Road. I will check the facts again and advise the honourable member.

Taxi Confiscated by the Liquor Commission

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

What will be the future of Mr Noel Swan's taxi which was confiscated by the Liquor Commission?

ANSWER

I refer the honourable member to the answer I gave to the honourable member for Fannie Bay last Tuesday. I referred to sections 96(1) and 101 of the Liquor Act. At the same time, I advise the honourable member that I will obtain a legal opinion regarding the action of the Liquor Commission. As far as I am concerned, the Acting Liquor Commissioner acted responsibly in this matter. I understand that the Acting Liquor Commissioner has written to Mr Swan advising him that his original decision to take $1000 off him for the return of his vehicle stands. However, I understand that Mr Swan has been given an extra 70 days in which to pay the penalty.

Self-government Lotteries

Mr VALE to TREASURER

Can he advise if he is considering lotteries to celebrate self-government - in other words, annual self-government lotteries? Can he also advise the reaction to date of the proposed 1 July lottery this year?

ANSWER

We have had a very encouraging response to the proposed lottery. Tickets will first go on sale on 7 April. I have been advised that agencies around town are already taking names of people who want to be on the list to buy one of the new Northern Territory government lottery tickets, of which there will be 50 000. We expect that they will be fairly popular.

At this stage, we have not made a decision about running the lottery again. It has been suggested that, if this one is successful, it could become an annual event as part of self-government celebrations. The government will decide that in the future. Specifically, it was looked at as a one-off event.

Bankers' Seminar

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he inform the Assembly of the outcome of the Bankers' Seminar which was to have taken place last year? Has any success been achieved on the government's stated intention of encouraging commercial funding of agricultural development in the Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will obtain that information for the honourable member.

Job Skills Course at DCC

Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Have funding problems for the job skills course at the Darwin Community College been resolved yet?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the answer is yes. Some few weeks ago there was concern that an Aboriginal job skills course run by the Darwin Community College would not be further funded this year. After some toing and froing between ourselves and the Commonwealth government, it agreed to fund the course again this year. It is of concern to state and territory governments that Commonwealth governments - and at present we are talking of past Commonwealth governments - have tended to take such initiatives as this, fund them for the first 1 or 2 years and, once they were running, pull out and leave the state either to pick up the tab or wear much of the odium of the activity shutting down.

The Commonwealth government adopts this practice very deliberately and quite openly. At many ministerial councils and premiers conferences that I have attended, this practice has been condemned persistently by all states. The argument put forward is that, if the Commonwealth proposes a new initiative, it should either continue to fund the project or make financial adjustments in favour of the state involved so that it has the capacity to continue funding it. This was just one example where we got into trouble. The Commonwealth proposed pulling out but, at the last minute, agreed to fund the course for this current year. It will be interesting to see what happens when the problem arises again at the beginning of the next study year at the Darwin Community College.

Buffalo Export to Thailand

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is he aware that the director of the King of Thailand's buffalo herd, Dr Tim, is in Australia? Has any contact been made by the Northern Territory government with this gentleman with a view to interesting him in Northern Territory buffalo?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, over the past few weeks, the government has been looking closely at the possibility of exporting buffalo to Thailand. This was as a result of an initiative taken within the private sector. Our advice from the

Department of Trade and the Department of Foreign Affairs is that, while there is a buffalo bank in Thailand and there is opportunity from time to time for people to do business with that bank, there is no great export potential for the Northern Territory in this area. At this stage, we do not foresee any real opportunity of selling buffalo to Thailand. From time to time, there may be an opportunity to present buffalo to Thailand, in very small numbers, as an act of goodwill between governments. I can assure the honourable member that the matter is not being treated lightly and it will be monitored by the government very closely over the years to come. We are very keen to export buffalo to our northern neighbours and make it a viable industry. To do that, we must peddle our wares continually in that part of the world, look for opportunities and make the most of them when they become available.

Pastoral Leases

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS

Have all pastoral lessees met the requirements of their covenants regarding payment of annual rents and, if not, what action is being taken to ensure compliance?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I cannot answer that question off the top of my head. I can advise the honourable member that not all pastoral lessees have met all of their covenants. I requested a review of that position a couple of months ago. I cannot really remember the details of the review but I provided details to the press. I can recall seeing articles in the newspaper indicating that the Barkly region was the region with fewest defaults, central Australia was second, the Victoria River district third and the Darwin and gulf region had the most. It is almost certain that there are lessees who have not paid their Crown rent but I cannot say how many. I suggest that this is an appropriate question for the honourable member to put on notice or write to me about. It is ridiculous to expect a minister to carry round in his head the number of pastoral lessees in the Northern Territory who have not paid their Crown rent for the current 12 months.

As for what is being done to enforce covenants, I am arranging for notices of default to go out to pastoralists who have not complied. I have already signed a number of notices that have been sent to pastoralists in various areas. I must say that, generally, the position is quite reasonable. I refer the honourable member to the newspaper article of a couple of months ago which was fairly complete on the subject.

Driving Licences for 16-year-olds

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Tiwi. During the last sittings of the Assembly, she asked the Minister for Transport and Works to comment on the position in relation to 16-year-olds in country areas obtaining driving licences. Could he advise current government policy on this matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has assessed the situation very carefully and will allow 16-year-olds to obtain driving licences. The department, in consultation with the police, Road Safety Council and the Department of

Education, is developing a package of conditions that might be attached to the driving licences of 16-year-olds. This will balance the benefit and privilege of driving at this younger age with a need to reduce the likelihood of accident or injury and incorporate a positive approach to driving skills and road safety.

Issues that will be considered will be the possibility of restricting these first-year licences to A class and E1 class and strengthening practical tests for obtaining a driver's licence. An A class licence is for private motor vehicles under 4.5 t gross vehicle mass and an E1 is for motor-cycles under 250 cc. I hope to be in a position to introduce any necessary amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act in the May sittings.

Pensioner Flats

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HOUSING

Last year, the Northern Territory Housing Commission made an application to the Northern Territory Planning Authority regarding the erection of 24 single-storey pensioner flats on a large area of land in Parap Road in Darwin. This proposal has not yet been proceeded with, I understand, because the land has not yet been given to the Housing Commission. Does the Housing Commission still intend to proceed with this proposal in view of the grave shortage of ground-level pensioner flats in Darwin?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the Housing Commission will not proceed with that particular development but has secured land in the northern suburbs. For example, the Housing Commission has successfully negotiated the purchase of land in the Coconut Grove area off Dick Ward Drive for the construction of that type of accommodation. The Housing Commission is also looking at another block of land on the corner of old McMillans Road and Trower Road for the establishment of some pensioner flats there. I am unable to confirm that it will not proceed in the Parap area but my understanding is that other locations are being sought. I will clarify that for the honourable member and advise her at a later date.

Trade Apprenticeships for Females

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I understand that a number of females have taken up apprenticeships in the Territory in trades which have previously been dominated by males. Could he provide any details of those apprenticeships?

ANSWER

I am advised that, with the exception of hairdressing, most trade apprenticeships have been considered in the past to be non-traditional areas for female participation. But I am pleased to advise the Assembly that, whilst in 1979 there were only 2 female apprentices in non-traditional trade areas - that is, trade areas other than hairdressing - in 1982 the figure had jumped to 35 and in 1983 we have 42 female apprentices. These are in the areas of horticulture, electrical work, fitting mechanics, motor mechanics, carpentry and joinery, hand and machine compositing, upholstery, butchery, dental mechanics and instrument fitting.

Mr Speaker, if this trend continues, it will show that there is a definite

erosion of the traditional attitude in the community that such trades are really only for male participation. I am sure that some honourable members will be most interested in those figures, having regard to earlier debates.

Old East Arm Hospital

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS

I understand that responsibility for the administration of the old East Arm hospital has passed from the Department of Transport and Works to the Department of Lands. Could he advise on any future plans for this area?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any specific plans for the East Arm area at the present time. My recollection is that we will locate a cement or clinker grinding plant there but, aside from that, I am not aware of any specific proposals. There is a noxious industry zone in that locality. To the best of my knowledge, no one has made any specific proposals for the use of the East Arm area.

Northern Territory Budget

Mr VALE to TREASURER

In view of speculation about the federal budget deficit, is the Treasurer willing to make any forecasts concerning the Northern Territory budget?

ANSWER

The best I can do is indicate that, with some 3 months to go, it is clear that the Territory should complete the financial year as it has managed to do the previous 4 years: with close to a balanced budget. We will be aiming, of course, for a small surplus. However, there is a little way to go. Even over a 3-month period, much can happen by way of unforeseen circumstances which could affect the outcome of the current year. As far as projecting - as the federal government seems to do - a deficit 15 months hence, I would not even like to try. Certainly, this government has never adopted a strategy that even considered planned deficit budgeting. As long as I am Treasurer, I hope we shall not plan for deficit budgeting in the Northern Territory.

Bus Service for Karama

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Are there any proposals to provide an express bus service to and from Karama during the morning and afternoon peak hours and, if so, when is it expected that such a service will become available?

ANSWER

I do not have that fine detail available to me this morning, but I shall be happy to investigate the matter and advise her as early as I can.

Pumping of McMinns Lagoon Bores

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Tiwi. With reference to pumping from McMinns Lagoon bores into the Darwin water supply, could he

inform me how much is being pumped on a daily basis, how long it will continue and how does this pumping affect the level of the bores of individuals living in the area?

ANSWER

An average of 11 mL is pumped per day. There are no plans to vary substantially the amount being pumped at present. Under normal circumstances, pumping from McMinns bore field has little effect on the groundwater available to individual householders. In the extreme, in isolated cases water levels could drop by 4 m which would still leave a depth of 12 m of groundwater available.

Boundaries of Koolpinyah Station

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

Has any decision been taken on the realignment of the boundaries of Koolpinyah Station?

ANSWER

In fact, Cabinet considered a submission from the Department of Lands some little time ago regarding Koolpinyah Station. Cabinet reached certain decisions in relation to the rationalisation of the area of that particular property. Negotiations are presently proceeding between the landholder and the Secretary of the Department of Lands. Those negotiations will be somewhat protracted because taking land is like extracting teeth. We appreciate that there are areas of Koolpinyah that are valuable for reasons other than for pastoral purposes. There are a couple of places on Koolpinyah; the Black Swamp, from memory, is one of them. It is a breeding ground for crocodiles and interests the Conservation Commission. There are other areas of particular interest to the Department of Mines and Energy and some are of interest to the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority.

I am trying to remember details from documentation that I saw before Christmas and I cannot vouch for the absolute accuracy of this information. My recollection is that, after a full investigation of Koolpinyah Station, it was found that there was very little good agricultural land there. It seems that the bulk of it is suitable only for pastoral purposes. Although we want certain rationalisations, changes to roads and a bit of land here and there to add to the Gunn Point Reserve, from memory I do not think any radical changes are proposed.

Housing Commission Contracts

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HOUSING

Can he advise on procedures adopted by the Housing Commission to assess the economic viability of firms tendering for Housing Commission contracts?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the Housing Commission investigates all tenderers for Housing Commission contracts. There is a special committee which involves the technical branch of the Housing Commission. It evaluates all tenderers. Before a contract is let to a successful tenderer, the committee makes a recommendation to the Board of the Housing Commission, advising if that tenderer has the financial and technical capabilities to fulfil the contract.

Marina at Sadgroves Creek

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS

What stage has been reached in the development of marina facilities at Sadgroves Creek?

ANSWER

I am not the best minister to ask about the development of marina facilities. Whilst strictly speaking, this falls within my portfolio, a couple of other ministers are a lot more active in the development of marina facilities. I understand that plans are advanced with the Port Authority for a system of moorings which will be located in or near Sadgroves Creek. The moorings are of a fairly complex nature and will enable a considerable number of craft to anchor there. I seem to recall that some dredging will be necessary. Certainly, Mr Speaker, you can rest assured, as can the honourable member for Millner, that this is a subject of lively interest to at least a couple of members of Cabinet. The matter is proceeding with all reasonable expedition.

Housing Commission Contracts

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HOUSING

Have any Housing Commission contracts been let to tenderers in the last 12 months without a preliminary economic assessment being made of the tenderer?

ANSWER

At the moment, I am unable to provide that information to the Leader of the Opposition but I will obtain it for him. My understanding is that the answer would be no.

Medical Superintendent at Gove Hospital

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

The former Minister for Health in this Assembly last August said that Department of Health doctors would be rotated in and out of remote areas such as Gove. Is this still his department's policy in relation to the Medical Superintendent at Gove Hospital?

ANSWER

It has been the practice of the Department of Health to rotate its medical staff in remote areas on a 3 to 6-month basis. The reason for this is that, once young doctors come up from south and are employed in remote areas, they tend to lose contact with their peer group. It is a good idea to bring them back into the mainstream of the health services to keep them abreast of changing technology and to give them a chance to provide the department with information on what is happening in remote areas.

The honourable member referred to Gove Hospital. At the moment, we have a very good hospital superintendent there, Dr Howard Baker. He has been doing a very good job. In the last 3 or 4 months, the health situation at Gove has settled down under his guidance. Originally, Dr Baker was a private practitioner operating out of the Tennant Creek region. Members of this Assembly placed undue strain on the former Minister for Health by asking him various questions about the arrangements pertaining to Dr Baker's private

operations in the Tennant Creek Hospital. The former Minister for Health's loss in this matter has been the Gove area's gain. I would certainly pay tribute to Dr Baker for his services to the people of the Gove area.

Agricultural Development Study

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has the joint Conservation Commission, DPP and ADMA study for the achievable scale of agricultural development in the Top End been completed?

ANSWER

I know that it has not been completed because I asked the other day about areas that are of particular interest to me. My advice was that there was still some work going on by the 3 agencies of government which have been interested in this field. I will be pleased to obtain an updated report for the honourable member but I can assure him that the study is not completed yet.

First-Aid Information in Motor Vehicles

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he given any consideration to the desirability of permanently fixing basic first-aid information in motor vehicles?

ANSWER

The answer is no.

Overseas Travel by Senior Public Servants

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Have senior public servants, who have travelled overseas on official business over the last 12 months, been accompanied by their spouses at government expense? Can he explain the government's policy on senior public servants being accompanied by members of their families on overseas trips?

ANSWER

Some senior public servants have been accompanied on their overseas journeys by their spouses. I take personal responsibility for approval of overseas travel. Such visits are reviewed by a committee consisting of 3 very senior heads of the department who submit their recommendations to me. In certain circumstances, I have suggested that a particular senior public servant be authorised to take his spouse with him. Many of the senior and middle management people in our public service work very hard and long for the Northern Territory because of the tremendous amount of travel involved in operating out of the Territory. When you go south for something, you are gone for 3 days. I know that my wife is not terribly happy with the sort of life that she has to lead as a result of my continuous movement. I do not expect that the wives of senior and middle management public servants are much different. I know of 1 person who is sitting in this public gallery at this very moment who, in the next 3 weeks, probably will not be at home for 1 day because he will be attending to 2 essential commitments in the south. Also, he has to go to Singapore in the middle of all that, again for something that is essential to the interests of the Northern Territory.

I have approved the visits of spouses overseas and within Australia with their husbands. It is an ad hoc situation. Sometimes there is a request for such travel to be allowed and, at other times, there is not. I see all requisitions for overseas travel and travel within Australia for people within my department. Sometimes when there is no request for the spouse to travel, and I know that someone has been required to travel a great deal and work hard, I suggest - quite frankly, as a perk to try to help the spouse accept the situation - that the spouse go with the husband. I am not ashamed of that at all. I believe that it happens in private enterprise. If my wife wants to come with me on some of my visits, why should not the same be the case for the spouses of other men and women whose jobs involve considerable travel? If it is good enough for me, it is good enough for them.

Marrara Sporting Complex

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Does he intend to establish a management committee for stage 1 of the Marrara Sports Complex?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that a manager for the new Marrara indoor stadium has commenced work in the Darwin area. I intend to let him settle in for a couple of weeks to adjust to the conditions relating to his position. Once I have had a chance to have a discussion with him, I will propose that the Director of Youth, Sport and Recreation consult with him to work out what kind of management operation we want for the Marrara indoor sports stadium. It has been said to me that, since the manager is now here, it might be a good idea to involve the user groups and sporting organisations in our management committee. I see that as a pretty fair proposal but I need a couple more weeks to assess what the final solution will be.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr DONDAS (Housing) (by leave): The honourable member for Port Darwin asked me a question regarding Carinya flats. It related to the provision of a hot water service to some of the flats. I am happy to advise him that work will commence on the installation of a hot water service for those units before July of this year.

Aboriginal -
  interpreter service 9
  teachers 43
Acacia Hills, power reticulation 37
Aerial Medical Service *2, 21
Agricultural development study 72
Alice Springs -
  archives building 56
  floods 25, 33, 51
  ophthalmologist 64
  sand mining 24
  sealing of road to power-station 36
  Valuer-General 22
  velodrome 25
Apprentices *1
Australia Day date 56
Bankers' seminar 66
Barramundi fishery 13
Batchelor School, toy library 22
Bookmakers' licences 30
'Boozers are Losers' campaign *4
Brandt Road 16
BTB program 63
Budget 69
Buffalo export to Thailand 66
Bynoe Harbour, land auction 40
Carinya flats 39
Community health -
  medical officers *3
  programs 16
Conservation Commission 58
Core curricula for NT high schools 43
Corporal punishment in schools 18, 19, 43
Daly River basin, noxious weeds *2
Darwin -
  Hospital, pathology laboratory *5
  power-station, crushing mill *4
  prisons, inmate numbers 51
  Alice Springs rail link, electrification *2
Department of Primary Production -
  research activities 53
  southern section 59
Dick Ward Drive, intersection with Ross Smith Avenue 60
Drinking law, 2 km *4
Driving licences for 16-year-olds 67
Dual carriageways 39
Dundas House 57
East Arm Hospital 69
East Point Reserve, management 41
Education -
  budget *3
  statement, booklets 62
Electricity, outback communities *2, 7, 8, 40
Family law court for NT 64
First-aid information in motor vehicles 72
Fitzroy pastoral lease -
  Aboriginal occupation 10
  land claim 9
Free trade zone for Darwin 34

Government Printing Office, contracts 19
High schools in northern suburbs 42
Hospital bed charges 14
Housing Commission contracts 70, 71
Howard Springs, sand mining 44
Humpty Doo High School farm 28
Insurance against flood damage 35, 48
Jabiru Area School 31
Job skills course, DCC 66
Kalano Association *2
Karama, bus service 69
Karguru bush camp *1, 7
Katherine -
  clearing of blocks 8
  Hospital 53, 61
  lot 384 *2
  pedestrian crossings 9
  Rural College, security 44
Kirton and Whiting Report *3
Koolpinyah Station, boundaries 70
Kulaluk, transient camps 27
Larrimah, education facilities 57
Liquor Act 24
Liquor Commission, confiscation of taxi 65
Lotteries, self-government 65
McMinns Lagoon bores 69
Maningrida, literature production supervisor 39
Marina, Sadgroves Creek 71
Marrara Sporting Complex 34, 73
Meadowfresh products 16
Medical over-servicing and fraud 19, 48
Milk run service, Darwin to Alice Springs 11
Mindil Beach Hotel Casino 62
Mineral leases, CRA 10
Motor Accidents (Compensation) Act 38
Mt Wells Battery *4
Napperby Station, water supply 61
Nabarlek mine, unsold reserves 30
Newcastle Waters, power supply *4
Nhulunbuy -
  medical superintendent at hospital 71
  sale of Housing Commission houses 37
  Sunday air service 15
Northern Land Council, legal advisers *1
Northern Territory Aerial Work 29
Northern Territory Air Charter Pty Ltd 47
NTDC 28
NTEC, provident fund for employees 53
Old Darwin Hospital site 20
Overseas travel by senior public servants 72
Palm leaf beetle 47
Pastoral leases 67
Pensioner -
  concession scheme 62
  flats 68
Police Administration Act *3
Power-station costs 7
Primary schools -
  class sizes 52
  resource teachers 42

Psychiatric patients, facilities 39
Ranger mine, unsold reserves 30
Relief teachers, salaries 44
Remote area power supply investigation 40
Reprographics Holdings (NT) Pty Ltd 36, 50
Ro-Ro facility 50
Royal visit 49
Rural area -
  fire control 46
  local government 23
Rural Roads Conference 44
School leavers, employment 58
Schwartz Crescent crossing 15
Security guards, use of firearms 13
Specialist medical services *1, *3
Stuart Highway, realignment *3, 14
St Vidgeon Station 8
Tambling, Grant, former federal member 52
Timber Creek, land claim *1
Tindal RAAF base, educational needs *2
TIO insurance against flooding in cyclone surge zones 35, 49
Trade apprenticeships for females 68
University for Northern Territory 45
Vanderlin Drive, carriageway intersections 65
Water bills, half-yearly 23
Wildman River Station 14, 35
Women's Adviser, views expressed at public meeting 17, 18
Yipirinya School 43

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.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 15 March 1983

Karguru Bush Camp - Lease

795 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Will he grant a special purposes lease to the Karguru bush camp, Tennant Creek, to enable the provision of adequate ablution facilities?
2. Was an applicaton for a special purposes lease for the Karguru bush camp lodged with his department in January 1982 and rejected by him in October 1982?
3. On what date did he inform the applicants of his decision to reject the application?

Apprentices

800 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware that only 5 panelbeating firms in Darwin employ apprentices?
2. Do the Territory Insurance Office and other government authorities give preference to firms employing apprentices?
3. Are corporations such as Telecom encouraged to employ and apprentice local youths in their Northern Territory operations?

Aboriginal Land Claims

810 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that under the Aboriginal Land (Northern Territory) Act (a) water is a mineral, and (b) river banks and river beds can be claimed?

Timber Creek - Land Claim

811 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that the township of Timber Creek is under land claim?
2. If the claim is successful, will the houses and improvements become the property of Aboriginals?

Northern Land Council - Legal Advisers

813 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he able to say how many legal advisers are employed by the Northern Land Council?

Railway Electrification

817 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of his predecessor's statement late 1982 about reticulating power from a gas-fired power station in Darwin to Daly Waters, and in view of the proposed gas-operated power station in Alice Springs, will consideration be given to electrifying the Darwin to Alice Springs railway?

Tindal - Education

819 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is being done to anticipate the educational needs of the proposed RAAF base at Tindal?

Electricity - Outback Communities

820 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Accepting that consumers of electricity in major Northern Territory centres, including Aboriginal communities, are heavily subsidised, will the NT government consider extending this scheme to outback communities on cattle stations, tourist ventures and mining operations so that town rates are charged for power consumed, with a subsidy to cover the actual cost of power generation and maintenance?

From 22 March 1983

Lot 384, Katherine

822 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Is he aware of the neglected condition of lot 384, Katherine Terrace, Katherine?
2. If so, when will this lot be brought into keeping with the Territory's tidiest town?

Specialist Medical Officers

824 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

What is the (1) number, and (2) description of specialist medical officers (a) employed by his department in the year ended 31 December 1982 who have gone into private practice and have entered into sessional or similar arrangements with the department, (b) employed by his department at 1 January 1983 who are expected to enter private practice prior to 31 December 1983 and are negotiating sessional or similar arrangements with the department, (c) positions existed in the department at 1 January 1983, (d) positions vacant at 1 January 1983, and (e) does the department plan to be employing at 31 December 1983?

Kirton and Whiting Report - Cost

825 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

What were (a) consultants' fees, and (b) other costs incurred by his department in the production of the Kirton and Whiting Report on urban-based community health centres?

Community Health Medical Officers

826 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

How many community health medical officer positions (a) existed, and (b) were vacant at 1 March 1983?

Police Administration Act

828 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Since its inception in 1979, in regard to Division 4 of Part VII of the *Police Administration Act*, on a yearly basis -

1. how many persons have been apprehended;
2. how many of those apprehended were (a) Aboriginal, and (b) non-Aboriginal;
3. how many of the persons apprehended were subject to subsequent apprehension;

4. what is the average period of apprehension;

5. how many persons were released under the provisions of section 131(1); and

6. how many persons were dealt with under section 132?

Education Budget 1982-83

829 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In regard to the 1982-83 Education budget -

1. what are the specific budget allocations for each primary and secondary school in the Northern Territory;

2. what is the overall allocation for remedial teachers in the Northern Territory education system;

3. what is the budget allocation for teacher recruitment;

4. what is the budget allocation set aside to establish and implement testing procedures and tests themselves;

5. in the section of the Education budget where both Territory and Commonwealth money is spent, what is the actual allocation of each; and

6. what capital works items are budgeted for and what is the breakdown of their allocations?

2 km Drinking Law - Advertising

830 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was (a) the cost of preparation and distribution, including postage, of the 2 leaflets, (b) the cost of the recent TV advertisements, and (c) the cost of recent newspaper advertisements regarding the 2 km drinking law?

Crushing Mill - Darwin Power Station

832 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Will a crushing mill for converting lump coal into powder for use in the proposed coal-fired power station be constructed in Darwin?

2. If so, (a) where will it be constructed, and (b) what is the anticipated cost?

'Boozers are Losers' Campaign

834 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. How much is being spent on the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign?

2. For what reason was the contract awarded to a southern firm?

3. Has any contact been made with the liquor industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

From 24 May 1983

Pastoral Properties - Breach of Covenants

836 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Why did the government decide in 1980 not to take action against pastoral lessees in breach of their convenants?

2. A recent report on the ABC program 'After 8' stated that 59% of pastoral properties in Victoria River district, 66% in Darwin and Gulf regions, 23% in Barkly region and 25% in Alice Springs region were in breach of their covenants. In each region, how many properties in breach of covenants were (a) locally owned (i.e., owned in the Northern Territory) (b) owned by Australian interests outside the Northern Territory, and (c) owned by overseas interests?

3. In each region, what were the main breaches of covenants recorded?

Grants-in-Aid Scheme

837 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme was given to community organisations in 1981-82?

Motor Vehicles

838 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

Motor Vehicles

839 Mr SMITH to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

Motor Vehicles

840 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

In his departments -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the departments;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(c) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

Motor Vehicles

841 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

In his departments -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the departments;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

Motor Vehicles

842 Mr SMITH to TREASURER

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

Motor Vehicles

843 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

In his departments -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the departments;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

Motor Vehicles

844 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

Motor Vehicles

845 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

Motor Vehicles

846 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

Motor Vehicles

847 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

Motor Vehicles

848 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT, RECREATION and ETHNIC AFFAIRS

In his departments -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the departments;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

Subsidy - Chan Park Nursing Home

849 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

What is the nature and extent of the subsidy paid to Chan Park Nursing Home by the Northern Territory government?

Sewerage Treatment Plant - Darwin

850 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What were the modifications to the Darwin central zone sewerage treatment plant recommended in the consultants report of 1980?

2. What modifications have been made to the plant?

Kurringal Court - Sale of Units

851 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

With reference to Kurringal Court -

1. On what date did the units become available for sale?
2. How many (a) 2-bedroom units, and (b) 1-bedroom units, have been sold to public servants?
3. How many (a) 2-bedroom units, and (b) 1-bedroom units, have been sold to people who were not otherwise eligible in terms of waiting time for Housing Commission accommodation?
4. How many (a) 2-bedroom units, and (b) 1-bedroom units, are still vacant?

Allocation - Housing Commission

852 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. How many persons are awaiting allocation of ground floor Housing Commission flats/units for medical reasons?
2. What is the waiting time for allocation of ground floor single bedroom flats/units?

Secondary Mortgage Market - Report

853 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

The fourth annual report of the Department of Law (p. 10) indicated that a report on the 'Secondary Mortgage Market' would be provided to you. Has the report been provided to you and, if so, what are its recommendations?

Transcription Services - Contract

854 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Will he provide details of the contract with Spark and Cannon Pty Limited entered into in April 1981 for transcription services and advise what steps are being taken to obviate the necessity for this work to be carried out outside the court service?

National Companies and Securities Scheme - Participation

855 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Has a decision been made by the government to participate in the National Companies and Securities Scheme?

Upgrading - Katherine Terrace

856 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Are there plans to upgrade the pavement in Katherine Terrace to a standard such as the Mall in Darwin in the 1983-84 financial year?

Beef Export Licence

857 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

Has any decision been made on the need for a special export licence for beef killed to Australian domestic standards?

BTB Eradication

858 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

What steps will be taken to fund the BTB eradication campaign in the Northern Territory?

Housing Need - Katherine

859 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. Is he aware of the urgent need for houses and flats in Katherine?
2. When can action be expected for the alleviaton of this problem?

Rotary Road Safety Centre - Katherine

860 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are Katherine school children taking full advantage of the Rotary Road Safety Centre near Clyde Fenton School?

Electricity Subsidy

861 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Why do Territorians who have their electricity supplied by NTEC receive a handsome subsidy when (a) Territorians who have their electricity provided by the NT government pay nothing, and (b) Territorians living in remote areas on cattle stations, mining settlements and tourist camps pay full tote for their electricity requirements, generators, fuel and maintenance?

Mt Wells Battery - Payment

862 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What is the reason for the delay in full payment by Jingellic Minerals to the government for the Mt Wells battery and associated leases?
2. When will this be resolved?

Specialist Medical Services

799 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

Is it a function of Darwin and Alice Springs Hospitals to be a pool for specialist services such as pathology and radiology and, if so, is this function being performed satisfactorily?

ANSWER

Darwin and Alice Springs hospitals are responsible for providing relief staff for specialist services such as pathology and radiology to the small hospitals during leave and illness.

This function is performed satisfactorily provided the hospital in question writes in sufficient time to the Medical Superintendent, Darwin Hospital or the Regional Director, Alice Springs, asking for relief staff. This allows the major hospital to plan its staff movements such as leave etc. to fit in with the requests from the smaller hospitals.

Kalano Association - Department of Health

816 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

How are the financial arrangements with the Kalano Association and the Department of Health proceeding?

ANSWER

The financial arrangements with the Kalano Association are:

1. The Department of Health provides a grant-in-aid to the Kalano Association to assist in the employment of a doctor and an operational grant for an alcohol rehabilitation scheme.
2. The approved funding levels are: employment of doctor, $21 000; and alcohol rehabilitation scheme, $30 000.
3. Payments are made quarterly in advance.
4. The association is required to acquit advances on a quarterly basis within 2 months of the end of the quarter.

The advance payments for the final quarter are due for payment in late March. However, these payments will be held pending satisfactory acquittance of the December quarter advance. An acquittal statement was provided, however, details were incomplete and the association has been requested to provide a revised statement.

Aerial Medical Services

818 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. What are the comparative costs of providing aerial medical services, including routine medical and aerial evacuations, at Katherine, Gove and Darwin?
2. In view of cost benefits will Katherine be considered as the regional centre for top end aerial medical services?

ANSWER

1. The cost per flying hour associated with the Aerial Medical Service in Katherine and Darwin is similar. In Katherine it ranges between $398 to $437 per hour depending upon the use of the aircraft, i.e., whether for evacuations or routine visits. In Darwin the cost of the Nomad aircraft is $420 per hour for all operations. However, the costs in Gove are higher as departmentally-owned aircraft have not operated there since late 1981 and are approximately $560 per hour.

2. There is no cost benefit associated with making Katherine the regional centre for top end Aerial Medical Services.

Noxious Weeds - Eradication

823 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

Are all property owners in the Daly River basin cooperating with the Department of Primary Production in eradicating noxious weeds such as noogoora burr?

ANSWER

Not all property owners in the Douglas-Daly basin are cooperating with the Department of Primary Production in the eradication of noxious weeds.

In the case of noogoora burr there has been substantial activity by the department in approaching landholders on the necessity of controlling this weed, but certain landholders are still reluctant to commit time and resources. I also advise the honourable member that the department served a notice under the *Noxious Weeds Act* to one landholder in the Katherine region because of his repeated failure to control devil's claw.

Under the *Noxious Weeds Act*, it is the obligation of the landholders to control noxious weeds on their land. It is recognised that some landholders face economic restraints, but the department has assisted in many ways, such as providing advice on control methods, the loan of spray units, and the establishment of the herbicide subsidy. In some instances departmental personnel have undertaken spraying on private property. However, the department requires the landholder to play a much greater role than has generally been the case in the past.

Stuart Highway - Realignment

827 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of plans to realign the Stuart Highway and by-pass the township of Larrimah?

ANSWER

My department has a proposal to upgrade approximately 26 kilometres of the highway in the vicinity of Larrimah during the 1983-84 financial year.

The work involved will provide a wider pavement and realign some sections.

However, it is not proposed to change the alignment through the town. Rather, it is intended to provide for improved road safety, better parking arrangements and substantially decrease the present dust problem.

Newcastle Waters - Power Supply

831 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. When was Newcastle Waters (a) provided with a public power supply, and (b) what was the cost of the provision of that power supply?

2. What is (a) the capacity of the Newcastle Waters power station, (b) how many consumers are using the power, and (c) how many people from Newcastle Waters township signed a petition seeking the provision of a public power supply in October 1980?

ANSWER

1. (a) The public power supply at Newcastle Waters was commissioned on 10 April 1981.

   (b) The cost of providing the public power supply was $96 566.

2. (a) The power station at Newcastle Waters is fitted with 2 sets of 65Kw capacity each.

   (b) There are 7 consumers including the school and the town water supply.

   (c) There were 6 signatories to the petiton dated 28 October 1980.

Mt Wells Battery

833 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER ofr LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Is the area of the Mt Wells battery still part of the Ban Ban pastoral lease?

2. If so, is this the reason for the delay in full payment by Jingellic Minerals to the government for the Mt Wells battery and associated leases?

3. If so, when will this be resolved?

ANSWER

1. No, it was excised from the pastoral lease in 1982.

Questions 2 and 3 should be referred to my colleague, the honourable the Minister for Mines and Energy.

Pathology Laboratory - Darwin Hospital

835 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. Can he inform me as to the fate of the pathology laboratory at the Darwin Hospital?

2. Has he considered the future of the laboratory in the light of a lack of such scientific facilities in the Department of Primary Production?

ANSWER

1. The pathology laboratory at Darwin Hospital is to continue to provide services to the hospital and to support and service other hospitals and medical practitioners in the Northern Territory as the need arises.

2. As the department is still using and will continue to use the facility for its intended purpose, no thought has been given to the needs of other departments.

Salvation Army Nursing Home for Aged Persons

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the government support the proposed establishment of a nursing home for the aged in Darwin by the Salvation Army and, if so, will it offer the Salvation Army the same level of financial support that it gives to the Chan Park Nursing Home?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government would support an application from any organisation of the repute of the Salvation Army for the establishment of another nursing home as demand requires. With regard to the level of funding, consideration would have to be within the budgetary context of overall grants-in-aid to organisations that receive those funds from the Northern Territory government.

Use of Police Aircraft for Tourist Purposes

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to an article in a certain publication recently. Is it a fact that the police plane has been used for tourist purposes in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there is no need for the honourable member for Tiwi to be modest or discreet about the name of the publication. The publication she referred to was the Australian weekly news magazine, the Bulletin. In the Bulletin recently, there have been a number of articles complimentary to the Northern Territory. The Bulletin has not always been so complimentary. I refer to an article that appeared in the issue of 14 December last year. In his column, David McNicholl wrote - and I omit all unnecessary verbiage: 'Shooting a Northern Territory buffalo is about as thrilling and as dangerous as approaching a herd of jersey cows on their way to milking and letting one of the beasts have it with a .303. I speak from some experience having spent a long time in the Territory and having, to my shame, shot 4 or 5 buffaloes'.

Mr Speaker, since I was aware that this was not quite so, especially if one hunts buffalo on foot - and this is my advice from experienced hunters and I am not aware that the Leader of the Opposition is an experienced hunter - I decided to write to the Bulletin inviting Mr McNicholl to come to the Territory to try his skill and, generally speaking, to try to improve the image of the Northern Territory. As a consequence, Mr McNicholl advised that he and Mr Trevor Kennedy of Consolidated Press - Mr Trevor Kennedy is the Editor-in-Chief and Mr McNicholl former editor of the Sydney Daily Telegraph and a well-known Australian journalist - would come to the Territory. They spent a few days here, principally at the Nimrod Safari Camp, where they were guided by the Commissioner of Police. As a consequence, I received an undated letter from the member for Nhulunbuy about a week ago:

Dear Mr Everingham,

I have recently read an article in the Bulletin dated 10 May 1983 in which a David McNicholl writes about his exploits at a place he describes as Channel Point. While I am pleased that Mr McNicholl obviously enjoyed himself and that he conveyed his delight to his readers, I am alarmed that he also told his readers that the Northern Territory Police

Commissioner, who appears to have a residence in the Channel Point area, could be used as some sort of tour guide. It would also appear as though the police aircraft can be used as a charter aircraft.

I would appreciate an answer to the following questions because I consider the events as described by Mr McNicholl require some explanation. 1. Was the Police Commissioner on or off duty? If he was on duty, is the role of tour guide part of his job description? If he was off duty does he have the use of a very expensive aircraft, which belongs to the Northern Territory public, while he is off duty? 2. Who flew the aircraft and, if the pilot was a policeman, was the policeman on or off duty? 3. What insurance cover did the aircraft and its occupants have for this flight? 4. Was the flight logged? 5. Which department paid for the expenses incurred on the flight? 6. Was the commissioner acting with or without your knowledge and consent? 7. Does the Commissioner of Police intend to fly any other journalists to various parts of the Northern Territory in a police aircraft?

I feel these questions should be answered in full as it must affect public confidence in the police if the Police Commissioner of the Northern Territory can be perceived with anything other than the dignity and impartiality which his post should hold.

Mr Speaker, I have been weighed down with various decisions the federal government has made and I only got around to replying yesterday:

Dear Mr Leo,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter received on 12 May concerning a recent article in the Bulletin. I note your comments in this regard. If there is any impropriety about the Police Commissioner's actions, which I strongly dispute, I accept full responsibility. The point is that Mr David McNicholl, who is a very senior and prestigious Australian journalist, in his column in the Bulletin magazine dated 14 December 1982, made some disparaging remarks about buffalo hunting in the Northern Territory that could have been very detrimental to the Territory's tourist industry. I enclose a copy of Mr McNicholl's column containing the remarks together with a copy of a letter that I wrote to him on 27 January 1983 following that. Mr McNicholl accepted my invitation extended in that letter to come to the Territory and see for himself. Mr McNicholl was accompanied by Mr Trevor Kennedy, the Editor-in-Chief of the Packer press group. You will appreciate that buffalo hunting and, for that matter, any sort of hunting, is not to be taken lightly by the inexperienced and it was essential that a senior representative of government look after or, as the term goes, host Mr McNicholl and Mr Kennedy. Bearing in mind considerations of safety for these 2 senior people, the only person at a senior level in the government that I know of who is an accomplished marksman and hunter is the Police Commissioner, although the Attorney-General is a marksman. I therefore requested the commissioner to undertake the duty of escorting Mr McNicholl and Mr Kennedy.

As a reader of the Bulletin, you will already have seen that the Northern Territory has had favourable publicity in a couple of issues and, in fact, the 2-page article where mention is made of the Commissioner of Police and the police plane, which is always flown by a police pilot, is an example.

That aside, I would remind you that Commissioner McAuley does have official responsibilities in connection with public safety and in his capacity as Registrar of Firearms. He has been concerned for some time, and I share his concern, that various articles appearing in sporting

magazines have tended to promote a belief in the minds of inexperienced hunters that there are minimal risks associated with hunting water buffalo on foot with small calibre sporting rifles. In fact, the contrary is true. I expect that the Police Commissioner should do all within his power to remove these fallacies.

The visit of Mr McNicholl and Mr Trevor Kennedy afforded an opportunity for him to put these matters back in their proper perspective through the medium of an extensively read magazine such as the Bulletin. David McNicholl's article went a long way to achieving this. Mr McNicholl's article in the Bulletin is the sort of publicity that just cannot be bought even if one were able to do so. Advertising is not half as effective as a satisfied customer writing his own story. In any event, the cost of a page in the Bulletin for advertising purposes amounts to $4080. So, spending the Police Commissioner's time and using the police plane for a couple of hours at a total cost of about $450 to fly Mr McNicholl to Channel Point and back in fact saved the taxpayers money.

You might be interested to know that both Mr McNicholl and Mr Kennedy paid their own fares to and from the Territory. Both expressed themselves as most impressed with what they saw of the Territory and I expect that we have only seen the first instalment of goodwill, for which we can partly thank Peter McAuley, in Mr McNicholl's article.

Mr Kennedy expressed his views on how he proposes to use the information and experiences he gained in a letter to the honourable Roger Steele and I quote:

> *I cannot thank you enough for your enormous kindness and generosity to me on my recent visit to the Northern Territory. It was a real eye-opener and a great learning experience and made all the more pleasurable by your company and your overwhelming hospitality. I much enjoyed meeting the various people who run the place and it was most impressive to experience their freshness and optimism, something which seems more or less confined to the frontiers these days. David is doing a piece on Nimrod and I am hoping to put together something on the Northern Territory when I fly to London at the weekend. Even though the experience was an enriching one, it has whetted my appetite for more information about the Northern Territory and it should contribute to all of our magazines being better informed on what is a most interesting part of our land.*

As the host, if the Police Commissioner had not used the police plane, the government would have had to charter a private aircraft at a cost of about $1320 to take the commissioner and Messrs Kennedy and McNicholl to Channel Point and back.

I consider your letter to be the usual sort of miserable and carping criticism so often made by members of your party against people who are prepared to work long hours, and out of hours, on behalf of the Northern Territory. If Mr McAuley has a residence at Channel Point, it is no business of mine nor is it of yours. I understand several people have purchased land there and all I can say is that I envy them their situation.

I am happy for you to inspect the police aircraft logbooks whenever you wish. Furthermore, it may well be necessary for other journalists from time to time to be flown in the police plane and I make no apology for such arrangements. I trust the above puts into proper perspective the role of the Police Commissioner and the police plane and the occurrence you expressed concern about, and that the dignity and impartiality of

his position is indeed enhanced by actions of this nature.

Mr Speaker, all I can say is that, if we are to have that sort of nitpicking persecution of senior officials in this Territory, who are doing the job that they are asked to do by the ministers - and I am the Minister for Tourism - where will we end up? The fact is we have to entertain literally scores of ambassadors, consuls-general, consuls and many other people, some of whom contribute to the Territory. What is the Territory likely to get out of a visit from the Ambassador for Bulgaria? We have to lay on much more for the Ambassador for Bulgaria than we have to lay on for these people. I welcome the visit of the Ambassador for Bulgaria but we get 20 of them a year, 30 consuls-general and scores more consular officials. These are the people within Australia who are going to do our tourist industry a great deal of good.

Employment of Shooter by Conservation Commission

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise me that, to his knowledge, the Conservation Commission for the Northern Territory does not employ one experienced shooter?

ANSWER

The Leader of the Opposition will have to redirect his question to the honourable Minister for Primary Production and Conservation, because I relinquished my post as minister responsible for conservation back in November.

Sale of Housing Commission Houses in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is the government any closer to resolving the issue of the sale of commission houses to interested tenants in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

This is not a matter that has come across my desk in recent times. Indeed, I have not sighted anything on it since I was minister responsible for housing.

Report on Staffing in NT Primary Schools

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Have the findings of the report on staffing in Northern Territory primary schools undertaken in 1982 by a joint departmental and NT Teachers Federation working party been accepted by the government and, if so, when is it proposed that the implementation of the findings of this report will commence?

ANSWER

This matter is currently before Cabinet and, as no decision has been finalised, I am unable to answer the balance of her question.

Fred's Pass Police Office

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the future of the Fred's Pass Police Office and is it a fact

that the status of the Fred's Pass Police Office is about to be downgraded?

ANSWER

It is expected that, as population and general activities in the Fred's Pass area and the adjacent rural area increase, the scope of police duties there will be expanded. There are no plans to downgrade the status of the office. The only matter of relevance currently under study is the desirability of installing a telephone transfer system so that, in the event of a call being made to the office during a time when staff members are temporarily absent, the call will be switched to the Darwin Police Station. This arrangement will enable existing staff to engage in more external duties than is currently possible.

Employment of Shooter by Conservation Commission

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Mr Speaker, I would like to redirect my question on the dearth of shooters in the Northern Territory Conservation Commission.

ANSWER

I regret to advise the honourable member that I do not carry that information around in my head but I would be happy to provide it as soon as I can in this sittings.

Ownership of Victoria River Downs and Newcastle Waters Stations

Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS

Have applications been received for change of ownership for the cattle stations known as Victoria River Downs and Newcastle Waters?

ANSWER

I understand that, at this stage, an application for transfer of ownership of Victoria River Downs pastoral lease has been received. I am advised that an application for the transfer of ownership of Newcastle Waters pastoral lease should be in my hands shortly. This question has been asked at the request of the vendors and the proposed purchasers. Apparently rumours of the impending transactions are rife around the Territory and I have been asked by the parties to make a statement.

The situation is that it is proposed that the 3 Newcastle Waters Station leases, totalling 10 358 km^2 be transferred from Ashburton Pastoral Company Pty Ltd to Consolidated Press Holdings Ltd and Victoria River Downs Station, comprised of 12 359 km^2, be transferred from Hooker Estates Ltd to Consolidated Press Holdings Ltd. The total area involved in these transfers is 22 717 km^2. I want to bring this matter to the attention of this Assembly because these transfers, if agreed to, will result in the purchaser holding in excess of the maximum area allowed under section 38A of the Crown Lands Act.

My reasons for considering agreeing to a single owner holding such a large area of Northern Territory pastoral lands are as follows. Firstly, the purchaser is an Australian company of substance. The chairman of that company, Mr Kerry Packer, is a well-known Australian who has very diverse interests and the capital and managerial resources to continue to improve each station in the best interests not only of his shareholders but of the Territory's cattle industry. The change of ownership will result in Mr Ken Warriner of Newcastle Waters Station having overall managerial

responsibility for the group of properties. Mr Warriner is well known in the cattle industry and is highly regarded as a result of his management of Brunette Downs and, more recently, Newcastle Waters. During Mr Warriner's period of management of both stations, he was responsible for the rapid progress made in eradicating tuberculosis and brucellosis from these herds.

The government believes that, if it agrees to the purchases going through, it will result in a group of pastoral properties that are highly complementary in terms of the BTB program. Successful eradication of disease can only be achieved where fencing, yards and watering points are adequate to control cattle. In those cases where destocking is necessary, it is essential to have access to clean areas for testing breeders. The disease eradication program is now sufficiently well advanced at Newcastle Waters to provide clean areas. The nature of the country at Victoria River Downs means that more rapid progress will result with the partial destocking of this property and the transfer of clean cattle to Newcastle Waters. Once Victoria River Downs is largely destocked and areas declared free of disease, the expanded Newcastle Waters herd will have the ability to restock Victoria River Downs and the adjoining Humbert River lease.

Accelerated funding for the BTB program is now in doubt. The capital that Consolidated Press Holdings will bring to the group of properties will contribute largely to establishing additional improvements on each property. As members of the Assembly will now recognise, successful disease eradication is capital demanding. I am told that Consolidated Press Holdings has committed $1m to such works. I have been advised that the disease control program by the Consolidated Press Holdings group will result in a disease-free herd of approximately 100 000 head of cattle, which could serve as a supplier of breeders to other stations undertaking destocking programs. At present, there are few other herds in the Katherine, Victoria River and Darwin districts that could supply this restocking market. This will benefit the Territory's cattle industry at large.

Members of the Assembly should also note that changes in the corporate policy of the Hooker group have led to a decision to dispose of its pastoral holdings. With such a sale pending, my government was of the opinion that it would be preferable to have a new owner without meat processing facilities. The Consolidated Press Holdings group has no direct involvement at all in meat processing and export and, therefore, will be able to adopt more flexible marketing policies, including the further development of the live cattle export trade.

As stated, the transfer of the 4 pastoral leases to Consolidated Press Holdings will result in a land aggregation of 22 717 km^2. Mr Kerry Packer, Chairman of Consolidated Press Holdings, has advised that he is willing to enter into a commitment, upon successful completion of the disease eradication program on Victoria River Downs Station, to offer sufficient land for sale to reduce the aggregate holding of Consolidated Press Holdings to that permitted under the Crown Lands Act. Application to subdivide into 4 separate leases will be made shortly.

In addition, honourable members should note that Humbert River Station, at present owned by Rural Improvements Pty Ltd, is being sold to the Consolidated Press Holdings Group by way of a sale of shares in Rural Improvements Pty Ltd. This sale is not subject to ministerial consent. It will, however, be incorporated in the group management program and it is the intention of the owner, on completion of the disease eradication program, to dispose of the property.

Mr Speaker, in light of the uncertainty created by the deferral by the federal government of accelerated financing for the BTB eradication program,

this could provide an opportunity to maintain a level of effort by an Australian company which would be very hard to refuse. I emphasise that I am still awaiting detailed written submissions from Consolidated Press Holdings over and above the oral submissions that I have already received in the course of several meetings with the principals. It seems to me that, prima facie, we have a situation here where, as minister, I should exercise my discretion to allow the holding in excess of the provisions under section 38A. This is an Australian company which has the necessary capital and entrepreneurial skill, a company that is well known around Australia for its success in virtually everything that it undertakes. It is the sort of company that we should be wanting to get into the Northern Territory. For those reasons, I would be reluctant to refuse consent, particularly in light of the various provisos that have been put to me about subdivision in the future - destocking, clearing of the herds and so on. Nonetheless, if I were presented with a convincing reason, I would refuse consent. While I have not arrived at a final decision by any means yet, I say quite clearly to the Assembly that I am disposed to grant these consents unless someone in this Assembly or outside can show me good reason within the next week or so as to why I should not, assuming I receive the submissions that I have asked for.

Yarralin Aboriginal Community

Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

As the Aboriginal community at Yarralin exists at present solely through the good offices of the Hooker Pastoral Company - no lease of any description has ever been granted - what will be the status of this community of some 200 people if ownership changes?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand from Mr Packer's representatives that there will be minimal changes on the VRD property in terms of personnel, occupiers and so on. I do not think Mr Packer would be in the slightest bit interested in having any confrontation with the people at Yarralin. I imagine they would continue their negotiations for a lease with Consolidated Press Holdings as they have negotiated with the Hooker Pastoral Company in the past.

Service Station Site at Yulara

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer him to negotiations that have been carried out for ownership of the service station site and for building on and operation at the service station site. I also refer him to his claim that the Malpa Trading Company put in a nil bid for this particular service station site. Is he now satisfied that it is not the case that Malpa put in a nil bid and will be reopen negotiations on that contract?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not satisfied that the Malpa Trading Company put in a nil bid. In fact, I am more satisfied than ever that it put in a bid of $1. Mr Speaker, I cannot locate my notes at the moment. Perhaps you could proceed with the next question while I look for them.

Proposed Amendments to Mining Act

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

Is it his intention to introduce amendments to the Mining Act to provide

for free range exploration licences and strata titling of mineral developments and, if so, what is the intention of these proposed amendments?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the proposal for free ranging is just that. It is a proposal I put to industry by way of a letter to all the people that we could locate who have an interest in mining and exploration activity in the Northern Territory. In addition, it was one of the many major points that I put to mining industry interests in both Sydney and Melbourne during the Northern Territory government's recent investment promotion tour of those 2 centres.

The idea of free ranging was put to me as one that should be put to industry for its reaction. I would like to say that, personally, I do not have a view on it. I can see some plusses in it, particularly for the smaller person and in terms of getting a wider-ranging exploration program going in the Northern Territory. On the other hand, I can see difficulty for the major companies who have spent millions of dollars in exploration in the Northern Territory. I am anxious to weigh up the views of the exploration industry in respect of that subject. Any decision Cabinet makes on that matter will be based upon the submissions made by the industry.

In respect to the question of strata titling of mineral resources, mining as such, honourable members will be aware that a bill is currently before the Legislative Assembly which deals with that. I have no doubt that, during the course of this sittings, honourable members will be making their views known on that proposal.

Mr Speaker, it is a matter that would interest everyone from accountants through to taxation officials. The intention was not to direct it towards taxation although, in some circumstances, it would have an effect on the taxation structure of mining companies. It is peculiar, in some ways, to the nature of some deposits in the Northern Territory that we have different minerals at different levels and we have an infrastructure requirement at the surface of the mine which may be different for each of those different levels. Some companies have different subsidiary companies which operate those different levels. For practical purposes, it may be wise to do so.

The matter is currently before the Assembly. I would appreciate honourable members' views on the provisions currently before us on strata titling. It is one that was put forward to us by industry. It is a matter put forward by myself, with the concurrence of Cabinet, to the Assembly on behalf of industry. If there are more problems in it than there are benefits, then we will take that into account at an appropriate stage.

Radium Concentrates in Mussels

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is he aware that the Office of the Supervising Scientist has discovered high radium concentrates in mussels in the Mudginberri, Quondong and Georgetown Billabongs? Is he aware that, based on international dose limits, the amounts of radium that have been found in these mussels would indicate that if local residents eat several kilograms a year radium levels in their bodies could exceed those that are considered safe? Are the investigations that are being carried out to his satisfaction?

ANSWER

This is a complex question. Quite clearly, it is one that the Co-ordinator-General has been involved in and, therefore, the Chief Minister

has been briefed on it too. It is true that, in the Mudginberri Billabong, mussels have been found with a radium content in excess of desirable levels. On the current figures, the quantity which would be required to be consumed to be potentially hazardous would be in the order of 5 kg in a year. While it is highly unlikely that any non-Aboriginal person would consume that quantity of mussels, I suppose it is at least possible that Aboriginal people who eat them - and the honourable member for Nightcliff who seems to include herself amongst those who consume mussels - would perhaps consume 5 kg each in a year. We have had extensive discussions with the Supervising Scientist. Further investigations are being carried out now. There is no evidence available to me at this stage that these levels are related to mining activities. It could well be a cyclical effect, the last samples, as I understand it, having been taken in about 1972. Obviously, that was well before uranium mining. The health authorities have been aware of a higher than usual level of radium concentrates in mussels for many years. Apparently it is a figure which fluctuates from time to time. Nonetheless, my information is that, while there is no evidence that it is connected with mining activities in that region, there is perhaps some reason for concern. The matter will be very closely monitored and, if necessary, appropriate warning will be issued, particularly if we cannot come to a satisfactory answer to the problem in the near future. Investigations are in hand.

Rates at Berrimah

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

To relieve the anomaly of the situation of people paying rates at Berrimah, has he given thought to section 15 of the Darwin Rates Act which gives the minister power to reduce these rates?

ANSWER

As a result of representations by the honourable member for Tiwi, I have addressed this issue. There seems to be a case that can be considered for the reduction of rates in this area. This issue should also be taken into account with other reviews that are going on in the local government area at the moment. It is a matter that I would also like to discuss with the new advisory committee on local government for the rural area. I have agreed to meet with the people in the area and the honourable member for Tiwi some time after the sittings to gain a better appreciation of the problem and so be able to make a decision.

Koolpinyah Station Boundaries

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS

This is a question that has been asked previously by myself, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Victoria River. Has any decision been taken or agreement reached on the realignment of the boundaries of Koolpinyah Station?

ANSWER

It is probably too soon to say that agreement has been reached. I think that substantial agreement has been reached, to put it rather nicely. I received a report this morning from the Department of Lands that negotiations are very close to finalisation. However, I feel it is tempting fate for me to say that. Nonetheless, that is what I am told. I understand that action in respect of the areas that it has been agreed should be acquired will be undertaken very shortly. One should appreciate that, in the Northern Territory, it is not possible for government to walk in willy-nilly and acquire anyone's

land. Soon after self-government, we passed the Northern Territory Lands Acquisition Act which provides many safeguards for owners of land.

Of course, the owner of Koolpinyah is very desirous of retaining all of his property. Indeed, as I understand it, he is desirous of expanding it. Nonetheless, there are certain areas that the government considers to be of greater importance than the rights of the owner. One is in the area of conservation. I think Melacca Swamp and Black Jungle are 2 areas of importance. They are both about 20 ha. There are other recreational areas stretching up towards Gunn Point. Perhaps some horticultural and agricultural areas that we have agreed on should be acquired for some reason from the owner. To the best of my knowledge, that action should be commenced by the Department of Lands shortly.

NT Stock Squad

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the current number of personnel in the Northern Territory stock squad and will this number be maintained throughout the year? What is the expertise of these members at present regarding stock knowledge and what requirements will be necessary for any future appointments to the stock squad?

ANSWER

There are 2 members attached to the stock squad and this level will be maintained. They both have a background in stock matters and experience in rural police stations. Members of the squad are required to attend investigators' courses and have a knowledge of specific stock-related legislation. In addition, both members have attended seminars and stock inspection courses and their duties have been directed towards all aspects of the pastoral industry. These qualifications are seen as the minimum requirements for selection.

Tenders for Channel Island Bridge

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that the successful tenderer for the Channel Island bridge was able to vary its tender after tenders had closed? If this is true, why was that allowed to happen?

ANSWER

My understanding is that Jennings won the contract and its tender was $500 000 less than the next lowest tender bid. I am unaware of any specific variation that may have taken place but I will undertake to seek the information for the honourable member.

Service Station Site at Yulara

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Speaker, I ask the Chief Minister to answer my question about the service station site at Yulara.

ANSWER

I will read a letter that I wrote on 24 May to Mr Charlie Walkabout, Chairman of Malpa Trading Co Pty Ltd, PO Box 45 Alice Springs:

Dear Mr Walkabout,

Thank you for your letter dated 3 May 1983 concerning arrangements for the development and operation of the service station at Yulara and the involvement of the Malpa Trading Co in the operation of the resort.

In my press statement dated 3 September 1981, I referred to opportunities for the provision of housing, the employment of Aboriginals, the manufacture and sale of Aboriginal arts and crafts and the ownership or operation of private enterprise components by Aboriginal people. These opportunities are being taken and work under way includes the construction of Aboriginal housing and workshop facilties for those people who wish to move from Ayers Rock to Yulara.

Aboriginals have been and are being employed on the construction of environmental fencing, walking tracks, lookouts and the housing and workshop facilities. It is intended that employment will continue to be available during the construction period and on a long-term basis on work associated with operating the resort.

Regarding ownership or operation of private enterprise components, White Industries were instructed to negotiate with the Malpa Trading Co with a view to seeking an involvement in operating the commercial facilities of Yulara. These include the service station, the Aboriginal arts and crafts centre and the supermarket. Malpa was invited to bid for the right to develop and operate the service station site and was provided with detailed information on the project. Malpa does enjoy a privileged position in relation to negotiations through the availability of information and the government's wish that your company be involved in Yulara.

However, it has always been quite clear that the right to any commercial facility at Yulara would be subject to the negotiation of a satisfactory commercial arrangement and, unfortunately, this was not the case in relation to the service station. You must bear in mind that the construction of Yulara will cost the Territory government $150m and we must ensure that as much as possible is recouped for the benefit of the taxpayer.

On 16 February 1983, Malpa was advised to consider making an offer for the land cost, with or without a premium, and that any proposal would be compared with others received. On 11 March 1983, your company responded by offering $1 for the land and development rights which were worth several hundred thousands of dollars as a result of the investment at Yulara by the Yulara Development Company. This, of course, could not be accepted in the light of substantial offers by other companies.

Further, as the Yulara tourist resort is being constructed to accommodate visitors to Ayers Rock and to allow for existing facilities to be demolished and the areas occupied by them to be rehabilitated, Malpa was requested to consider relinquishing the lease held over the existing service station to facilitate the inclusion of this area in the rehabilitation program. In reply, your company advised that the Aboriginal community at Ayers Rock wanted the existing service station to remain to meet their needs and those of visiting Aboriginal people and to operate as a training centre for mechanics. Your company also stated that tourists would be served with fuel, but that Malpa did not propose to encourage tourist trade. From this advice it did not appear that there was any intention by Malpa to offer the closure of the existing service station to coincide with the development of Yulara and the rehabilitation of the national park. The final decision took into account that Malpa

offered neither a competitive cash bid for the site nor to relinquish their existing lease which might have been considered as an offset.

There are still a number of opportunities for Malpa to be involved in commercial activities at Yulara, including retail outlets in the centre for Aboriginal arts and crafts. Your company has been invited by White Industries to make submissions for these facilities and they will be given every consideration. It should be noted, however, that operators will be required to meet normal commercial criteria in relation to financial strength, experienced management skills and the ability to provide the required services. The government continues to support the involvement of Malpa at the Yulara Tourist Resort and negotiations for the retail facilities will include the opportunity for you to seek advice and provide additional information.

It is anticipated that meetings concerning the operation of the retail facilities will be arranged in June 1983 and you will be contacted in response to any submission you may have made. I hope that any further proposals you may put forward are made in the light of commerical reality and the fact that the Chairman of the Aboriginal Development Commission, Mr Charles Perkins, has advised me that financial backing is available to you.

Alice Springs to Darwin Rail Line

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has his attention been drawn to media comment that, despite statements to the contrary by the Leader of the Opposition, the South Australian Premier will not accompany him to Canberra for talks on the future of the Alice Springs to Darwin rail line?

ANSWER

My attention has been drawn to comments to this effect. I must say that I am extremely surprised by them. Last Friday, when the Leader of the Opposition was attempting to snow the media, he stated that he and the South Australian Premier would travel to Canberra for talks with the federal government. The front page of the Northern Territory News declared: 'Collins and Bannon join forces'. The Leader of the Opposition was quoted as saying that he and South Australian Premier, John Bannon, would be joining forces to ask the federal government to reconsider its position on the railway.

Let me quote from the story in the NT News: 'Mr Collins said that he and Mr Bannon would be going to Canberra at a time yet to be decided to suggest that the federal government should considerably moderate its request to the Territory to share the capital funding'. The Leader of the Opposition also made that claim in a press release that he issued last Friday. He said virtually the same thing: no decision had been made about the timing of the trip to Canberra but he and the South Australian Premier would be making a joint approach.

In case other honourable members have not seen the media reports, Mr Deputy Speaker, let me tell you what they say. The South Australian Premier is not travelling to Canberra with the Leader of the Opposition. He has gone on holiday. The Deputy Premier will not accompany the Leader of the Opposition. He had considered going but has a heavy schedule and has decided against it. The person who might go is the member for Stuart, an electorate in the north of the state. The member for Stuart is the Chief Secretary in South Australia, the man responsible for police and prisons. That is how much importance the South Australian government seems to attach to the Leader of the Opposition and his talks in Canberra. South Australia, which would certainly benefit from the steel and railway sleepers required, is a sleeper itself. The railway would need 156 000 t of steel for rails - steel that would be rolled at Whyalla. It needs 2.5 million sleepers which could be made at the concrete sleeper plant at Port Augusta. But the South Australian government attaches so little significance to the Leader of the Opposition that the Premier has gone on holiday and the Deputy Premier is too busy. Perhaps the Chief Secretary was the only person left standing when the rest of the Cabinet ducked for cover.

Mr Deputy Speaker, one point that emerges from this news item is the fact that the South Australian Premier never intended going to Canberra with the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition has misled the people of the Northern Territory once again with his willingness to mishandle the truth. Lest there be any confusion, let me make it quite clear that I am not misrepresenting the facts in this matter. The Premier's office in Adelaide is telling the press, quite openly - and we have it from the ABC and AAP - that the Premier never had any intention of travelling to Canberra or anywhere else with the Leader of the Opposition. The honourable Leader of the Opposition seems to think he can give a version of what he does for consumption in the Northern Territory and that the real facts will never come to light. Mr Deputy Speaker, once again, he has been caught with his pants well and truly down and it is not a pretty sight.

Tobacco Product Advertising

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I hope he feels free to answer my question with as much zest as the Chief Minister. It concerns the recent Commonwealth-State Health Ministers' Conference held in Hobart, which the Minister for Health attended. We heard of his energetic activities during the course of that conference. The question of uniform legislation on tobacco product advertising was discussed and I ask the Minister for Health what attitude he took on behalf of the Northern Territory to the issue of tobacco advertising, particularly in relation to tobacco company sponsorship of sporting activities?

ANSWER

A paper on the subject was delivered at the conference in Hobart. The paper was sponsored by the Western Australian government and it proposed a ban on all forms of tobacco advertising, both through the electronic media - on which there is already a ban - and in the newspapers. However, there was some concern that the electronic media ban was not successful by virtue of the fact that the names of certain large tobacco companies, by way of sponsorship, appear on the ABC and commercial stations; for example, the Benson and Hedges Golf Tournament and the Marlboro 500 race.

The only thing that came out of the conference was that Western Australia was not supported. The first state that declined to support the recommendations of Western Australia was New South Wales. It was closely followed by Victoria, then South Australia, Queensland, the Northern Territory and finally Tasmania. Therefore, Western Australia was left to go it alone.

However, the ministers resolved to ask the Australian Media Council to provide to them at a conference in Canberra on 15 June - which will discuss the introduction of Medicare - a paper on the tightening up of the voluntary code. Of course, the Northern Territory and the states supported a recommendation that the voluntary code for the advertising of tobacco products by both the electronic media and the newspapers be tightened up. That is where we are now. We are waiting to see the recommendations in the paper.

The honourable member has asked what attitude was taken on behalf of the Northern Territory to the idea that the advertising of tobacco - and the advertising of alcohol was brought into the question at the same time - was probably harmful to the development of various sporting organisations in the Northern Territory. At the time, I commented that the tobacco companies were providing financial support to sporting organisations and that, as we had such a very small population base and the Northern Territory government, whilst it was doing a pretty good job, can only provide limited financial support to sporting and other community organisations, the proposal in relation to the advertising of tobacco products would certainly not be in the best interests of the Northern Territory.

Road to Koolpin Gorge

Ms LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I understand that the status of the road through Gimbat Station to Koolpin Gorge has been referred to the Department of Law for an opinion on whether it is a public road or not. Has that opinion been received and, if so, what was it?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, the preamble made by the honourable member for Nightcliff is not strictly correct. The situation is that representations have been received by me, as Minister for Lands, from 4-wheel-drive recreational groups and also from the lessee of Gimbat Station, Mr Helmut Schimmel, in relation to the closure of what is known as the Sleisbeck Road. I would like to point out that the Northern Territory government does not have unfettered control over the Gimbat pastoral lease. The lease is owned in fact by the Commonwealth of Australia and I understand that the Commonwealth, through the Department of Administrative Services, has asked us to administer Gimbat while we are administering all the rest of the pastoral leases in the Northern Territory. The situation is that the transfer of Gimbat to Mr Schimmel was approved by the Commonwealth rather than by the Territory although, nominally at least, the Territory Minister for Lands provided the consent to transfer. Mr Schimmel has been the owner for some time and, apparently, he has closed the gate across Sleisbeck Road. The 4-wheel-drive people complain that this interferes with their access to the property. In strict law, once they take their vehicles off the road on to the property itself, I think they are trespassers anyway. That nice point of law no doubt escapes them.

I have asked the Secretary of the Department of Lands to seek that the Solicitor-General take the matter of the status of the Sleisbeck Road before the Supreme Court for a declaration as to whether or not it is or is not a public road. Frankly, I do not have the resources personally to determine that fact. I do not believe the Attorney-General is in a position to determine that fact because it is the sort of thing where interested members of the public should have a forum in which to put forward their views. As I see it, the best possible forum for a determination of whether Sleisbeck Road is or is not a public road is the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory. No doubt any parties who are interested may come forward in the course of the case and put their evidence and their lawyers can put their legal argument. I asked the Secretary of the Department of Lands to expedite this matter. I think it was at least a month or 2 ago that they saw me. I do not know what has happened to it since but I hope that the wheels are being greased. Maybe the fact that this question has been asked will help to grease them even further.

Sentence for Manslaughter at Roe Creek

Mr D.W. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is he aware of the widespread concern expressed in Alice Springs at the perceived lightness of the sentence imposed on a person convicted of the manslaughter of a crippled man at Roe Creek earlier this year?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the honourable member for Alice Springs for that question because I am aware of that expression of concern. As Attorney-General I have received a number of telephone calls from local people and I would like to spend a few moments addressing myself to that question.

The killing occurred at Orange Creek, not Roe Creek. The defendant's name was Kevin Donnelly and the deceased's name was Harold John Porter also known as Michael John Connors. The conviction was for manslaughter. Sometimes, there is a vast difference in such cases between the facts as believed by the public and the facts available to defence counsel, the prosecution and the court. This is a classic example of that problem.

What is the public perception of what happened? All the public knows is that a disabled and almost crippled man was shot dead at Orange Creek, south of Alice Springs. They know that, for some time, the person who apparently did the shooting was missing. That person was subsequently discovered in Kalgoorlie and extradited to the Northern Territory. It is probably known widely by the public that that person initially denied the offence. They know that that person was arrested and arraigned on a charge of murder. They know that that charge was reduced to manslaughter and that the sentence given by the court was 2 months imprisonment and that the person had spent 5 months in custody. That is the knowledge of the public and, for that reason, they feel some sense of disquiet with a sentence of that nature.

The information available to the court was completely different. The deceased had picked up the accused and offered him a lift to Katherine. The deceased carried a loaded rifle cocked, with the safety off, in his vehicle. The deceased was suffering from a physical infirmity which had made it difficult for him to use that rifle otherwise. On the day of the death, the deceased and the defendant had been drinking until 3 pm and they were sitting in the back of the car with the seats laid back. The defendant asked to use the rifle and got out of the car with it. When getting back in he had his finger on the trigger and it discharged killing the deceased. The bullet entered the back of the deceased's skull at an angle such that it was consistent with the defendant's version and not consistent with a deliberate shot. This was confirmed by forensic tests. All of the evidence available to the Crown pointed to an offence of gross negligence leading to manslaughter. The defendant had no record of any crimes equivalent to this.

The role of the courts in sentencing offenders is to impose an appropriate penalty in view of the relevant circumstances. These include: the parliament's view of the seriousness of the crime as reflected by the prescribed maximum penalty; the offender's motives; his family background, age and mental and physical health; any previous criminal record - and it is to be remembered in this case that there was no record which would have been consistent with this sort of behaviour; how often the particular crime occurs; and the consequence of imprisonment and, especially, whether it would help the person come back into society as a useful citizen.

There is certainly a well-founded view that the role of government is limited in relation to sentencing. In order to make sure that the courts retain their independence, it is believed by most that governments should not interfere by making representations to judges and magistrates other than through its law officers as and when cases are dealt with. Personally, I believe that there is a role for the Attorney-General to discuss community views with judges. I am giving some consideration to doing that. That does not mean to say, in any way, that I believe that this sentence or any other was anything other than perfectly proper. The public will be informed of that when the Crown appeals.

The particular point that I am making is that, regrettably, the information available to the public, was quite different from that available to the court. Having set out the scenario, I can well understand public disquiet at a sentence of 2 months imprisonment for that person's death. But when we understand the full circumstances, we see that, at worst, it was an act of gross negligence. While there has been disquiet on many occasions on the part of the public at sentencing by the courts, it is a shame that the public cannot have information which is available to the courts. I am quite sure that any person who knew the facts of this case would not differ for one moment from the judge's decision.

Undesirable Effects of Overcrowded Accommodation

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HOUSING

Will he accede to my requests for an inquiry into the socially undesirable effects of overcrowded accommodation upon which the Housing Commission is currently unable to make any impact?

ANSWER

During the course of this sittings, I will be making a ministerial statement on housing in the Northern Territory. Hopefully, during that statement, I might pick up the honourable member's question.

Aboriginal Employment in the NTPS

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the level of Aboriginal employment in the Northern Territory Public Service increasing or decreasing?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am very pleased to answer this question. I told the Legislative Assembly in April 1980 that the Northern Territory government aimed to increase the number of Aboriginals employed within the Northern Territory Public Service to 10% of the service by 1982. It is now very pleasing to be able to say that recent figures reveal that this aim has been achieved. The Public Service Commissioner has advised me that a total of 1137 Aboriginals are now employed as public servants, 543 males and 594 females. This number represents 10.5% of the total NTPS workforce. On the best advice that I have, these figures compare very favourably with those of the southern states which maintain similar statistics. In New South Wales, for example, 1.6% of the state public service is Aboriginal and, in Victoria, only 0.12%. For the Australian Public Service the figure is 0.47%. This shows we have been rather more successful than our southern counterparts in carrying out our policy.

I would also like to make the point that the dispersion of the Aboriginals within the Northern Territory Public Service follows a pattern similar to that of non-Aboriginals with the majority of employees in the base-grade administrative levels. I shall not be satisfied though until there is a larger number of Aboriginals employed above those levels and I have asked the Public Service Commissioner to provide training facilities to enable this to be achieved. Of course, we want to better the figure of 10.5% and we will continue to work on that.

Gold Mine in Pine Creek Area

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it a fact that a new gold-mining operation is to commence soon in the Pine Creek area? If so, is it a fact that the owners of this gold mine will not be required to pay royalties to the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

I am not in a position to say whether or not there will be a gold mine in the Pine Creek area. I think the honourable member would be well aware of the need for some degree of confidentiality in these matters. May I say that the Pine Creek area, in terms of gold, is a very prospective area indeed. I have

little doubt that there will be a number of new gold mines in the Pine Creek area in the near future. As to the last part of the question, I cannot imagine any circumstances under which people would not pay royalties to the Northern Territory where those royalties are due and payable.

Taxation on Lump Sum Superannuation Payments

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

My question refers to this morning's news item quoting the claim of a leading trade union official, Mr Barrie Unsworth, that certain deals were struck at the recent National Economic Summit Conference. Was the Chief Minister a party to any arrangements at the National Economic Summit Conference whereby commitments were given to the ACTU or any other party that there would be no taxation of lump sum superannuation payments?

ANSWER

It came as a bombshell to me when I heard a news report early this morning with a voice-over from Mr Barrie Unsworth who is the vice-president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions as well as being a very prominent unionist in New South Wales. I think he may even be a member of the New South Wales Legislative Council. In any event, he is a very senior ACTU figure and he claimed that there had been an agreement at the summit conference that there would be no additional taxation of lump sum superannuation payments. I can assure you that neither the Treasurer nor myself were party to any such agreement. Indeed, although there were rumours at the summit of a deal between the ACTU and the government on pay increases, the federal government, and Mr Hawke himself, denied those rumours at the time, and I believed implicitly in what the Prime Minister said. It seems, from what Mr Unsworth says, that not only may there have been an agreement regarding pay increases but further agreements with the ACTU going so far even as no taxation of lump sum superannuation payments. For an agreement to get as far as that, one would imagine it to be a very comprehensive one.

Yesterday, we heard the Leader of the Opposition preach about restraint. One can only say that apparently these deals were selfishly struck behind closed doors between certain parties to the summit and other parties were not privy to them and, indeed, apparently were deceived about them. I believe that the Australian public needs to know, and should be told by the federal government, what other deals were struck behind closed doors at the summit. Every Australian has the right to know what deals the federal government made with the ACTU and what deals were connived at at the summit. Mr Deputy Speaker, all I can say is that it sounds very much to me as though we have all been duped.

Toilet Facilities for Rapid Creek Water Gardens

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will the government erect toilet facilities in the Rapid Creek Water Gardens?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, I seem to recall that the honourable member for Millner asked a similar question at the last sittings or raised it during an adjournment debate. I am not too sure what response the government gave to him at that particular time. I understand that the water gardens is a very pleasant place for people to congregate and make use of the environment at Rapid Creek. I am not too sure that facilities such as toilets have been

planned at this particular time. I will take the question on notice and respond to the honourable member as soon as I can.

Bag Limits on Waterfowl

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Is it his intention to introduce a bill to the Assembly to allow him, upon the advice of his officers, to set bag limits for the taking of waterfowl depending on seasonal prospects?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, I do not have such a proposition before me at the moment. It might be of interest to all honourable members to know that this issue has been raised with me in the last 4 or 5 days by people outside the government and the Conservation Commission. It is believed in some sections of the community that we should have a bag limit, particularly for the duck shooting season. I have raised this matter with the Conservation Commission and I have not had a reply yet. When that advice is received, I will be happy to let the member know.

Bus Service for Palmerston

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I understand the new timetable for bus services will include Karama. Does the government also intend to include Palmerston in new bus schedules?

ANSWER

There has been some discussion about the inclusion of Palmerston in new bus services. I understand that a petition emanating from the City of Palmerston has been circulated to that effect. The government finds itself in a very serious position in respect of the provision of bus services to the people of Darwin. The government subsidy before income this year is expected to be in the vicinity of $3.15m. We are in a very grave position in respect to financing extended bus services and, until such time as all the ramifications of services in Darwin have been considered - and that includes the discussions that are to take place with the drivers in respect of various aspects of their employemnt, such as leave loadings and part-time employment - no further extensions to Darwin bus services will be considered.

Radiological Services in NT Hospitals

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that patients have been refused emergency x-rays on weekends and public holidays at Tennant Creek and Alice Springs hospitals? Will he ensure that emergency radiological services are available at all Northern Territory hospitals?

ANSWER

In most cases, x-ray facilities are available. In Alice Springs, Darwin, Tennant Creek and Katherine, facilities are available Monday through Friday. On weekends, they are only available in emergencies. However, I will examine the situation and give the member a more detailed response at a later date.

Application of Construction Safety Act at Nabalco Plant Site

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Why doesn't the Construction Safety Act, which regulates the safety standards for rigging, scaffolding and related work, apply to the Nabalco plant site? It is a fairly major plant site but no acts relate to construction there.

ANSWER

I will have the matter investigated. I am certainly unable to given an answer now. I will report back to him later.

Darwin Airport

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise if there is any indication on whether or not plans to upgrade the Darwin airport will be completed by the original target date of late 1986?

ANSWER

The honourable member is correct in saying that an $86m plan to upgrade Darwin airport was originally scheduled to be completed in late 1986. In fact, a newspaper headline on 24 November 1982 indicated that it was an official government proposal and that an $86m project would commence to upgrade the airport. The previous government was committed to the establishment of a terminal on a new site to the north of the main runway by the end of 1986 with work beginning at the end of this calendar year. This target date now seems unrealistic due to the change in government. As the length of the project is 4 years, the project, if it proceeds, will not be completed until 1987 at the earliest. The delay is one year.

Police Exhibit at Fred's Pass Show

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Why was only one police officer on duty at the police exhibit at the Fred's Pass Show held in May?

ANSWER

For several years, it has been the practice to have only one officer on duty at such show exhibits. There is no reason why there should be more than one officer on duty at a show exhibit at the one time. The police displays are of the walk-through type. In any event, in addition to the officer on duty at the exhibit, other police were present at the show from the Fred's Pass Police Office. As well, plain clothes police from the Darwin Criminal Investigations Branch carried out patrols of the area together with other police. Although the honourable member for Tiwi seems to think that there should be more than one policeman on duty at a show display, I am afraid I cannot see any value in wasting valuable police resources and taxpayers' money.

Study of Salaries, Wages and Employment in Aboriginal Communities

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What study of salaries, wages and employment in Aboriginal communities is currently being carried out by his department?

ANSWER

I ask him to place the question on notice. It would require a fairly comprehensive answer and I would prefer to do it in writing.

Report on Investment Seminars

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does he intend to report to the Assembly on the recent investment seminars which he conducted in southern cities and, if so, when may we expect his statement?

ANSWER

I was not intending to report to the Assembly on the recent industrial investment seminars that were conducted by the Northern Territory Development Corporation in Sydney and Melbourne. I reported extensively to the Northern Territory public through the media upon my return. I see no particular reason for a special report or statement to the Assembly on the matter. Suffice to say that, if the honourable member for Sanderson has a particular interest, I would be happy to receive a letter from her and I would try to provide her with any details that she might want.

The investment seminars were very successful. Two other ministers went with me, the Minister for Mines and Energy and the Minister for Primary Production. We were accompanied by the Chairman of the Northern Territory Development Corporation, Mr Ray McHenry, a couple of other officials from the NTDC, the Secretary of the Department of Primary Production, Mr Baden Cameron, the Secretary of the Department of Lands, Mr Don Darben, the Chairman of the Tourist Commission, Mr Eric Poole, and the Secretary of the Department of Mines and Energy, Mr Creed Lovegrove. In Sydney, where we stayed for 2 days, we started each day with a working breakfast with 80 or so businessmen and industrialists. After that, persons who wanted to discuss any particular matters with a minister or official were given appointments. Then, an hour or so later, there was a 2-hour seminar on a particular aspect. In the 2 days in each city, we had 4 seminars. For instance, there would be a seminar on rural industries in the morning, a seminar on tourism in the afternoon, a seminar on mining the next morning, and a seminar on something else in the afternoon. These seminars were very well attended. In Sydney, as many as 150 people were at the seminars. In Melbourne, they were not as well attended as that - over 100 at one and between 50 and 100 at most of them. The same sort of thing occurred in Melbourne: at lunchtime you would speak to members of the Chamber of Commerce, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, the Committee for Economic Development of Australia or whatever. Every day there was a major lunchtime function with a speech, which received good media coverage, a seminar in the afternoon, more appointments with ministers and then an evening function. For instance, one night the largest firm of stockbrokers in Sydney organised a dinner for us with their major clients and another night there was a dinner with all the superannuation fund investment managers.

Quite honestly, after about 2 days of it, you are ready to go outside and cut your throat. You hardly get out of the hotel. But, it was very rewarding in terms of interest in the Northern Territory and actual lists of projects that are likely to come out of it. I do not want to name people or industries at this stage but I think those who have shown an interest are entitled to get a front run. Melbourne exceeded Sydney in terms of firm interest and people desirous of coming up here to put proposals to the NTDC and acquiring land. Of course, we are helping to sell the Territory on the basis of the north south railway which would make the Port of Darwin Australia's front door and the gateway to South-east Asia. Many of these

people were looking at the Northern Territory, and the Top End in particular, in terms of basing establishments here with the advantage of knowing the ropes in a part of Australia yet very close to the markets of South-east Asia. I think that, probably within 12 months, we will see quite definite signs of the results of that investment mission. I would not want to do one too frequently, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would prefer to leave them as far as possible to officials, but I think they are well worth while.

Harvesting and Husbanding of Native Birds

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

What incentives can the Conservation Commission advance to people to harvest and husband native birds?

ANSWER

Perchance, Mr Deputy Speaker, I have some advice for the honourable member from the Conservation Commission. It arrived this morning. I am not sure that she will be very happy with it but, nevertheless, I will give it to her. The harvesting of native birds in the Australian states has inevitably led to a serious reduction in the numbers of rare and or attractive birds. Only one state, Western Australia, presently allows the trapping of native birds. This is limited but considerable pressure is being brought to bear to stop this practice. Currently, thousands of native Australian birds are being bred successfully in aviaries and it is the considered opinion of most wildlife authorities that there are enough behind wire now to satisfy the aviary trade.

Finally, Australia is bound by international agreements which are honoured by the Northern Territory and which require detailed management plans before any harvesting for trade purposes should occur. The question of aviculture versus wildlife laws raises a number of complex issues and the Conservation Commission is currently preparing a policy statement regarding aviculture. If the honourable member, any other member of the Assembly or people who know anything about aviculture would like to make a submission to myself or the Conservation Commission about the matter, we would be only too pleased to hear from them.

Funding of East Coast Shipping Service

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

Is there any basis for the allegations made in the Assembly yesterday that the Commonwealth government will seek contributions from the Northern Territory government for any extensions to the east coast shipping service?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is pretty hard to work out entirely what the Commonwealth may or may not do in respect of services to the Northern Territory. However, one thing is fairly sure, and that is that contributions will be sought. I do not know just how many bingo games the Northern Territory can run to supplement its income in this respect. I have received a letter from Mr Morris, the Minister for Transport in the federal parliament, in respect of the shipping service. I will read this short letter which is addressed to me:

I refer to your letter of 6 May 1983 concerning the Australian National Line's east coast to Darwin shipping service. I note that your aim was to send me a submission on the justification for the continuation of ANL's east coast shipping service to Darwin by 20 May. You will recall that,

at our meeting in Canberra on 3 May, the difficult budgetary position we had inherited and the greatly increased loss forecast by ANL for this service were mentioned. It was also suggested that the Northern Territory government might consider contributing to the losses incurred. No doubt that will be part of your submission.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the government has made a submission to the federal minister. We are not prepared to make a contribution towards the subsidisation of that service. The Northern Territory government has a $25m program for upgrading the port. It hired a crane at $600 000 to ensure that the new Townsville Trader service was unloaded in an expeditious manner. We have recommended to the Commonwealth as follows: the Commonwealth government establish an inquiry into the Darwin east coast shipping service as required under the Australian Shipping Commission Act; concurrently, the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory negotiate a 3-year agreement - and that has been our proposal for some time; and present subsidy arrangements continue until a formal inquiry and negotiations on a 3-year agreement have been completed.

Wet Dump

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of the decision that the Darwin City Council will cease wet dumping operations at its Leanyer site in November this year, what progress has been made delineating a new site where wet dumping operations may continue?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, the new dump site is under current consideration between the Darwin City Council, officers of my department and officers of the Department of Lands. The Department of Community Development does not have a particular vested interest in the siting of the dump. We are involved in the continuing operational costs of the dump. The siting is more a matter for the Minister for Lands. Whilst I have a fringe interest, I think it would be appropriate if the honourable member directed her question to the Minister for Lands.

Wet Dump

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS

Mr Deputy Speaker, I redirect my question to the Minister for Lands.

ANSWER

Various government departments and statutory bodies have been working on proposals to relocate the Darwin municipal dump. At present, several alternative sites are being considered. One possible site, which was mentioned in a press release recently by the Lord Mayor, is in the vicinity of Shoal Bay. However, there are serious problems with that site. For example, it is located on land owned by the Commonwealth and used by the Royal Australian Air force. The process of actually obtaining the land would be very time-consuming even if it were likely to succeed. There are possible difficulties with clearing the site of any live bombs remaining on it which could be a deterrent to people using the dump. They might not want to chance having their legs blown off. However, I can assure members that an announcement will be made as soon as a decision has been made about a site.

TAB in NT

Mr VALE to TREASURER

Following wide speculation concerning the possible introduction of TAB in the Territory in recent days, is there any change in the government's attitude to TAB?

ANSWER

I can certainly confirm that there is no change in the government's attitude. Nor is there any reason for commentators to suspect that there has been. But, it appears from the odd snippet in the local press that some people seem to think that the introduction of TAB is imminent. I will be introducing legislation on the next sitting day which will address a revamping of the Racing and Betting Act. That has been foreshadowed ever since an extensive review was undertaken. However, at no time have I indicated that the basic principles of the racing and betting system in the Northern Territory are proposed to be changed by the Territory government. We will be maintaining the off-course bookmaking system which exists throughout the Northern Territory and which, with the exception of one town in South Australia that has a few off-course bookmakers, is fairly unique in Australia. On-course totalisators will be legal in the future as they have been in the past. TAB stands for 'Totalisator Agency Board'. In the states, this is a widespread off-course betting system that works on a totalisator averaging system. For a long time in the Northern Territory, we have had legislation which has allowed on-course totalisators. This will be perpetuated in the new legislation. As far as the major principles of off-course betting systems are concerned, there will be no change.

Use of Police Aircraft for Transport to Nimrod Safari Camp

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he give the Assembly a categorical assurance that at no time prior to the transporting of Mr David McNicoll to the Nimrod Safari Camp was the police aircraft used to transport any non-police personnel or stores to the Nimrod Safari Camp?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, how could I give a categorical assurance to the Leader of the Opposition ...

Mr B. Collins: You said so yesterday.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr EVERINGHAM: ... without having checked this matter out. The Leader of the Opposition again advises me. What I said yesterday or the day before was that the logbook relating to the police plane is open for inspection by the member for Nhulunbuy as opposition spokesman on the police. I do not know who the police plane has transported to the Nimrod Safari Camp in the past. I do not even know that it has been to Nimrod Safari Camp in the past. I would suggest that, if the honourable Leader of the Opposition wants this information, then perhaps he could send the member for Nhulunbuy to have a look at the logbook of the police plane.

I might say that the Leader of the Opposition seems to treat this plane as though it were absolutely the exclusive property of the Police Force. Whilst it is true that the plane was purchased through the police allocation, there

is no doubt that it is an asset of the Northern Territory. I accept full responsibility. If there was any impropriety in the use of the police plane by the Commissioner of Police to take Mr McNicoll and Mr Kennedy to Nimrod, then that impropriety is mine and not the commissioner's. I viewed it as an asset of the Northern Territory government that could be used in these circumstances. It is the first time that I have asked that anyone be taken on the police plane. One can see now that, for the sake of peace and quiet for the Commissioner of Police, one should not even attempt to do these sorts of things. Indeed, the Leader of the Opposition takes his usual carping, small-minded attitude to the whole thing. As I pointed out in this Assembly earlier this week, it saved the taxpayers money as well as making use of the plane when it was not detailed for duties of another nature.

Government-sponsored Lotteries

Mr VALE to TREASURER

In view of the success of the government's first lottery, has any decision been taken about any future government-sponsored lotteries?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government is awaiting a report from the Racing and Gaming Commission on the various aspects of the first government lottery which, as the honourable member for Stuart said, was an overwhelming success. Suggestions have been put to myself and to other ministers that the government should move quickly into running further lotteries and various alternatives have been suggested. At this stage, we have decided not to take any decision on moving to run another government lottery now or next year or ever. We will await the report from the Racing and Gaming Commission which will put a series of options to the government. The matter will be considered then and, no doubt, an announcement will be made at the appropriate time.

Review of NTDC Operations

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the report of the Commonwealth Development Bank officer seconded to review the operation of the NTDC been completed and when will that report be available for investigation by this Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have not undertaken that the report will be available for investigation by the Assembly. I indicated that, after consideration of the report by myself and Cabinet, I would be prepared to consider tabling it in the Assembly. I certainly do not envisage any investigation of the report by the Assembly. No doubt the Assembly can debate the report if it wishes. In any event, the report became available to me on Monday evening and I have taken it home. For obvious reasons, I have not had a chance to read it yet, let alone put it into shape for submission to Cabinet. I see no prospect of its being available to the Assembly until the next sittings.

Mr Speaker, I might take this opportunity to advise you and other honourable members that the only appointment I can secure to see the Prime Minister regarding the railway is at 2.00 pm tomorrow. I attempted to secure an appointment for Monday but that is impossible from the Prime Minister's point of view. Therefore, I will have to leave the Assembly early this afternoon to catch the plane to Melbourne and go to Canberra tomorrow morning. I do not think I will have much time for reading this report over this weekend either. It runs into several hundred pages. Many pages relate to forms and

procedures and the substance of the report amounts to no more than 50 or 60 pages. However, I would say that there is no chance that the Assembly will be considering the report before the next sittings.

ABC Telecasts to the NT

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he able to inform me why Northern Territory citizens were denied the opportunity to see the important telecast by the ABC of the mini-budget that was brought down by the federal Treasurer last Thursday and also the FA cup final last Saturday morning?

Mr Bell: Hear, hear!

ANSWER

For the first time, I have heard an intelligent interjection by the honourable member for MacDonnell. I fully support the honourable member for MacDonnell's concern about 'The Winners' and the honourable member for Port Darwin's concern about the ABC not broadcasting to the Northern Territory the mini-budget that was brought down by the Treasurer, Mr Keating, in the federal parliament last Thursday evening. As well, it did not transmit to people outside Darwin the FA cup final on Saturday. Fortunately people in Darwin were able to enjoy the FA cup final by courtesy of Channel 8 and its sponsors but there was a great deal of concern that this major sporting event in which there is intense interest right around Australia was not televised by the ABC. It goes even wider than that. The ABC and the Minister for Communications were apparently not prepared to relent and declare it an event of national significance. As for 'The Winners', I am campaigning, as I know many Territory representatives are campaigning, for the restoration of the program to ABC television on Saturday evening when it used to run. I think it said that it may run it in future on Monday or Tuesday evenings. I believe that there is a great deal of support for that particular code of football right throughout the Territory. I think that the ABC should reconsider its priorities seriously.

I cannot understand why listeners to radio network 1 were able to hear the mini-budget yet Territorians, as far as I could judge when trying to tune in to the radio at Cobourg Penninsula, were being treated to a concert by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Certainly, it was a very nice concert but most of us wanted to hear what was going on in Canberra because it so vitally affected, as we now know, the future of the Northern Territory. Frankly, it is impossible to divine by what means the person who does the programming arrives at his programming conclusions.

Chief Minister - Meeting with Prime Minister

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of discussions I had with the Prime Minister's office yesterday and the statement that the Chief Minister made this morning, could he advise whether the statement he made to the Assembly yesterday, which was accurately reported on page 1 of the NT News last night, that the Prime Minister had refused to see him, was a true statement?

ANSWER

Absolutely, Mr Speaker. I received a telex from the Prime Minister the other afternoon and I conveyed its terms to the Assembly almost as soon as I received it. The Prime Minister said he was not in a position to see me because he had legislative and other commitments. He said also that his

overseas visit, which commences next week, precluded the possibility of his seeing me. What is that but a refusal? I was told that I could have a meeting with the Treasurer. As a consequence, I had my office pursue the Prime Minister's office and the Treasurer's office. It now transpires that, through our persistence, we have an appointment for 2 pm tomorrow afternoon. If I had accepted the Prime Minister's telex, I certainly would not have had the opportunity to see him before the Premiers' Conference at the end of June. The Premiers' Conference is on 30 June and 1 July. That would be the next opportunity to see the Prime Minister because he will be overseas for several weeks. If that is not a refusal, the Leader of the Opposition is now displaying to members the reason why so many of us consider that he distorts the facts.

Lights at Intersections in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I have been in touch with the minister on several occasions regarding this matter. Has he any further information on the erection of lights at the Palmerston, Howard Springs and Arnhem Highway turn-offs from the Stuart Highway?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the traffic is very busy at the intersections the member refers to. The Department of Transport and Works will be installing lights at the Palmerston and the Howard Springs turn-offs. The Arnhem Highway turn-off is still under consideration.

Service Station at Yulara

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I gave him a copy of these questions yesterday. Did the Valuer-General value the land on which the service station is to be built at Yulara? If so, what was the valuation? Was Mobil Oil Company advised of the valuation? Why was Malpa Trading Company not advised? If there was no such valuation, how did the Chief Minister arrive at the figure of several hundred thousand dollars for the value of the land and development rights?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, again a member of the opposition rises to his feet and says that he has given me notice and seeks to convey an impression that I have been given plenty of time to obtain this information. In fact, I was given a written series of questions by the member for MacDonnell at 4.45 pm yesterday afternoon. As he well knows, the information has to come from the Yulara Project Office in Alice Springs. Nonetheless, I was able to communicate with the Yulara Project Office. Although I am not in a position to give a detailed response to the question, I can say that the Valuer-General has not carried out a valuation of the service station site. As I explained to the honourable member the other day, Northern Territory taxpayers are putting up, in one way or another, $150m for the construction of the Yulara Tourist Village. Northern Territory taxpayers, I would think, would expect their government to get back as much as possible of that $150m from the sale of the commercial site when the time is ripe.

The Yulara Development Company or White Industries - I am not sure which one did it - advertised nationally that this site was for sale. A premium payment for the site was invited. I can say that the Yulara Development Company received several offers, including an offer of several hundred thousand dollars from Mobil Oil Company and an offer of $1 from the Malpa Trading Company. In my

view, that is where the Yulara Project office, or whoever was dealing with it, deviated from the normal rules. It called in the Malpa Trading Company, counselled it about the situation and invited it to revise its offer. It refused to do that. We now have the situation of its crying that it did not get the site. The fact is that it refused to close down its own old service station, which might have been taken as some sort of compensation. In other words, it wanted to have its cake and eat it too. It is keeping the old one open at Ayers Rock. But, we are supposed to give it the site at the new village and not get anything more than $1 return for the monstrous amount of capital works that have been done at Yulara: a powerhouse, water reticulation, roads, kerbing and guttering, and accommodation for staff. There is an enormous amount of money to be receovered and we have to seek the keenest possible prices that we can in this area.

Mr Speaker, the Chairman of the Aboriginal Development Commission phoned me several months ago and said that, in relation to whatever money was needed, he would be prepared to consider approaches from Malpa. I believe that Malpa has adopted a bloody-minded attitude over this whole thing and has sought to use its particular position and influence to try to get the site for nothing when, in fact, it could have borrowed the money from the Aboriginal Development Commission had it been inclined to do so. It was its refusal to do that that led to the current situation. I believe that the Malpa Trading Company should be looking at the behaviour of some of its officials rather than the behaviour of the Yulara Development Company, White Industries or any other party. It is the behaviour of its staff that has landed it in the jam that it is in at the moment. If it does not change the attitudes of its staff before the other proposals come to light, such as the store and everything else that will be offered by expression of public interest, then it will land itself in exactly the same jam. We have to get money back for Yulara. Money is available to Malpa and it will have to run its operations there in a commercial way. It should be borrowing the money so that it can run in a true commercial sense.

Darwin Performing Arts Centre

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Following the investigation carried out by the Darwin City Council into possible management arrangements for the Darwin Performing Arts Centre, will government now introduce legislation to establish a trust in accordance with the precedent set by the Araluen Arts and Cultural Trust Act in 1979?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as far as I am concerned, final details of how the management of the centre is to be organised have not yet been decided. When they are decided, I will be happy to advise the honourable member of the direction that the government will take in the matter.

Archives Building Site

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Following on a question I asked on Wednesday 23 March, has a decision yet been taken on the siting of the new archives building?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, officers of the Departments of Community Development and Lands are currently working on a possible site for the archives building in the Darwin area.

Computer Billing by NTEC

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I put my question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can the minister advise how many people were displaced by the introduction of computer billing by NTEC?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the answer to the question is none. It is obvious that, by introducing a system of computer billing, certain efficiencies will be made. The computer system of billing was introduced into NTEC to achieve that objective and not to achieve the objective of the loss of people's jobs. At this stage, no one has even had to move from any section because the computer system still has some work to be done on it. It will probably be necessary for 5 or 6 people to be trained for redeployment or, in the normal course of their duties, to fit in elsewhere with the commission at the same levels as they occupy at the moment. That would be the intention. It was not designed to displace people but rather to provide a more efficient and accurate system of billing. I might make the observation, Mr Speaker, that your question clearly arises from concern that computers, in many instances, cause people to lose their jobs. In the use of computers, this government generally has had the attitude that it is not for that purpose but to provide a better and more efficient form of service to the Northern Territory public.

Sunday Air Service to Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he say when Sunday air services to Nhulunbuy will be introduced?

ANSWER

I thought that the honourable member would have been asking Mr Beazley that question because all our efforts so far have been fruitless. We have been in touch with the airlines and we have written to Mr Beazley. We will be holding further meetings with the Ansett organisation. Its proposition will be something that gives it sole rights over Nhulunbuy and I do not think that the honourable member would like that. There is no proposal at this time to provide a return of the services that the honourable member wishes although we are still trying to obtain the best possible solution.

School Councils

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is the minister satisfied at this stage with the progress of the establishment of school councils throughout the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Last year, the Territory passed quite innovative legislation to allow school councils to be established. These will have a high degree of involvement in the operations of schools. I am pleased to say that, despite the complex provisions that are required for a school community to move towards becoming a formal school council under the act, quite a number of applications have been received and 4 of them have been approved.

The requirements are that a constitution which has certain provisions embodied within it must be passed formally and submitted to me, as minister,

for adoption. The Department of Education has been assisting those school communities which have sought information from it on what is involved in forming a formal school council under the act. To date, the 4 approved are Casuarina High School, the Malak Primary and Pre-school, Leanyer Primary School and Tiwi Primary School. Unfortunately, to date, they are all in Darwin. Perhaps it is not that important. Others will no doubt be coming through the system. We have received more applications which have been assessed. I am not sure whether any of those are from areas outside Darwin. However, I am sure a number of school communities will sit back and watch how the brave ones who come in first operate before moving themselves. Some of the responsibilities of school councils under the act are indeed quite important. They must run formal accounting systems because they will be handling taxpayers' funds. They can even go as far as employing staff and administering small contracts. It is quite important and involved. It is important that school councils run a fairly sophisticated administrative system if they are to come under the Northern Territory act. I am sure it will be a great success. Indications to date are that it will be and that additional schools will follow these brave leaders who have my full support.

Bus Services to Karama

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he confirm whether extensions of the public bus service to include Karama will be implemented in view of the review of public bus services currently being undertaken?

ANSWER

The figure that I mentioned yesterday of the subsidy overrun to provide bus services in Darwin included provision of services to Karama. The service has not been commenced but it will be as soon as some of the difficult management arrangements are dealt with.

Sale of Pastoral Leases

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS

Has he considered the remarks that I made in the adjournment debate last night on apparent limits to the minister's discretion in approving the sale of pastoral leases to a single owner and could he state if he agrees with my interpretation of his discretion on this matter?

ANSWER

It has been impossible for me to consider the remarks of the honourable member for Millner because I had an appointment in my office at that stage of the adjournment debate. I heard the gist of what he said, namely, that the minister has no discretion in excess of 20 000 km^2. I cannot but agree with him. In fact, I foreshadowed in my answer to a question that the people would be hiving off property so that there is no dispute at all.

Submission on Tourist Industry

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did he make representations to the federal government regarding incentives to the tourist industry to be included in last week's mini-budget and, if so, what response has he received to his submission?

ANSWER

In terms of the mini-budget, obviously the federal government decided to ignore a very major area of possible growth and that is the tourist industry. In my view, that is most unfortunate. If it wished to boost real economic growth, I think it would have been timely for the federal government to pay some attention to the tourist industry in the mini-budget. In fact, subsequent to the summit meeting, I asked the Tourist Industry Advisory Council of the Northern Territory to put together a summary of proposals for initiatives in the tourist industry that could help both the industry and Australian economic growth. I was able to put this submission, which I think is a fairly sound one, to the Prime Minister, the federal Treasurer and various other federal ministers fairly well in advance of the mini-budget. Unfortunately, at this stage, it seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

Mr Speaker, I would not want you to think that we will allow that situation to continue because I know that everyone in the Northern Territory is at least conscious of the benefits that the tourist industry can have for Australia. My colleague, the Treasurer, will be representing me at the Tourist Ministers' Council meeting in Sydney tomorrow. I have already ensured that the Northern Territory submission will be an agenda item. Hopefully, the Tourist Ministers' Council will agree on it and it can then go forward to the federal government with the combined weight of the Tourist Ministers' Council behind it. I do not think that the federal government can continue to ignore the tourist industry for much longer if we are to have any real hope of raising levels of employment in this country in the short-to-medium term. It is the tourist industry that holds out the principal hope for employment growth in this country.

Agriculture at Deep Well Station

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is he aware that a recent Water Resources report recommends that an area of Deep Well Station is the best area to establish agriculture in central Australia and will he undertake to bring this matter to the attention of the Deep Well Station people with a view to encouraging such a development?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will be happy to bring this matter to the attention of the mangement of Deep Well Station. In fact, I will also raise it with the Department of Primary Production and the Conservation Commission because these 2 units of government are currently doing an assessment of land that would be suitable for both agriculture and horticulture. It has been shown during the last couple of years that Alice Springs is quite able to cultivate products which can be sold competitively on southern markets. If suitable land is available on Deep Well Station and people are interested in developing it, whether it is the management of Deep Well Station or others, I think we should be looking at it. I can assure the honourable member that I will bring that matter to the attention of the people concerned.

Pensioner Concession Scheme

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the review of the pensioner concession scheme completed and can he indicate if it is to be broadened to include widows, invalid pensioners and those on repatriation benefits?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the pensioner's concession scheme is always under review. It is a scheme operated by this government that does not seem to exist in any of the states. It is one of those schemes which, like many others, has the capacity to consume enormous amounts of money. It is not that the government would not like to pay money to everybody that it could but there has to be a limit. No steps have been taken at this stage to broaden the scheme to include the groups mentioned. However, I would emphasise that the government would like to help as many people as possible through the scheme; it is constrained only by the financial problems.

Malpa Trading Company

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I preface my question by referring him to this letter to the Malpa Trading Company in which he said that it did not appear that there was any intention by Malpa to offer the closure of the existing service station to coincide with the development of Yulara and the rehabilitation of the national park. I would also draw his attention to a newspaper report in the Centralian Advocate ...

Mr SPEAKER: Order! What is the question?

Mr BELL: I am prefacing it, Mr Speaker. There are 2 documents that relate to the question. The Centralian Advocate reported that the Conservation Commission said that the store and service station at Yulara will be phased out when Yulara is completed. Who is right, the Chief Minister or the Conservation Commission?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the report in the Centralian Advocate but I have my advice. The letter was drafted for me by the Yulara Project Office which is an offshoot of the Conservation Commission. I know that the Conservation Commission had hoped that every facility of that nature within the park - the motel, the service station, the store - would be phased out. In the rather irregular interviews, in terms of commercial practice, held with the Malpa Trading Company, it refused to budge on the question of phasing out the service station and store in the park area. Whilst the Conservation Commission might desire that end, it appears that the Malpa Trading Company will resist it stoutly.

Tax on Beer and Soft Drinks

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey, and it needs a preamble to explain its purpose. Realising that drinkers in Katherine pay 22.2¢ per can of beer in tax at present, does the Chief Minister accept the Mayor of Katherine's suggestion that another 5¢ tax per can be added to help finance the Alice Springs to Darwin rail link, and will soft drinks be taxed similarly?

ANSWER

I cannot answer for the Mayor of Katherine but if she is proposing to introduce that tax on beer and soft drinks in Katherine, I do not think that she will be mayor of that town for very long.

Registration of Chiropractors

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Some time ago in the Assembly, the former Minister for Health introduced, and subsequently withdrew, legislation to register chiropractors in the Northern Territory. Does the present Minister for Health intend to proceed with the registration of chiropractors?

ANSWER

The matter is under consideration and, hopefully, I will be in a position to introduce such legislation during the course of this year.

Proposed Berry Springs Zoo

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Has a detailed site plan yet been prepared for the proposed zoo at Berry Springs and, if so, is the plan available for public information and inspection?

ANSWER

I recall seeing a plan on the Berry Springs zoo. I cannot recall whether it was a mud map or a comprehensive plan of what was proposed for development over a period of 5 years. I think honourable members will recall that the government committed itself to a rather large expenditure over a period of time to bring the Berry Springs zoo up to a satisfactory standard for the benefit of the public. I will seek the map out and, if it is one that can be distributed easily, I will give it to each member of the Assembly for information.

Future Site for Fuel Storage Depot

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS

I am concerned about future fuel storage in the Darwin area. Has an area of land been set aside for a future fuel storage depot and, if so, where is that depot to be sited?

ANSWER

My predecessor as Minister for Lands, the honourable Treasurer, apparently unveiled to a planning seminar in Darwin some time last year, a proposal that there should be a relocation of the fuel installations that are presently, by and large, in the Frances Bay area of Darwin, in the triangle formed by McMinn Street, Stuart Highway and Frances Bay. I cannot but agree with him. I think anyone would agree with the former Minister for Lands that, from a planning point of view, it is time that we started phasing the fuel installations out of such a potentially important urban area.

I understand it has now become the policy of the Planning Authority that, over a period of time, it will proceed to relocate the fuel storage area of Darwin. An area has been set aside on the coast adjacent to Channel Island where this relocation will take place. Although it is not proposed to complete that relocation for a period of 15 years or so, obviously planning, and to some extent action, has had to begin. The first action that the government is likely to take in respect of implementing this policy is that, now that Caltex Oil Company's fuel installation has become surplus to its requirements and has come onto the market, the Northern Territory government intends either

to purchase or acquire it. It may lease the facility for some time into the future. Through a process of consultation and negotiation with the oil companies - and I want to emphasise that - the policy and even the time can be allowed to remain sufficiently flexible to attempt to suit everyone's convenience. When I say 15 years, that is an indicative rather than a firm period, Mr Speaker. We would hope that by about the year 2000 at the very latest, all fuel facilities will be away from the urban area of Darwin, and that land will be available for commercial or other types of urban development.

Seminar on Future of Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

What has been the response to the Co-ordinator-General's efforts to set up a seminar on the future of Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, some months ago, following on a visit to Nhulunbuy by myself and discussions over there with the Confederation of Industry, the Tourist Promotion Association and various other groups within the town, I considered that it would be a contribution to certainty and progress in the town of Nhulunbuy if some indications could be gained from various parties as to the future of the town as they saw it. Naturally, these parties would need to include: the landowners of Nhulunbuy through their representatives, the Northern Land Council; the mining company, Nabalco; the townspeople of Nhulunbuy through their representative organisations, including the Nhulunbuy Town Board; and the various groups that I have spoken to as well, of course, as the Northern Territory and federal governments.

I requested the Co-ordinator-General to endeavour to set up a seminar on the future of the town through a process of consultation with these various groups. The intention would be to try to work out a plan as to where Nhulunbuy is headed so that people there could attempt to take decisions for the future with some degree of certainty. The seminar seemed to be coming along pretty well. I think the Co-ordinator-General had anticipated a successful conclusion and had fixed a date for the seminar when he received word that the Nabalco Company, at that stage, was not prepared to participate. Mr Speaker, you would appreciate that, in the circumstances of Nhulunbuy, Nabalco's participation is essential. Virtually nothing at all can happen over there unless Nabalco agrees to it. Even if the Territory and Commonwealth governments and the Northern Land Council agreed to participate in a seminar, the absence of Nabalco would render it a futile exercise. As a consequence, I said to the Co-ordinator-General that he had better postpone the seminar and use his good offices to attempt to persuade Nabalco to adopt a more flexible approach and perhaps a more cooperative attitude in this regard. If this can be effected, perhaps Nabalco will let us all in on its plans for the future as well as hearing everyone else's plans. The Co-ordinator-General is attempting to induce Nabalco to be part of it all. I can assure the honourable member that I will inform him, as I have in the past, as soon as I have any information.

Fort Hill Wharf

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Which consultant firm is responsible for the design of Fort Hill Wharf?

ANSWER

The only wharf I am familiar with is the one that approval was given for in August 1978. The consultants for that work were Cameron McNamara.

Disease in Pigs in the Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINSITER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he give details regardingthe recent outbreak of disease in pigs in the rural area?

ANSWER

It is my intention to make a comprehensive statement to the Assembly on the events of the last 4 or 5 days.

Fort Hill Wharf

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When did the government first become aware that there were design problems at Fort Hill Wharf?

No answer given.

Amendments to Local Government Act

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will the amendments to the Local Government Act be introduced to enable the city council to set a minimum rate?

ANSWER

As honourable members would know, a review of our local government legislation is taking place. I have no knowledge that there is any urgency for the purpose put by the honourable member for Port Darwin. I would see that issue being taken in the total context of the review of the Local Government Act.

Tenders for Container Crane

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the government engage consultants to assess the tenders received for the construction of the container crane?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to put his question on notice.

Large-animal Pound for Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will we have legislation for a large-animal pound for the rural area?

ANSWER

There is before me at the moment a paper to make provision for a pound in the rural area. I do not believe it is absolutely essential at the moment to have the proposal enshrined in legislation. There are administrative steps that we can take. I believe it will be necessary, in the future, for this issue to be covered by legislation. As it is a local government function, this issue will be taken in the context of the review of that legislation.

Fort Hill Wharf

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the government seek advice from the original designers of the Fort Hill Wharf on work needed to upgrade it to meet the requirements of the new container crane? If so, what was that advice?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable gentleman to place his question on notice.

Vehicle Powered by Mereenie Crude Oil

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it true that a diesel vehicle powered by Mereenie crude oil recently ran from Sydney to Melbourne as part of a southern investment campaign? If it did, what is the future of such oil as an alternative to the refined product known as automotive distillate?

ANSWER

A motor vehicle was indeed driven from Sydney to Melbourne on Mereenie crude oil. The motor vehicle was a Mitsubishi Pajero turbo. The oil was unrefined. The Mereenie partners use unrefined Mereenie crude to power all of their diesel plants at the oil field itself. The crude there is used for everything including four-wheel-drive vehicles, small lighting plants and 330 kw diesel generators. The oil is taken direct from the well and allowed to settle so that the gas dissipates. It is then put through a high-speed centrifugal separator to get rid of impurities - filtering mechanism. That crude then is used to power diesel motors. The motor vehicle that was used in the proving run from Sydney to Melbourne worked perfectly, I am told from the people who were in it who included motor magazine writers. I believe both Wheels magazine and Australian Motor were involved in the exercise. It was quite good publicity for the Northern Territory. It was done as part of our campaign for investment promotion in both New South Wales and Victoria.

As for the last part of the question, I do not believe the partners would ever see the use of Mereenie crude in that form as a substitute for diesel. We would wish to see a refinery set up, in Alice Springs hopefully, to supply the region. It would produce everything from motor spirit to normal distillate to aviation gasoline and, hopefully, naphtha. We would hope to use naphtha in the Tennant Creek power-station. I have asked NTEC to examine urgently the possibility of using the naphtha byproduct to power the Tennant Creek

power-station. I understand that it is quite feasible. The honourable member for Barkly, the Minister for Primary Production, would be aware that the time is approaching when we will need further capacity in the power-station at Tennant Creek. One would hope that naphtha would be one of the means of powering the station. I would certainly not wish to see a very valuable light crude such as Mereenie crude used as a substitute for diesel. Nonetheless, it demonstrates that it is a world class light crude. While it may have appeared to be a gimmick to run a vehicle from Sydney to Melbourne like that, the publicity it received was amazing.

All the television stations in Sydney had agreed to film the start of the run but, regrettably, only Channel 9 turned up because some inconsiderate hound set fire to a public building in the heart of Sydney. We all know that a good fire is much better than a good gimmick. Our television promotion somewhat bombed out but, nonetheless, Channel 9 carried it. The story has been run in the Financial Review and the Weekly Times, complete with photographs and descriptions. It was something that we made a fair bit of play from in respect to petroleum exploration companies based in Sydney and Melbourne. I believe it is the type of thing which attracts a lot of interest. It certainly proved the quality of Mereenie crude oil.

Fort Hill Wharf

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Were changes made to the original design of the Fort Hill Wharf and, if so, who authorised the changes?

ANSWER

The opposition has already given public notice that it wishes to discuss the matter in the Assembly. The information requested is contained in several documents in front of me. I am not able at present to single out specific dates in respect of quick questions.

Proposed Hilton Development in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the current situation regarding the proposed Hilton development in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

It has long been the government's desire to see established in Alice Springs at least one 4-star international standard hotel. We are after quality accommodation, probably for the middle to upper tourist market. Obviously, it would also be preferable if that establishment could be run by one of the world's leading hotel chains for the very simple reason that it would have well-established in-house promotion facilities and a network of business connections. We have been negotiating with a group in Alice Springs and Adelaide which has been trying to set up such a venture for some time. Even though a hotel might be called the Sheraton or the Hilton, it is most unlikely that that hotel chain in fact owns that hotel. It merely operates it on behalf of the owner. I understand the operating fee is a base fee plus a percentage, which covers costs and probably includes a margin of profit. There is an additional incentive in the form of a percentage of the profits. These sorts of agreements no doubt vary.

The group that put together the Hilton Hotel project in Adelaide were in touch with the people in Alice Springs who were proposing to redevelop the

golf course there. Part of the golf course redevelopment included a substantial area of land for an international hotel. It is still owned by the golf course developers and there is an option over the land in favour of the hotel developers. As I understand it, after many attempts the hotel developers have recently been successful in putting together a package of finance which should enable them to proceed with construction in the not-too-distant future. For some time, they had the Hilton group interested. I think that is the reason it became the Hilton Hotel project. But there was a time delay in putting together the financial package. This is the big problem with the Northern Territory that is very hard for the ordinary person to appreciate. Big financial institutions - not necessarily Australian ones - do not just flock to invest their money in the Northern Territory. They want to put their money in the places where they have invested many times before. Superannuation funds are happy to build hotels in Sydney because hotels in Sydney have proven track records.

Even so, the Premier of New South Wales assured me only a month or two ago that hotels in Sydney often take as long as 5 years or more to become economically viable. This is one of the problems in the Territory. Big hotels do not have a track record in the Territory because we have never had them before. All that can be done is to carry out feasibility studies and try to produce cash flow statements etc based on assessed occupancy. These things are viewed sceptically by the financial institutions. I think that everyone will acknowledge that it is unlikely that a hotel of between 200 and 300 rooms in Alice Springs would become profitable in the first 3 years of operation, and probably not even 5 years if that is the case in places like Sydney. It is necessary for the development of the Territory's tourist trade that we get into this area because these hotels have a spin-off effect in that smaller accommodation facilities grow up around them to service them. For instance, in Hobart, where the Wrestpoint Casino is situated, little motels have grown up to service it. Because it took so long to put the finance package together, Hilton has tended to go somewhat cold on the proposal. It is having troubles with its hotel in Adelaide. I understand that the occupancy rate is only 25% to 35%. I think the first time it was full - although I am not sure - was at the time of the constitutional convention. Hilton are a bit wary.

We believe that our tourist strategy involving Yulara must have another first-class hotel in Alice Springs. We are talking now not only to Hilton but also to Sheraton. Sheraton Hotels is a well known chain which has also expressed interest in developing a hotel in Darwin and it is interested in Yulara. It is fair to mention that Hilton is also interested in Yulara. When I go overseas next Sunday, I will be going on from Malaysia and Japan to the United States for 3 days. On one day, I will meet with Hilton in New York and Sheraton in Boston the same afternoon. I hope to obtain some indication from their head office executives as to their intentions. If we cannot have Sheraton or Hilton, we shall have to start looking at others. Obviously, those are the 2 most desirable chains to attract to the Northern Territory. They are world wide and the flow-on benefits to the Northern Territory tourist trade are almost incalculable.

Money Missing from Safe at Darwin Prison

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

He will be aware that a sum of money went missing from the safe at Darwin Prison. Could he indicate why this matter was not reported immediately and if his department has concluded its investigation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I confirm the details given by the honourable member for

Nightcliff. An investigation was carried out by the department at the prison as a result of funds being found to be missing. The exact details of the incident are not in my head. In order to give the honourable member a complete answer and to afford the person concerned a reasonable degree of protection, I propose to answer that question in writing today or tomorrow.

Fort Hill Wharf

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it true that the consultant for stage 1 of the Fort Hill Wharf was not invited by the government to tender for the consultancy services for stage 2 and, if so, why?

ANSWER

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

Impact of Increased Cost of Aviation Fuel

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What impact has the recently announced 2¢ per litre increase in aviation fuel had on travel into and within the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is not just a question of the 2¢ impost on aviation gasoline. As a result of the so-called mini-budget, we have seen a complete abnegation once again of solemn promises and undertakings of the now federal government when it was seeking election by Northern Territorians. We were told that the cost of motor spirit would come down 3¢. What have we seen? We have seen an increase proposed by the removal of the equalisation subsidy scheme. Mr Speaker, in relation to the Cessna 210, 206 or Cherokee Lance aircraft which are the basic charter aircraft used around here, 2¢ a litre in aviation gasoline happens to correspond almost exactly to 2¢ a minute. With the larger twins, that can become 5¢ or 6¢ a minute. One must bear in mind in the Northern Territory the thousands of hours which are flown. Preliminary estimates are that it could cost the commuter in the Territory up to, or perhaps slightly in excess of, $2m in a year. I do not know whether those figures are accurate. Certainly, they seem very high to me. The Department of Transport and Works has a fairly good indication of the hours flown in commercial planes. Many thousands of hours are involved. If one talks in terms of 2¢ to 6¢ a minute and relates that to thousands and thousands of hours flown in a year, an astronomical impost on the people of the Northern Territory in that order is not unbelievable.

Control of Marauding Stock in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Would he undertake to get a definite policy thrashed out between the Conservation Commission and the police for the control of marauding, uncontrolled stock in the rural area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not really know what marauding stock are. I presume the honourable member for Tiwi refers to missing or straying stock. I am not sure that it is the responsibility of the police to care for wandering stock unless they cause some hazard to the public. Neither am I sure that it is the

responsibility of the Conservation Commission. I would have thought that the Department of Primary Production would have had somewhat more responsibility than either of the 2 authorities referred to by the honourable member. Frankly, I think it much less a responsibility of any government department than of the owners of the stock. The owners of such animals have a responsibility to fence in their stock properly. I suggest to the honourable member that the problem of wandering stock can be alleviated by people building adequate and proper fencing.

Fort Hill Wharf

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does the bringing forward of Fort Hill Wharf stage 2 mean that strengthening of the dolphins on the iron ore wharf has been deferred?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

Fort Hill Wharf

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does the government intend to take any legal action against persons or organisations resulting from changes in the design of Fort Hill Wharf?

No answer given.

Sadadeen Subdivision

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

When are the blocks from Sadadeen stages 1 and 2 expected to be ready for turn off?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, unfortunately, I do not have that information immediately to hand. I will be happy to answer the honourable member as soon as I obtain the information.

TIO Policy

Mr VALE to TREASURER

My question relates to the issue by TIO of an insurance policy to a paraplegic to cover him to drive speed cars at Darwin speedway. Will TIO now adopt an open door policy on the issue of insurance coverage to disabled people to compete in other sporting events?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would like to make it clear to anyone who may have misunderstood the action of the TIO in issuing special coverage to a paraplegic to race at the speedway from time to time that that was a commercial action by the TIO. The office has the usual reinsurance in such coverage that it would have to cover any other person racing at a speedway. It is notoriously difficult to obtain coverage for activities such as buck-jumping and car racing which are prone to injure people. However, if one is prepared to pay the price when the insurance company assesses the relevant risks,

coverage can be obtained. The fact that the TIO commendably issued ordinary commercial coverage for a paraplegic to drive a car on a speedway does not mean that the TIO is in a position to insure the uninsurable. Under its charter, the TIO has to run on commercial insurance principles and it has to make a profit. I would like to make it clear that the TIO will be assessing risks which are presented to it from time to time in a normal commercial sense.

Power for Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Does the NT government subsidise power production in Nhulunbuy and, if so, under what conditions? Are those conditions being reviewed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am unable to answer the question. I know that there is an arrangement between the Northern Territory and the producers of the electricity in respect of government needs. I am also aware of a subsidy arrangement but I cannot give the details. It would be better if I wrote to the honourable member later.

Causeway in Heavitree Gap Area

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the recent floods in Alice Springs and the inconvenience caused to residents of the farm area, will the government give urgent consideration to the need for an all-weather causeway across the Todd River in the Heavitree Gap area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, during the floods, people were marooned on the other side of the river and unable to get into the city of Alice Springs. The Department of Transport and Works is looking at other sites for causeways further down from the Gap. That side of Alice Springs is growing quite extensively in terms of rural developments. I am not saying that, at this stage, the government will commit funds for such a project but we are certainly making that investigation.

Poker Machines in Clubs

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

There has been considerable comment about the introduction of poker machines into clubs in the Northern Territory. What is the government's attitude towards this issue?

ANSWER

As the honourable member for Port Darwin says, the subject of poker machines being made available in clubs is very topical because the Australian Licensed Clubs Association is holding its annual meeting in Darwin at present. I addressed that organisation this morning and took the opportunity to point out that there had been no change whatsoever in this government's position or its policy towards poker machines: they will not be permitted outside the casinos.

The arguments that have been presented by the Licensed Clubs Association, and indeed the opposition, are full of holes. Clubs already have an array of opportunities open to them to raise funds internally, many of which they either do not really appreciate or have not taken advantage of. Many of these

are not available to clubs elsewhere in this country. I refer to such things as bingo. The Northern Territory is the only place in this country where there are no controls on bingo games as to size, frequency, jackpots etc, provided the club is an association approved by the Racing and Gaming Commission. Virtually all licensed clubs could be approved associations on those terms. Bingo is a game by which a great deal of money is raised in this country to assist charitable organisations and clubs. I do not think the Territory is anywhere near its saturation point there.

Under the legislation passed last year, those clubs can install approved gaming machines. Few of these are being installed at the moment. Again, I do not think clubs have explored sufficiently the market that is available to them for such machines but they generally require a degree of skill as well as a degree of chance in order to reach a score whereat one can obtain a prize. Again, the Northern Territory is the only place in Australia where this activity is permitted by law. All clubs can conduct major lotteries with permission, and they can conduct minor lotteries without permission. The old days when the chook raffle was an illegal event are certainly long gone in the Territory. As I mentioned in the Assembly before, the Territory is in the forefront in Australia in the reform of this kind of gambling. We make it legal. Another activity that clubs can engage in is calcuttas. There are no controls on beer ticket machines. All we want to know is how many they have and where they are installed. We do not want any information about returns or turnover. Clubs are also encouraged to sell Instant Sports Lotto tickets on an agency basis from Tattersals in Victoria. Unfortunately, the clubs have not made a great deal of use of that opportunity.

Some people in the clubs appear to think there is some easy way in which they can get over their financial problems. They believe poker machines would provide it. I can assure them that they are wrong, particularly in a town this size. It is not simply a matter of lining the machines along the walls, preparing the treasurer for the inflow of money and establishing a special committee to work out how to spend it. We pointed out to the Licensed Clubs Association that there are more clubs per head of population in the Northern Territory than anywhere else in the country. Indeed, we have almost twice as many clubs per adult person as New South Wales, which is regarded as a state with many clubs. Per head of population, we have 4 times as many clubs as some states in Australia. It is no wonder some of the clubs have difficulty. I have someone on my staff who is a member of 7 clubs in Darwin. If any of those 7 clubs believes that it will receive substantial revenue from such a member, it is joking. Such people are almost phantom members so far as significant contributions to the revenue of the club are concerned. I can assure honourable members that many people in Darwin are members of at least 2 and, in many cases, more clubs. They cannot be counted upon as normal contributors who will drop in every evening on the way home from work to spend a few dollars, be it on a poker machine, over the bar or however. The government has not changed its policy. Unlike the ALP, we do not favour the proliferation of poker machines throughout the Northern Territory and it will not occur as long as this government is in office.

Prison Farm for Alice Springs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When can the citizens of central Australia and the people involved in the provision of correctional services there expect the establishment of a prison farm?

ANSWER

The honourable member's question is timely because the matter of another

prison institution in the central Australian area has been under active review for quite some time. The government committed itself to the establishment of a prison farm in the Alice Springs area some 12 or 18 months ago and wheels were put in motion to identify sites and look at how it might be done. During that period, the prison population has dropped off considerably. That is a phenomenon for which we have no explanation. Neither do we have any expectation that numbers will rise subsequently to the stage where they will justify the establishment of a new institution. I can advise the honourable member that the matter is under constant review because it is one that the government treats very seriously. Overcrowded prisons are not desirable under any circumstances, nor is it desirable to build an institution which will not have anybody to go into it. I will advise the honourable member of any change in the prison population or trends in the numbers of people being committed to prison. The government would act quickly to rectify any problem situation.

Community Facilities at Sanderson High School

Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he advise if he is satisfied with the community facilities which are to be provided by the construction of the Sanderson High School?

ANSWER

I certainly am. I do not have a list before me of the community facilities which are being incorporated in the design for the Sanderson High School. However, I can assure honourable members that they are indeed quite extensive. These days schools are designed for more community use than ever before. We have taken particular note of the wishes of citizens in the Sanderson area which have been expressed to the government about particular requirements as they see them. We have not been able to meet every request for facilities to be included in the design of the school. For example, a swimming pool was asked for and we felt that, at this stage, we had to say no. We believe that the education dollar should be used for more direct education facilities than a swimming pool. We pointed out to the community that there was substantial land available at the high school site and that negotiations could continue with other parties, such as local government, should it so desire on the subject of the installation of a community pool. However, other facilities more directly related to a school - an oval, tennis courts, car-parking, toilets, possibly a library - have been taken into consideration. I believe the new high school, which we hope will open its doors at the beginning of the 1985 school year, will be the Territory's most modern school in design and its most progressive by incorporating all the reasonably practical suggestions that have been put forward to us by the community in that area.

Northern Suburbs Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he advise the Assembly what interim arrangements will be made to handle the expected overload at Casuarina and Dripstone High Schools in the period leading up to the opening of Sanderson High School and whether any programs need to be scrapped or curtailed?

ANSWER

I am certainly not aware of any programs that would be scrapped or curtailed. In fact, a small amount of additional accommodation can be provided at other high schools. I cannot be specific without obtaining more details. However, other high schools in the Darwin area will be able to accommodate the small bubble, as it were, in students prior to the opening of Sanderson

High School. It had not been intended to build the Sanderson High School within the foreseeable future but that the students from that area would be accommodated at other high schools in Darwin, some of which have declining populations because their feeder areas are getting older and older. However, there will be no difficulty at all in meeting the needs of Darwin citizens in that regard.

Prison Farm for Alice Springs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question relates to the answer to a previous question on a prison farm in central Australia. Will he give an indication of the numbers of prisoners that, in his view, would justify the establishment of such a prison farm?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can do that but I would need to refer to the department for statistical data and advice. I would prefer to answer by letter. It is something I would prefer not to do off the top of my head.

Federal Deficit

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER

Is he aware of an article on page 2 of the Weekend Australian titled, 'The story of the Treasury and the Exocet missile', in which it is claimed that yet a third estimate by federal Treasury on the budget deficit gives a figure something like $8000m instead of the much touted $9600m?

ANSWER

Like all interested Australians, I am aware of the particular article. As I hope most Australians have, I have taken renewed interest in the subject of deficits since they seem to be touted around in the breeze so regularly and so firmly these days as an excuse not to carry out former commitments. As honourable members are aware, less than 3 months ago, we were advised that the coming financial year would produce a federal deficit of $9600m. I spoke earlier in the Assembly on this and I am pleased to note that the article the honourable member refers to seems to confirm the points I made. Predicting a deficit so far away would seem to be a very imperfect sort of science which would produce very rubbery figures, to take a cliche from another place. The factors impinging on a deficit, particularly a federal deficit, are such things as growth in the economy, the inflation rate, world oil prices, levels of unemployment and the effect they have on the federal deficit by way of welfare payments, and wage increases. That, of course, is a great subject in the community at present: what wage increases the country can afford over the remainder of this year, let alone the balance of the next financial year. It demonstrates how the deficit factor of the federal budget is influenced by a whole series of imponderables. By way of example, the federal salaries' bill for the public service is $4300m a year. For every 1% increase in national wages that is granted, there is a $43m impact on the federal budget and on the federal deficit. The federal government could not tell you exactly how much will be granted in the next round of wage increases for which cases are being heard at present by the Arbitration Commission, let alone subsequent increases that may be applied for over the period from Christmas to the middle of next year. Predicting deficits 13 months away is a very imperfect science. Mr Howard is asking the federal Treausrer to release much more information than has been released to date on how the $9600m figure was arrived at. Mr Howard suggests that the figure, without any action being taken by the federal government since it came to office, could well have been $8000m and not $9600m. Earlier this year, the figure was $4200m, it then rose to $9600m and it is now being suggested that perhaps it is $8000m. It is all over the place.

One thing we can be very sure about is that it will continue to be used and there will be further crystal-balling by all and sundry. It is crystal-balling whether we are talking about Treasury's figures or John Howard's or those of any other expert who claims some knowledge of the subject such as the academics who are called upon from time to time to put forward their views, As mentioned in the article that the honourable member for Alice Springs has brought to our attention, John Howard said, and this is yet another guess, that it will be in the vicinity of $8000m. Obviously, no one really knows and no one shouldbe game enough to state absolutely what the deficit will be. However, I am sure that we will have the thing touted many times over the next 12 months as a reason why the federal government cannot fulfil the promises it made so recently.

Sale of Beef to South Korea

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he advise the implications for Nothern Territory cattle producers and

Northern Territory abattoirs if South Korea obtains beef from New Zealand instead of Australia as proposed?

ANSWER

I believe that all honourable members will be concerned at reports in the press last night and this morning that the Korean beef importers would not purchase any more beef from Australia in retaliation for Australia's attitude towards Korean investment in a Queensland gas project. As a matter of urgency, I raised this matter with the department this morning because I believe that the Northern Territory's position is such that we cannot afford to lose any markets where we have our foot in the door. I was particularly keen to obtain a briefing from the department. If South Korea reduces its purchases of Australian beef, the Northern Territory will be affected. However, the effect is likely to have more serious long-term rather than immediate implications. At present, the beef market is relatively buoyant. However, it is subject to notorious cyclical fluctuations. The implications of the loss of established markets are particularly serious when market conditions are declining. In such situations, the loss of overseas market outlets may have marked and serious effects on overall Australian supply-demand relationships.

In 1981-82, South Korea imported only 10 t of Northern Territory beef. During the same year, it imported 5466 t from South Australia. A proportion of the South Australian shipment is likely to have been processed from Northern Territory cattle. During the past 2 years, the quantity of Australian beef imported by Korea has increased sharply from 6079 t in 1980-81 to 54 011 t in 1981-82. Shipments during the current financial year are running at levels above those in the preceding year. Korea is now Australia's third largest beef customer after the USA and Japan. Although the South Koreans have specific carcass requirements, a number of Northern Territory pastoral districts are capable of producing the required carcass type. Consequently, the Northern Territory beef industry's potential is seriously threatened by the foreshadowed closure of the South Korean market.

Frances Bay Drive

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he indicate why work has stopped on the road linking the Frances Bay connector road with Reichardt Road, Winnellie?

ANSWER

I indicated in a press release that that road would become Tiger Brennan Drive. A short section is called Frances Bay Drive at present. The proposal is that that will extend to Palmerston. We are looking at about 15 years lead time to when the population of Palmerston grows to such an extent that there will be a need for a major connecting highway. It was decided that, when the first contract was let, the road would be left so that the parts across the swamp areas could settle and that further work would be picked up in the next contract stage. I am not sure of the details of when that will be undertaken. I will obtain further information and provide it to the honourable member later.

Northern Territory Aerial Work

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the minister aware that it has been reported today that Northern Territory Aerial Work is about to terminate its operation in the NT? Is the minister further aware that Airlines of Northern Australia is continuing to operate at quite substantial losses and can he advise whether the closure of

NTAW will lead to any changes in services offered by Airlines of Northern Australia?

ANSWER

I understand that Northern Territory Aerial Work presently holds the Commonwealth aerial surveillance contract in the Northern Territory which expires on 30 June 1983. I discussed this matter recently with the general manager of ATI, Mr Yates, and he advised me that Airlines of Northern Australia will again lose money during the current financial year but its losses have been reduced substantially to around $0.5m. He indicated that, as a result, all he can foreshadow at present is that there may be some changes in respect to the Katherine to Darwin service and that will involve further negotiations with Tillair. Those changes will be picked up by Tillair. It is only a possibility at this stage.

Soil Conservation Techniques in Douglas-Daly Farming Region

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he assure me that adquate attention is being paid to soil conservation techniques in the Douglas-Daly farming region?

ANSWER

The honourable member gave me advance notice of this question. The answer that I have been provided with by the Department of Primary Production, ADMA and the Soil Conservation Unit is not a long one but is fairly comprehensive. I am aware of the potential for soil erosion in the Douglas-Daly project farm area. I am pleased to advise the honourable member that it is being actively combated by the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority and its project farmers. Prevention rather than cure is the principle being pursued.

ADMA has obtained the services of the Soil Conservation Unit of the Northern Territory Conservation Commission to plan a soil conservation strategy for the region. Officers of the Soil Conservation Unit were active in the area last year and are continuing their excellent work this dry season. Up to date, they have surveyed most of the country in the area and the balance of the cleared country will be surveyed by the end of this dry season. They have prepared plans for soil conserving structures for all or part of each of the 6 project farms and the Douglas-Daly research farm, and they have supervised the construction of diversion banks, contour banks and waterways on part of 5 of the farms and on the Douglas-Daly research farm. Further construction to protect a much larger area will take place this dry season. It is anticipated that all construction work on the 6 project farms will be completed by the 1984 dry season.

You would be aware, Mr Speaker, that soil conservation does not rely on engineering structures alone for its success. An integral part of all successful soil conservation is surface management of the soil. This involves minimum tillage of the soil with a view to retaining large amounts of crop stubble on the soil surface. I am also pleased to say that the Department of Primary Production will commence direct drilling or zero tillage trials in the Douglas-Daly area this coming wet season. Its principal benefit is in the reduction in soil lost through wind and water erosion to very low levels. I further understand that the Soil Conservation Unit consults regularly with ADMA and the project farmers on a range of issues related to soil conservation on the farms. It also confers with other groups who may be involved with the program; for example, the Roads Division of the Department of Transport and Works. I am happy to say that I believe adequate attention is being given to

soil conservation strategies, techniques and their implementation in the Douglas-Daly area.

Northern Territory Aerial Work

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I would like to ask in another way the question that I previously asked the honourable Minister for Transport and Works. He may have misunderstood what I was trying to ask. Is it true that the pilots employed by Northern Territory Aerial Works are likely to receive termination notices in the next few days?

ANSWER

I am advised by the same general manager that NTAW intends to issue retrenchment notices to some 7 to 10 pilots. I do not know if the figure has been determined. That was today. Those retrenchments will take effect at the end of June. If the surveillance contract is extended, I am advised that the notices will be rescinded. I do not think a greater effort could have been made to try to influence the Commonwealth Department of Transport to extend these contracts. It is a matter that has been going on for many months. The Chief Minister made representations to the federal government, as we have done through our own office. Mr Speaker, I have no answers. Representations have been made by the Northern Territory government and we will have to see what happens in the next day or so.

TIO Insurance against Flood Damage

Mr BELL to TREASURER

In the wake of the recent floods in central Australia, has the Territory Insurance Office received any requests for quotes for flood insurance protection and, if so, has he any details?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no details before me of any approaches that have been made by Alice Springs residents to the TIO for flood coverage. I suspect that there would have been some approaches following the unfortunate reminder Alice Springs' people had recently that many of them in that town are, indeed, within zones where their homes could be flooded. Certainly, we would encourage them all to find out fully, from their own insurance companies or from the Territory Insurance Company, what coverage is available to them and at what price. I point out that flood coverage probably will vary from place to place or zone to zone as the likelihood of flooding is assessed on each individual property. I do not have any details on how many people have made approaches for such information.

Palm Leaf Beetle Control

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What is the present position with regard to the spread of the parasite that was introduced to control the palm leaf beetle?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I undertake to provide an answer for the honourable member in tomorrow morning's session.

Electric Fencing in Douglas-Daly Area

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is it true that a substantial amount of electric fencing was erected in the Douglas-Daly farms area prior to the survey being carried out? Is it also true that, now that the survey has been carried out, the fencing has to be relocated at a cost of about $100 000?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is my understanding that there is a considerable amount of electric fencing in the area. I have no details at the moment as to whether the fence is in the right place or whether a cost is to be incurred in order to move it. I will undertake to obtain this information for the member and let him know as soon as possible.

Northern Territory Aerial Work Standards

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the government require that Northern Territory Aerial Work maintain a standard of service based on RPT requirements for the provision of aerial medical services?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would question the honourable member's reference to RPT service. The Aerial Medical Service does not provide an RPT service. It provides an aero-medical and evacuation service to those remote communities that are in need of that type of service. RPT routes are allocated by the Northern Territory government to those charter operators who are willing to pioneer routes over various areas of the Territory. Of course, this is of financial benefit to themselves. Her question is somewhat ambiguous in that she referred to the Aerial Medical Service having RPT routes.

Proposed Berry Springs Zoo

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Can he give me details of the present position regarding the establishment of the Berry Springs zoo?

ANSWER

I can give the honourable member some information. The honourable member for Sanderson raised the issue of the Berry Springs zoo last Thursday. She asked if a conceptual plan is available for the zoo. Mr Speaker, if one of the attendants could distribute these papers to honourable members, I would be grateful.

In answer to the honourable member for Tiwi's question, at the moment a site office has been established there. The boundary line has been totally cleared. Preliminary documentation of the proposed water supply and sewerage system has been received from consulting engineers. A dirt entrance road has been established between the Darwin River Road and the entrance fence. The reservoir earthworks have been completed. Three bores have been sunk to an average of 30 m and one is activated with a pump and a tank has been attached. Two km of service road have been formed inside the zoo and tenders for the reticulation of water, the installation of a sewerage system and the erection of a boundary fence will be called for during the 1983-84 year. I believe

honourable members will accept that a fair amount of work has been done on the establishment of the zoo. The Conservation Commission would be very pleased to receive any comments that honourable members might have to make on the conceptual plan that it has arranged. I have found the commission very conscious of the public's views on things. I am sure that, if honourable members wish to make a contribution on that, the Conservation Commission would be only too pleased to hear from them.

Northern Territory Aerial Work Standards

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the Northern Territory government require that Northern Territory Aerial Work maintain its aero-medical aircraft to RPT standards?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, a certain level of airworthiness is required by the Commonwalth in relation to the licensing of any aircraft that is to be used in the Northern Territory.

Sale of Housing Commission Houses in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Has any department in the Northern Territory government reached any agreement with Nabalco which would enable Housing Commission houses in Nhulunbuy to be sold to tenants?

ANSWER

I have recited the problems involved in this matter for the benefit of this Assembly on several occasions. To the best of my knowlege, the Northern Territory government has still not reached an agreement with Nabalco that would enable us to sell Housing Commission homes. I have asked the Housing Commission and the Department of Law to expedite this matter on a number of occasions. Our people have used their best endeavours to resolve this matter. Nonetheless, it seems that achieving agreement with the various parties involved in what I think is called the Gove joint venture is an almost impossible task. To the best of my knowledge, it is not possible at the moment for us to sell the houses otherwise we would be doing so, as previously indicated.

Public Bus Services

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he give an assurance that public bus services will not be curtailed as a consequence of the review of the Darwin bus services which is currently being undertaken?

ANSWER

There was a very interesting item on the ABC this morning that said that bus services in Darwin would deteriorate as a result of proposed changes by the Department of Transport and Works. The secretary of the TWU accused the department yesterday of becoming involved in a political decision over the future of the Darwin bus service. He said that a letter circulated last week to drivers from the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Transport and Works stated that the present costs of subsidised public transport would be better spent on other community requirements.

Mr Speaker, for the benefit of members, I will read that letter into the public record. This letter was sent to all drivers. It states the government's position. It was discussed with me before the deputy secretary of the department sent it out. It was sent out on 23 May and it reads:

I am writing to people employed in the Darwin Bus Service to let everyone know of the problems which we have and the actions which we intend to take. We estimate in this financial year the bus service will cost the government (the community) some $3.15m. This figure is the difference between the costs of providing the service and the revenue we collect. The difference has been growing each year despite our efforts to hold costs down and to attract customers. The cost is equivalent to the payment by the government of $1.73 per trip for every person carried by the bus service during the year. Most public bus services are subsidised but the average level in Australia is equivalent to around 60¢ per passenger carried.

While there are some reasons of location and city development which increase our costs, I think you will agree that we are not doing well by comparison with other bus systems. I do not believe that we can expect the government or the general community to continue to pay out this amount of money. All governments are now faced with constraints on available funds and the level of subsidy to the bus system reduces the money which could be better spent on other community requirements.

We have already commenced looking at the costs of servicing and repairing our buses and of administration of the bus service. Next month we intend to start looking at different ways of running the services we now provide. Salaries, wages and related costs make up more than 70% of our costs and this is an area which we will have to examine closely. This is not to be read as a threat that those currently employed will lose their jobs as a result of the review. However, it may require non-replacement of people in present positions or changes in working arrangements. I would like to arrange meetings with small groups over the next few weeks to discuss what we are doing and to find out your views of ways of providing services to the community at lower cost. If you wish to discuss the matter personally, please contact David Smith on 89 6390 to arrange a suitable time.

Yours sincerely,
N. Gordon.

Mr Speaker, it is not the government's intention to reduce services but to look very closely at the costsand methods of operating the service.

Northern Territory Aerial Work

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he able to add anything to comments made by the Minister for Transport and Works regarding the termination of the contract with Northern Territory Aerial Work by the Commonwealth government?

ANSWER

In fact, I had a conversation with the general manager of operations for Ansett Transport Industries, Mr Alan Yates, 5 minutes before coming back to the Assembly so probably my knowledge of these events is somewhat more fresh than that of the Minister for Transport and Works. I notice that he indicated that my office had been lobbying the federal government very strongly for some time in relation to the renewal of the aerial surveillance contract with

Northern Territory Aerial Work, which is an Ansett Transport Industries subsidiary. I thought that the honourable member for Millner was going to ask me a question on the matter but apparently he has decided that discretion is the better part of valour. This is a matter of federal relations, an area within my portfolio.

I have been making representations to the federal government in respect of aerial surveillance since 1977. Apparently, the federal government has decided that it will not renew this contract and 32 people, not all of them pilots, are about to be served with redundancy notices. These notices must go out because the company will go into liquidation virtually unless this aerial surveillance contract is renewed.

We made representations to the previous federal government along the same lines: that Nomad aircraft were specified in the original tenders yet, on renewal of tenders some time ago, no mention was made that any particular preference would be given to Nomad aircraft. Northern Territory Aerial Work took over the Nomad aircraft purchased previously by Northern Airlines to do the same job. Northern Territory Aerial Work is now facing the end of this contract at 30 June. It is required to give notice on agreements it has with the airline pilots and the rest of its employees. The only person who can ensure that these notices of redundancy are withdrawn is the federal Minister for Transport, Mr Peter Morris. I guess that, if he wants Territorians to pay 40% of the cost of a railroad, then we are unlikely to see these notices withdrawn.

Mr Speaker, aerial surveillance is necessary around the Northern Territory coastline. What we are now seeing is the encroachment of companies from Western Australia and Queensland to do this work over the Northern Territory. This company, which at least employs Northern Territory people, is about to have its contract terminated. The Territory government supports that company with Department of Health contracts. Obviously, Airlines of Northern Australia and Northern Territory Aerial Work, as far as Ansett Airlines and its shareholders are concerned, are virtually one and the same thing in regard to the return of profits to the group. Fortunately, the profit haemorrhage of Airlines of Northern Australia has been slowed down although there is still a loss on the routes. I understand that seat occupancy ratings averaged 66% over all routes for the first time last week. Airlines of Northern Australia is starting to look a bit healthier, but the whole thing will be undermined if NTAW loses its surveillance contract. Territorians will lose jobs.

The honourable member for Millner is trying to sheet responsibility for this contract onto the Minister for Transport and Works, but the contract will be cancelled by the federal government. It has nothing to do with the Northern Territory. Perhaps he could get the boneless wonder down in Canberra, Senator 'Territory Watchdog' Ted Robertson, to ask a question of the minister in the Senate about this particular contract. Perhaps a question could be asked in Canberra about this contract because that is the appropriate place for it to be asked. It has nothing to do with the Territory government. We have been fighting to save these jobs for months.

Mr SPEAKER: I request honourable members not to use terms which can be taken as slightly offensive about people who are not in the Chamber.

Victoria River Downs

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS

Might the Kerry Packer group purchase Victoria River Downs Station at some future date?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is impossible for me to prognosticate in that regard. I do not know whether the Kerry Packer group will come back in respect of Victoria River Downs or not. I suspect that, after an inspection of Victoria River Downs Station, Mr Packer found some things not quite as he thought they might be. It is difficult for me to say because my conversation with him was not lengthy. He indicated that, at this stage, the company did not propose to go ahead with the purchase. I should confirm for the benefit of honourable members that the government had in its hands at the time that I made the statement to the Assembly an application signed by the Hooker organisation for consent to the transfers. The government moved on the matter only when it had a written application for consent. So far as the terms of whatever contracts existed between the 2 parties went, I know nothing of them. I have not seen them and I do not believe it is common for copies of such contracts to be received by the government. It may be that Packer will come back. He certainly expressed a great deal of interest in the Territory. He said to me that he intended to make Newcastle Waters the showplace station of the Territory and that we would certainly not regret his becoming a pastoral lessee in this area. Only time will tell.

Dingoes in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

What is the Conservation Commission doing about the increasing numbers of marauding dingoes in the rural area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I did not realise that we had marauding dingoes in the rural area. I believe that they have been present there. I am aware that the Conservation Commission has examined ways to deal with the problem. However, it has advised me that it has certain difficulties in handling the problem in the rural area. In other parts of the Territory, it has been able to use baiting programs to reduce the number of dingoes which have had a serious impact on stock and calves in certain areas. The option is not available to it in the rural area. The commission has found also that the use of firearms for control of dingoes is not the most appropriate way to go about it. I will ask the Conservation Commission to be more specific about what it is doing so that I can advise the honourable member that a positive approach is being taken rather than a negative one. However, I would make the point that dingo control in an area such as that covered by her electorate is not easy. The government is conscious of the problem and keen to assist in any way it can to keep the numbers down.

Yirara College Principals

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that Yirara College has had 4 different principals in the last 6 months?

ANSWER

I appreciate that there have been some changes at Yirara College over the last 6 months. I do not receive details of actual numbers of changes of principals in our educational institutions around the Northern Territory. If the honourable member assures me there have been 4 changes, I accept that.

Wildman River Station

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS

What was the purchase price for Wildman River Station when it was acquired recently by the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have that figure in my head at the moment. The purchase was effected by tender 6 to 8 months ago. I think it was obtained from the mortgagee in possession at the time. I am pretty sure it was not at auction. The Territory government, of course, wanted to purchase Wildman River Station for several reasons. It has areas that are suitable for agriculture and horticulture. It has areas that are suitable for preservation in terms of conservation and it has areas that are suitable for recreation. Naturally, with so much of the land around Darwin especially, and elsewhere in the Northern Territory, locked up it is one of the objectives of the government to provide as much access to recreational land as is possible for the people of the Top End and of Darwin in particular. I understand that if it has not done so already, the Conservation Commission will shortly make available to the public certain areas of Wildman River Station for recreational pursuits. I believe also that an area may be set aside for safari purposes. A safari operator, Wimray Safaris, had certain rights from the former owners which were registered against the title by way of caveat. It seems equitable for the government to recognise those interests. Whilst I cannot guarantee the accuracy of this answer, I think that the purchase price was in the order of $300 000. If the honourable member for Nightcliff wishes to pursue the matter further, she has only to drop me a line.

Katherine Water Quality

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. What is the government doing to overcome the problem of water quality in Katherine?

ANSWER

Some complaints have been received from residents of Katherine about discoloured water in the town supply since treated water from the Donkey Camp pool was introduced into the system. Our investigation has found that the water treatment plant in the reticulation system is not the source of the problem. Discolouration appears to occur in domestic pipes between the meter and household taps and is more prevalent in galvanised iron pipes. At this stage of the investigation, it seems that a scale formed in the pipes by the previous bore supply has combined with the iron in the pipes and is now being broken down by the soft water from the Donkey Camp supply. This causes discolouration of the water but definitely does not present any health threat. The problem is most noticeable first thing in the morning after the water has lain dormant in the pipes overnight. The discolouration disappears after about 10 litres of water has passed through the tap. Two hundred sample bottles have been distributed around Katherine to get public assistance in resolving this problem. Fifty of those bottles have already been returned to chemists from the Department of Transport and Works, who are in Katherine at present analysing the samples to try to find a way to eliminate the problem. The honourable member can be assured that the Department of Transport and Works will continue its efforts to ensure that the water is brought back to a satisfactory standard.

Aerial Medical Services in Darwin Region

Mrs O'NEIL to MINSITER for HEALTH

If Northern Territory Aerial Work withdraws from the provision of aerial medical services in the Darwin region, will the government replace those services with ones provided by air charter operators?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, until such time as provision is made by NTAW, through its major company ATI, to withdraw its services, I am unable to answer that question.

Jabiru Town Development Authority

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

What changes, if any, are proposed in the operations of the Jabiru Town Development Authority?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I attended a meeting of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council 2 or 3 weeks ago with a view to discussing any matters of interest that members of that council might have wanted to raise with me. It appears that the Jabiru Town Advisory Council is functioning pretty well and has the Jabiru Town Development Authority firmly under control. It really did not have any great problems to discuss with me. The one area it wanted to discuss, aside from the provision of a motel and camping ground in the town which it seems to consider a desirable objective, was the progress of Jabiru towards further local government, particularly bearing in mind the apparent decision of the federal government to suspend any activity in terms of opening new uranium mines. Jabiru, as members would appreciate, was originally planned to accommodate people who would be working at the Jabiluka mine not so far away. It would be further away than Ranger but it was expected that, when Jabiluka came into production, the size of Jabiru would more than double. The provision of so much housing would be an enormous benefit to the Territory and Australian construction industry.

Apparently, the Sydney Morning Herald carried an article this morning indicating that new or fresh contracts for the sale of uranium have been approved by the federal government. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this. The contracts relate to Ranger and Queensland Mines or ERA and Queensland Mines. One wonders, if these contracts can be approved, where the federal Minister for Resources and Energy stands because he said that there was no market for uranium and ...

Mr B. Collins: Don't you want them approved?

Mr EVERINGHAM: I am delighted to have them approved, Mr Speaker. We are just examining the rationale behind the various statements that we have heard. We have been told that there is no market for uranium and yet 2 new contracts have now been approved. That is terrific. Obviously, if there are 2 new contracts out there, there could well be more. I am wondering why approval for Jabiluka to go ahead was withdrawn by the government within days of the federal election. I am wondering what the hold up is in relation to approval for Koongarra to get out into the market place. As we know, the majority of the traditional owners there want to develop the project. I understand that they were asked by the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Clyde Holding, to defer any action for a period of 3 months. I hope that these signs

of approval of contracts with existing mines, which means, I would have thought, the expansion of those mines, presages a turnaround in federal policy. Hopefully, we may shortly see the injection of $1000m into the Territory economy and the consequential growth and jobs that that would create. Hopefully, too, that will mean that Jabiru will grow to a much greater level of population.

Mr Speaker, at present, Jabiru has a population of about 1200 people. I have asked the town advisory council to come forward, in consultation with the Jabiru Town Development Authority, with a proposal to the government for local government if that is what they wish. It is now up to them to come forward with this proposal. When it is formulated - hopefully in consultation with myself, as the minister responsible for the Jabiru Town Development Authority and the advisory council - I will put it forward to Cabinet. We will see where it goes from there, Mr Speaker. It may be that it will decide not to do anything. At the moment, it has carte blanche to come up with a proposal for its own future government provided it can secure the agreement of the development authority which, of course, largely represents ERA at this time.

World Demand for Uranium

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has he any information pertaining to the federal government's and the opposition's claim that the world demand for uranium is now declining?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, what a remarkable coincidence that is. The honourable Chief Minister has just been advising the Assembly and the public, through Hansard and the press, that there is a great demand for uranium throughout the world. The honourable Chief Minister has just cited the Sydney Morning Herald as a paper which produced an article on this very matter. By an equally extraordinary coincidence, the Australian of 31 May 1983 carried a very similar article. Of course, both of these articles bear out the very thing that the Chief Minister and I have been saying for the last several months: that it is nonsense to suggest that there is no market for uranium throughout the world.

Let us look at the headlines: 'Looming US uranium shortage spells good news for miners'. Of course it would, if we did not have a federal Labor government. Nonetheless, let us have a look at the facts. The article goes on: '"For the first time in decades, the consumption of uranium in the United States is outrunning domestic supply", one of the major sources of information in the uranium mining industry said. This trend is likely to accelerate as a great deal of US capacity has been taken out of production and is unlikely to be recommissioned'. These are the very things that we have been saying, not only in respect of the United States, but also in respect of the diversification program in Canada. It continues: 'US consumption in 1982 was 9483 t of uranium oxide while production was 30% lower than in 1981 - 11 751 t. Consumption is rising steadily and will reach 13 793 t next year. But, in the meantime, production is continuing to fall and will drop to only 5445 t next year. The US has a stockpile until 1988, when inventories will amount to 2 years' supply. The country is expected then to become a major new importer at this point'.

Mr Speaker, as I said before, this government has been trying to get the message through to the Commonwealth that there is a very significant market for Northern Territory uranium overseas. It is nonsense to suggest otherwise. The mere fact that 2 further export contracts have been agreed to by the Commonwealth is indicative of that. We are talking about the requirements of major utilities which will use this resource in energy for the next several

decades. The facts speak for themselves. Firstly, consumption in the major industrialised countries that have any uranium resources at all is slipping beyond production in those same countries. Korea is having to go to Canada whereas, logically, in transport terms, it would come to Australia. Canada itself is trying to diversify through companies like Denison which is a Canadian parent company. It is anxious to get into uranium production here to diversify its sources. Whilst that major Canadian company is following that line, Korea is turning to Canada to try and get the resources necessary to warm its homes, cool its buildings and provide refrigeration, light and power for the various essentials of an emerging industrial nation.

Clearly, there is a set of circumstances of increasing use and decreasing production of uranium oxide by these industrialised nations. Surely, it is a matter of conscience, if not common sense, for this country to provide those resources to overseas buyers. In these circumstances, for the federal government to try to pretend - not only to the people of the Northern Territory but to all Australians - that this very valuable and vital world resource does not exist here, is a classic example of the behaviour of the ostrich.

Yirara College Staffing

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to his previous answer in relation to senior staffing at Yirara College. Does he find the rate of turnover that I mentioned in that question unacceptable in a Northern Territory school and will he undertake to investigate it?

ANSWER

I do not think it is simply a matter of finding the rate of turnover unacceptable. I would suggest that most staff turnover in schools is detrimental. One of the big problems in the education system in the Northern Territory is that we have a turnover rate which requires us to recruit between 300 and 400 teachers every year. We even have to recruit headmasters.

Teachers in the Northern Territory have relatively good conditions of service and remuneration. However, as in many areas of the community, some people accept employment in the Northern Territory but do not really intend to stay. That is one of the advantages of living in a free country. A person can come to the Northern Territory and work and, when he wants to, return to where he came from. We will be stuck with that until such time as we can build a greater permanent workforce and put through our own educational institutions, like the Darwin Community College, many more Territorians who are likely to stay here for some years. Only then will we have the benefit of continuity that stems from Territorians being trained in our institutions and making their lives here.

I do not think it is a question of whether I am satisfied with the rate of turnover. Any turnover rate is detrimental and it is unfortunate. But it is also a fact of life, and it will occur from time to time. In some institutions in the Northern Territory, the teacher turnover rate is much greater than in others. I guess there are quite a number of reasons for it. One or two institutions are almost notorious for staff not wishing to stay there for any great length of time. Others do not have such a high turnover rate. However, it is a subject that we have in our minds almost all the time. The Northern Territory Teaching Service Commissioner is constantly looking into the question of teachers, their conditions, their complaints, their reasons for resignation and ways to recruit people who are likely to stay a little longer than others have in the past. Certainly, we will continue to investigate those avenues.

Mentally-ill Prisoners at Darwin Prison

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Could he advise the current position with the psychiatric proposals for Darwin Prison? Will the prison officers be consulted before they are implemented? Could he advise particularly as to the arrangements that will be made in respect of the medical staff provided for the facility?

ANSWER

Discussions are taking place with officers of the Department of Health and also with representatives of the Prison Officers Association. At this stage, it is uncertain what the attitude of the Prison Officers Association is. A meeting was held during this week with Dr Chalmers, Mr Donnelly and members of the association in relation to the problem. This morning, the Minister for Community Development approached me with a view to setting up a meeting between ourselves and officers of both those organisations to see what arrangements can be made to satisfy the Prison Officers Association. The situation is that a couple of points are still outstanding. One of them is the query of the Prison Officers Association concerning a mentally-ill prisoner in the prison hospital. An occupational therapist would be on duty most of the day but not for the full 24 hours. Very little occupational therapy would be required at night except for an emergency. If prisoners were really sick, they would be in Darwin Hospital. There are some problems. We are trying to talk them out. Apart from being mentally-ill, a person might have a heart problem or a blood disorder. If he had a particular problem, he would go to hospital. It is a very complicated issue. We are trying to solve it.

Yesterday, I received a letter of reply from Dr Cornwall, who is the Minister for Health in South Australia, about our request for South Australia to look after those types of people. The letter was encouraging. At this stage, it is being assessed by the department. Hopefully, by midday, I will have a brief regarding the contents of that letter and whether our chronically mentally-ill people can be placed in South Australia. The Northern Territory government has taken all the steps that it possibly can to overcome this problem. As I said earlier, discussions are to take place between the Minister for Community Development, myself and officers in regard to the problems that the prison officers, and presumably some of the nursing staff, are having with the implementation of this proposal.

Facilities at Katherine for RAAF Squadron

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise me on progress in the development of facilities at Katherine relating to the relocation of the RAAF 75 Technical Fighter Squadron?

ANSWER

Honourable members will be aware that the squadron of RAAF Mirage fighters is scheduled to be withdrawn from Butterworth Air Base Malaysia by 1987. Developments at Katherine involve not only the upgrading of Tindal to a standard necessary for F18 operations but also infrastructure in Katherine such as roads, housing and an increased capacity for water supply. The construction phase for the project at the air base would take about 2 years, preceded by a period of assessment, planning and decision making. On 18 April 1983, the Prime Minister gave me an assurance that the Commonwealth government was pressing ahead with investigations into the feasibility of using Tindal air base. He said that, in the context of the forthcoming budget, the Commonwealth government expected to consider a specific proposal from the

Joint Government Consultative Committee. The Prime Minister added that if in the Commonwealth government's opinion the costs appeared excessive, alternatives would need to be examined. If the Commonwealth government gives the project budget priority, an announcement could be made later this year. Because of its magnitude, the project would then have to undergo scrutiny by the federal Public Works Committee. It appears that this would be unlikely to occur before the second half of1984 because of the backlog of projects that the committee has to look at.

One hopes that some urgency might be attached to this project if the federal government takes the decision in the budgetary context and that a hearing before the Public Works Committee may be scheduled at an earlier date than it otherwise might were it considered to be just a routine project. At present, it is very difficult to get any firm indication from the federal government of what will be happening with that project. I think a firm decision is unlikely before the budget.

Housing Commission Allocations

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HOUSING

I refer to his statement yesterday which did not indicate the number of unsuccessful applicants for out-of-turn allocation accommodation who are living in inadequate and socially undesirable circumstances. Will he undertake to advise on the numbers of families and people who are involved?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I give that undertaking.

Mining Leases in Pine Creek Area

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Concern has been expressed about the length of time involved in obtaining mining leases in the Pine Creek-Mt Wells area. Is he aware of this delay and that, in many instances, prospectors and small companies are being refused leases in this area?

ANSWER

I have heard the gentlemen who have re-established the Small Miners Association - I am not sure what the exact title is now - mention figures of up to 4 years. That is distinctly possible. I am aware of a number of applications for mining licences in that area that have been outstanding for some time. One must look at the reasons. It is not necessarily inactivity on the part of the department. In that area, there are a large number of people with exploration and prospecting interests who wish to convert those interests into mining tenements. There is a wide range of conflicting interests in the area. I understand there are conflicts between various claimants. Generally, it does not take anything like that time to issue mining leases.

I have asked the department to establish the best possible working relationship with the small miners as quickly as possible. The department is held in high regard by the big mining concerns and I would like to see that relationship extended to people who have a local interest. By and large, a great regard is held for the Department of Mines and Energy by the smaller operator. However, there has been some public comment from 1 or 2 people, particularly Mr Ken Day who is very active in the area. We welcome Mr Ken Day into the field. He has been at it a long time and has put a great deal of effort into trying to make good in the Territory. A detailed survey of the region is now

being conducted with a view to identifying the difficulties and overcoming any backlogs. The Department of Mines and Energy is anxious to overcome these delays and have people satisfied wherever possible.

National Tuberculosis Advisory Council

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the fact that the Northern Territory has the highest rate of tuberculosis in Australia, why does the Department of Health not intend to send a representative to the 34th Session of the National Tuberculosis Advisory Council to be held in Canberra next week?

ANSWER

The Department of Health sends officers to various conferences throughout Australia and, on occasion, they attend international conferences. I am not aware of the particular conference to which the honourable member for Fannie Bay refers. However, I will endeavour to make some inquiries and find out what the reason is for not supporting an invitation to attend that conference. I will let the honourable member know privately.

Proposals for Retirement in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS

Will he inform me of the results of the study commissioned by the Department of Lands in March this year into servicing of land as proposed by the Rural Old Timers and Friends Association at Fred's Pass?

ANSWER

I am advised that the study addressed 3 specific types of development: a standard suburban residential development, a rural village-centre development and a low-density retirement village concept. The first option would need some $5.5m for internal servicing and is not a desired option as it loses the rural concept. The second option would require some $1.4m on internal works only and the third option would require some $0.5m on internal works. The cost of services to the site has not been included and the cost of buildings and facilities has not been estimated. An area of land has been set aside by the Department of Lands and the Department of Health is examining the needs and wants of elderly people in the rural area so that a final proposal can be considered and a decision taken.

Stamp Duty on Purchase of Rural Blocks

Mr SMITH to TREASURER

I understand a review is being undertaken to determine if stamp duty exemptions should apply to the purchase of 8 ha blocks in the rural area by first home buyers. Has any decision been made on this?

ANSWER

Decisions have been taken. I am not fully aware of the details but, no doubt, they will be announced at an appropriate time.

Criminal Code

Mr D.W. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Could he indicate when he hopes to commence the Criminal Code and what allowance will be made for police training which will be necessary on the introduction of that code?

ANSWER

The member's question raises 3 matters: the commencement date of the Criminal Code and any complementary legislation, the legislative timing that I have in mind and training of police. We need a very definite commencement date set to which we must adhere without fail. Any date in my mind for the commencement of this important legislation is not good enough. It must be firmly fixed in the public mind so that the public will not become confused. To me, Sir, the only date that could possibly fit that need would be 1 January 1984. Not only the Criminal Code would commence then but also the wide range of complementary legislation which would be needed. As to legislative timing, it is obvious to honourable members that I have not yet even presented the complementary legislation which flows from the Criminal Code itself. The earliest time that that could be done would be at the August sittings. Those sittings commence on 23 August. It is conceivable that, at the August sittings, we may not be in a position to deal fully with the Criminal Code itself. However, the possibility of a further deferral is remote.

As the honourable member for Alice Springs implied in his question, there is a distinct need for training. If those 2 pieces of legislation were left until the October sittings, particularly if we allowed all parties involved in this to string out the matter unnecessarily, the 2 months remaining could well be insufficient to train the police in this new and fairly complex piece of legislation. In most cases, however, police officers would be aware of the nature of the criminal law anyway. There are no radical departures on what is a criminal activity and what is not. There is a different approach to many of those issues. Nonetheless, it is conceivable that there would not be sufficient time between October and 1 January in which to commence the act.

I propose to discuss this matter in detail with my officers in the Department of Law, in conjunction with the Chief Minister, who is the minister responsible for the police, and with the Commissioner of Police, to see what assistance the Department of Law people, the Queensland law school and the like can provide. Nonetheless, it is possible that, through the Chief Minister, I may have to approach you, Sir, for a special sittings to deal with this very vital matter some time between the August sittings and the October sittings. If one were to introduce the legislation and comply with Standing Orders, 28 days after 23 August would be something like 20 September. I am merely floating this to the Assembly as a warning. It may be necessary to approach you, Sir, for the purposes of looking at this very important matter as a package to allow sufficient time for training to proceed and for the public to be made aware of the 1 January 1984 commencement.

Water Supply Restrictions

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Following the fairly disastrous wet season, can he indicate to the Assembly that the capacities of Darwin and Manton Dams are sufficient to supply water without restriction? By restriction, I do not mean the normal save-water campaign but specific restrictions.

ANSWER

The aspect that the honourable member raised in her question has not been raised with me by the department as a matter for concern. Now that she has raised it, I will take the suggestion back to the department and ensure that the information is made available for her.

Rent Subsidies for Teachers in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

As he is no doubt aware, teachers in Nhulunbuy held a stop-work meeting this week. Are there any proposals to subsidise those teachers' rents? I believe that was the cause of the stoppage.

ANSWER

The question of rent levels at Nhulunbuy for teachers or other public servants is really one for the Chief Minister. The matter has been under investigation. However, I can inform honourable members that, over the last few weeks, as the Teachers Federation knows, this matter has been examined by the Public Service Commissioner who makes recommendations to the Chief Minister. Also complicating the situation in Nhulunbuy is the fact that the Housing Commission has general public housing there. It is not occupied by public servants. Therefore, there is that additional level of rent paid by the community at Nhulunbuy. Nabalco applies a considerable subsidy to housing for its employees, making a further complication to the whole equation. However, I suggest that the honourable member address further questions on this matter to the Chief Minister.

Rent Subsidies for Teachers in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

I redirect the question to the Chief Minister. If he has any further information, I would certainly appreciate it.

ANSWER

I discussed this matter with the Public Service Commissioner again this morning. I took the risk of having a meeting with the Public Service Commissioner despite the fact that it may appear that I was interfering in the administration of the public service. Be that as it may, I think I can safely say that there is reasonable news in the pipeline. I will be in a position to make an announcement within the next couple of days that should please the people concerned and perhaps even a few others.

Staff Turnover at Yirara College

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer him to my questions and his answers in relation to senior staffing of Yirara College. If he finds the tenure of 4 principals in 6 months acceptable at Yirara College, what rate of turnover would he find unacceptable at Yirara College or any other school?

ANSWER

I do not think that I indicated yesterday that I found the turnover rate mentioned by the honourable member acceptable. Could I say in explanation that Mr Deslandes was appointed as principal at Yirara College for this year but is now absent on approved long service leave. Mr Benz was brought in to replace

Mr Deslandes while he was on long service leave. Because of reasons which I will not go into here, Mr Benz decided that he would not stay on. He has left and a new acting principal, Mr Allen Phillips, has been brought in. He has taken over until such time as Mr Deslandes long service leave is over. Those changes are really somewhat beyond the control of the Department of Education. I understand the secretary of the department is in charge of the stationing of the teachers and principals around the Northern Territory in various institutions. However, a number of things that might happen cannot always be foreseen. Health can be a factor as can unexpected leave applications. These things occur from time to time. They are the sorts of things we have to accept in administration generally and not just in regard to principals.

Upgrading of Alice Springs Airport

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

What is happening about the necessary upgrading of the Alice Springs Airport?

ANSWER

In June 1982, the Northern Territory government asked the Commonwealth to expedite the upgrading of passenger terminal and aircraft movement areas in Alice Springs. The Commonwealth advised the Chief Minister in September 1982 that it would conduct a feasibility study on local ownership. This proposal was put to the Alice Springs council on 11 November and accepted. The council and the Northern Territory government restated at that time that neither was in favour of local ownership. The council appointed a consulting firm, Airport Planning Pty Ltd, which recently submitted a report to it recommending local ownership. Officers of the Department of Transport and Works carefully examined the report and revealed a number of deficiencies which indicated that the airport might become a heavy financial burden to the council. On 31 May 1983, the Alice Springs council rejected the concept of local ownership of the airport. It called on the Northern Territory government for assistance in endeavouring to have the federal government proceed as early as possible with upgrading works. I will be happy to help in this regard. In another move, which has affected future airport plans in other places, the federal Treasuer on 19 May 1983 indicated that some changes to local ownership procedures may take place but he has not supplied any details so it appears that this system may also be under review by the government at present.

MV Islander

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

It is important that a vessel the size of the MV Islander be retained in Darwin for future tourist activities. This vessel has been losing between $40 000 to $60 000 a year. Has an approach been made to the Chief Minister for assitance to retain the MV Islander in Darwin? Would the government consider subsidising the MV Islander to see the vessel through its current financial difficulties?

ANSWER

I cannot recall receiving any application for assistance for the MV Islander but, if I did, I would have referred it directly to the Northern Territory Development Corporation. To the best of my knowledge, I have notbeen asked to provide a subsidy for this vessel and I was not aware of the extent of its losses. Certainly, they surprise me. One would assume that a loss of $40 000 or $60 000 a year must consist largely of salaries paid to staff. One cannot imagine that the fuel bill would be enormous for a vessel running

harbour cruises. It may be that there is money owing on the vessel. I am not sure of that. I am loath to indicate any support for a subsidy arrangement for this sort of enterprise because I think it would open the floodgates to a huge influx of requests for subsidies. These sorts of propositions should be capable of showing themselves able to operate viably.

I will take the expression of concern and the inquiry of the honourable member for Port Darwin on board. It may be that I can, by way of discussions with the Director-General, if it does not represent too much of an interference with the administration of the Department of the Chief Minister, request him perhaps to lend support to the vessel in terms of using it for government functions or for harbour cruises for visiting VIPs. However, he may say that I am interfering in his job and tell me to go and dip my eye in fig jam, Mr Speaker.

Possible Extension of DMZ to Broome

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Does he intend to support moves by the Western Australian government to have the DMZ of the northern prawn fishery extended along the Western Australian coast as far as Broome and, if so, what effect does he anticipate this action will have on the Territory-based prawning industry?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, all I can say to the honourable member at this time is that we are seeking to hold discussions with the Commonwealth, Western Australian and Queensland governments on the management of the northern prawn fishery. In our view, the excessive effort in the fishery, which has been allowed to develop over the last few years by the federal and state governments against the wishes of the Northern Territory, is doing a great deal of damage to the prawn fishery. Certainly, it needs to be reviewed. The Northern Territory has taken a very firm and extreme stance on the matter. The Commonwealth and Western Australia do not regard that as a practical proposition. Nevertheless, those discussions have to continue with Western Australia and the Commonwealth government on the management of the fishery. Whether the boundary for the fishery is extended one way or another is really academic. The most important thing that we need to do at the moment is to reduce the effort in the fishery by about 50%.

It was put to me recently that the prawn fishery would have to produce 17 000 t of prawns a year for the 298 licensed operators to be able to exist without even making a profit. The reality is that the fishery produces between 4000 t and 8000 t a year, depending on the season. It is pretty obvious that the dilemma of the fishery will not be overcome by moving a boundary one way or another but only by reducing the effort. The sooner we succeed in our efforts to convince Western Australia and the Commonwealth that the present policy is a stupid and futile one, the better the whole of the northern prawn fishery will be.

Degree Courses at Darwin Community College

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Successive Australian governments have not been able to indicate a starting date for the Northern Territory university. Could he indicate if further degree courses are being considered for the Darwin Community College and, if so, which degree courses and when would they be likely to commence?

ANSWER

At present, I am not considering further degree courses at the Darwin Community College. I am not sure whether or not the community college itself is putting together proposals to submit to the government. I have not asked the college or the Post-School Advisory Council to examine this question with a view to making recommendations to government. The government is proceeding with its submission to the Tertiary Education Commission for a university for the Northern Territory. Indeed, hearings will be conducted in Darwin in July this year. The Territory submission will be supported by verbal evidence to the TEC from a number of parties. The TEC will report to the federal government on the matter in next January or February.

Bridges over Rapid Creek

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Each year, the bridges over Rapid Creek at both Trower Road and McMillans Road flood after particularly heavy rains. Does the government have any plans to ensure that at least one of the bridges can provide access even after the heaviest rainfall?

ANSWER

There was serious flooding this year but we had one of the most unusual seasonal patterns that I have ever experienced in the Northern Territory. Obviously, upgrading would have to be weighed against the amount of money available. I undertake to examine the matter and I will advise him by letter.

Nhulunbuy Air Services

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise the Assembly of any proposed changes to Nhulunbuy air services and the future of those services generally?

ANSWER

As I indicated last week, I have written on a number of occasions to Ansett, TAA and the federal Minister for Aviation requesting action to improve these services by spreading the number of flights more evenly over the week to provide a greater frequency. Both the Chief Minister and myself have visited Nhulunbuy and we have arranged with representatives of TAA and Ansett to make similar visits. Passenger loading statistics indicate that, while air services to Nhulunbuy are relatively well patronised, 25% of seats remain unfilled. The number of seats offered appears to be adequate. The problem is therefore one of improvement to onward connections and the spread of days of operation.

In a letter to me dated 11 May, Ansett put forward a proposal which is being examined. After discussions with department officials, I have decided to distribute a questionnaire to residents to determine the views of the people of Nhulunbuy on the service changes suggested by Ansett. Earlier this week, Ansett management expressed a belief to me that Australia-wide airport development projects that are not yet under construction may be curtailed or significantly delayed. This includes the work at Gove airport. In the letter from Ansett Transport Industries, Mr Yates, the general manager, said: 'Although there are some commercial and operational problems, our company would be prepared to alter the Boeing 737 schedule to provide a Tuesday Darwin-Gove-Cairns service in place of the Wednesday schedule. This would be achieved by the B737 operating Darwin-Port Headland-Perth and return on Monday Tuesday in

place of the current Tuesday Wednesday operation'. In another part of that letter he said: 'If the control tower is constructed at Gove and 737 DC9 flights are doubled, as is suggested, there would be no F28 services to Gove and services to Groote Eylandt would be jeopardised also. By an all F28 operation, the total services for Arnhem Land would be improved and so would the economic stability of Airlines of Northern Australia'.

Mr Speaker, if the Gove control tower is not constructed, the Department of Aviation may withdraw its approval for 737 DC9 flights into Gove which have been operating under dispensation because Gove does not have controlled air space. This would mean that ANA may have to provide the sole service to Gove. That is the reason for the questionnaire so that the attitude of residents of Nhulunbuy may be determined in respect of this serious matter.

Forest Areas of Howard Springs

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

What plans have been made for the future use of the forest areas at Howard Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there is no proposal to release marauding animals in the Howard Springs Forest Reserve. The Conservation Commission is awaiting final survey descriptions before declaring the reserves under section 12 of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Act. Once this is done, plans of management for the areas will be available for public input. Basically, the areas will be developed as recreation forests to supplement the existing Howard Springs Nature Reserve.

Child Care Course Through Darwin Community College

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will a child-care course be offered at Darwin Community College similar to the one available in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

I do not have details with me but I understand that the Darwin Community College is proposing to introduce a child-care course. I am not fully aware of its actual commencement date but I can find that out for the honourable member and advise her.

Review of Role of Vocational Training Commission

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the government ordered a review of the role of the Vocational Training Commission and, if so, what terms of reference will be used?

ANSWER

I can assure him that I have made no request for a review of the role of the Vocational Training Commission. At present, I understand that a staffing review is being conducted within the ranks of the Vocational Training Commission by the Public Service Commissioner. That is not an unusual occurrence. In fact, the Public Service Commissioner conducts staffing reviews, in whole or in part, of departments and statutory authorities continually. As to the actual role of the Vocational Training Commission, I am not quite sure what the honourable member means.

Palm Valley Gas to Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the proposed date on which Palm Valley gas will flow into Alice Springs and the powerhouse?

ANSWER

I do not think that anyone could give a precise date for the arrival of gas in Alice Springs. The contract between NTEC and Magellan was executed on 12 October 1981 at an agreed wellhead price of $1.12 kJ CPI adjusted quarterly. As at 5 May 1983, 44 km of pipe had been laid and 2772 wells completed. The scheduled date for transmission of the gas is 31 August 1983. However, I do not think that anyone could rely on that as being an exact date. To date, the progress on the pipeline has been very encouraging and has been handled very well by the contracting company. I have been informed, however, that a small problem has arisen in relation to the exact survey definitions of the kilometre-wide corridor which is the subject of agreement between the Northern Territory government, the company undertaking the construction and the Central Land Council, with the concurrence of the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Given all that, one would hope that there are no major difficulties to be overcome.

If there were, having regard to the need for all the parties to be in agreement and signatories of any leasing or agreement arrangements for the purpose of the pipeline, one could yet see very significant delays occurring. My department is doing everything it can. The CLC has been extremely cooperative in this matter, particularly in the last year. I am quite sure that the Central Land Council will be as anxious as any of us to overcome the minor difficulties which are now seen in relation to the exact definition of the corridor. It seems as if part of that corridor may have been established in an area which may not be conducive to the laying of the gas pipeline. We do not know who was responsible for that and, quite frankly, I do not think that anyone is concerned as to whose fault it is. We hope to overcome the problem in the very near future. I have no doubt at all that we will have the cooperation of all parties in this endeavour. There is no reason, at this stage, to fear that these temporary difficulties will result in a delay because the pipeline is not being laid in that sector of the route at this stage. We had hoped to see the pipeline flowing gas at the end of October or very early in November.

In relation to the NTEC side, a contract has been let to Hawker Sidley Engineering and APE for the purposes of upgrading the various plants in the Alice Springs power-station. A contract has been let to APE Australia for conversion of Nos 6 and 7 engines to dual fuel operation and to Hawker Sidley Engineering for the conversion of Nos 3, 4 and 5 enginees. Hawker Sidley Engineering are also responsible for the construction of the gas distribution system within the power-station. The contract was awarded on 14 March 1983 to APE Australia for the supply and installation of No 8 generating set which will be the third 5 to 7 megawatt dual fuel Pilstick engine installed in Alice Springs. As honourable members in Alice Springs would be aware, the other engines there are Merlees. The Pilstick won the recent competition through the tendering system very narrowly over the Merlees. Both of them are excellent plants which have been well proven world-wide in both marine and fixed plant operations. It was very difficult to pick between the 2 tenderers who put forward excellent propositions to provide No 8 generating plant. It went to Pilstick on the basis of a spare parts capacity and a proven record of response to maintenance problems. That is not to say the agent for the Merlees, Hawker Sidley, is not also an excellent company in terms of backing up its contracts and agreements. On balance, having regard to the expected

20-year life of the equipment, Pilstick was the successful company.

Solar Ponds in Alice Springs

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

Could he report on the solar ponds experiment in Alice Springs and comment on its possible future commercial development?

ANSWER

It is far too early to comment on the possible future commercial development of a solar pond technology in the Northern Territory. Nonetheless, it is an encouraging system that is new to us. Of course, the technology is well known to the Israelis. However, advances have been made in Alice Springs which could teach the Israelis a thing or two. A pond of some 2000 m^2 to a depth of 2.5 m^2 was set up in Alice Springs for 2 reasons: the very high incidence of sunshine in that location and the availability of salt, which is an essential ingredient in the construction of a solar pond. The salt has varying layers of density, depending on depth, to prevent the effects of convection. That is the principle upon which it works. A gas form is then taken which will turn from liquid into gas and is pumped through a gas turbine.

The one in Alice Springs has the potential to drive a 20-kilowatt turbine generating system with which the developers hoped to power the vineyard, restaurant and house complex at Chateau Hornsby. The temperature required is in excess of 80°C at the base of the solar pond. In October 1981, the temperature reached 82°C. Recently, we had very heavy rains which could be described as almost monsoonal and which allowed water to get between the polythene layer and the soil. That resulted in a very rapid conduction of heat away from the last place one would expect: the bottom of the pond. The whole technology is designed to prevent radiation and convection of heat away from the top. New systems are now being developed to prevent this loss of heat from the bottom which brought the temperature down to 50°C which was insufficient to drive the turbines successfully.

Mr Speaker, new soil drying techniques are now being applied. It is a joint project which has been funded by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments. Naturally, we were grateful for the previous Commonwealth government's contribution to this project. I have little doubt that we can look forward to the same sort of support from the present government for this very exciting project in Alice Springs. Total funds made available between 1980 and 1983 by the Commonwealth have been $178 000 with $81 469 from the Northern Territory government. Hopefully, in the long term, benefit will flow to the public from this technology.

Technical Education

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it proposed that the roles of the VTC and DCC in the policy and planning area of technical and further education will be considered by the government?

ANSWER

The question is not being further considered by the government. Over the past month, I have clarified for the Darwin Community College, the Department of Education and the VTC the role of the VTC in TAFE policy formulation and coordination. As members will find in the act, the VTC has a very real role

in this. However, there was a small area of confusion. Perhaps some people did not want to believe what the words said and I clarified it for them. A couple of people may have had their noses put out of joint as a result of that clarification. However, this was certainly a proper role of the minister and not an undue interference in the public service in any way.

Sadadeen Subdivision

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he been able to ascertain the turnoff date for the first blocks of land from Sadadeen stages 1 and 2 as promised earlier this sittings?

ANSWER

I obtained the answer to this question but I seem to have mislaid it at the moment. I seem to recall that the turnoff date is September 1983.

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS

In March, he advised that the Northern Territory government would shortly vest East Point Reserve in the Conservation Commission. Has that happened and, if not, what are the management arrangements at the moment for East Point Reserve?

ANSWER

At the moment, East Point Reserve is still run by its trustees. The employees of the trustees are continuing to maintain the reserve. I was a bit late for the performance of Antony and Cleopatra the other night so I took the opportunity to have a look around East Point. It seemed to be in pretty good shape from what I could see by the car headlights. The grass seems to be mowed. There are plenty of wallabies leaping to get under your wheels. We only wanted the Conservation Commission to take over the East Point Reserve as a last resort, not that we believe the Conservation Commission is a last resort by any means. We believe the reserve is truly the responsibility of the Darwin City Council. Unfortunately, the council, through its Lord Mayor, sought a sum of $5m and, after picking myself up off the floor, I said that it just could not be done. There was a well-publicised dispute as to what would happen. We said: 'If you will not take it, we will give control of it to the Conservation Commission and make what funds we can available to it over the years to improve it slightly'. Mind you, I do not think we should create something artificial out there. I think we should leave it pretty much as it is. We could perhaps add a few facilities and maybe upgrade the roads. It will not be in my hands; it will be in the council's hands.

The problem is that the Northern Territory government is already contributing by far the lion's share of funding in this city for urban development. I forget how many million dollars we are to spend this year in beautification work throughout the city, especially in the new northern suburbs - planting median strips, parks and the whole bit. I am not belittling the council's contribution, but the NT government, for instance, is funding, and in fact initiated, a 3-year program to upgrade the Botanical Gardens. There will be provision for an area of rainforest and waterfalls, duck ponds, lakes, lagoons etc, that will add greatly to the beauty and attraction of the gardens when completed. The rainforest is well advanced. I think that the government is making a more than reasonable contribution to the beautification of Darwin. I believe that the Darwin City Council is close to agreement with the Minister for Community Development regarding management

of East Point. I have heard though that it will receive $250 000 as a one-off capital grant and then a certain sum each year towards maintenance of the reserve.

Library Books for Darwin Community College Students

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Given what appears to be an extraordinary internecine struggle that is going on, to quote one columnist, 'in the halls of academe at the Darwin Community College', what is the precise situation in regard to the provision of library books for Darwin Community College students?

ANSWER

I am certainly aware of an internal wrangle going on in the Darwin Community College over library services. The chairman of the college council will report to me tomorrow morning on that very question. As soon as the matter came to my attention I asked her personally to investigate the matter thoroughly. Tomorrow I will receive a report on that. I understand that the Darwin Community College has had about $1m worth of books supplied to it since its inception. As honourable members would be aware, that is a very substantial sum for books alone. I am not talking about buildings or staff; I am talking about books.

However, it has to be appreciated that, in an educational institution like the college, quite a number of books very quickly become dated because of technological advances in the various courses and the content of those courses and books must be updated fairly regularly. I am advised that, as a result of commencing the Bachelor of Arts course at the Darwin Community College, there is an obligation upon the college to provide additional books to its library to the tune of $30 000 per annum for 5 years to cover the requirements of that course alone. That is rather a surprising figure to me, Mr Speaker, but I am assured that it is largely correct. It is based on the fact that, as people progress through the Bachelor of Arts course, the books that are required become more sophisticated and expensive. Whilst I do not have definitive figures before me on the numbers of books in the Darwin Community College library, I can assure honourable members that it is a very handsome establishment. It has a very effective indexing system which is probably more modern than that in most other institutions in Australia.

However, there is a dispute between a couple of factions within the Darwin Community College. I aim to get to the bottom of it as soon as I possibly can. If there is any substance in the allegations, then the government will certainly look at them. Following information I receive tomorrow, it may be necessary for me to engage outside people to examine the situation to see what action needs to be taken. I can assure honourable members that this matter has my interest and will continue to receive my attention until it is resolved.

Youth Needs in Northern Suburbs

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH SPORT and RECREATION

When can we expect some government action to implement the recommendations of the Manzie report on youth needs in the northern suburbs?

ANSWER

The Chief Minister and I exchange memos on a weekly basis regarding the 4 recommendations that came out of the public meetings. One was that

community support services be established in the northern suburbs. There was a proposal by the YWCA - which had been successful in obtaining some land from the department - to construct a youth facility in the area. When this proposal was first put to the Northern Territory government, we agreed to a 3:1 level of funding in view of the government's policy to provide financial support to community organisations which wish to provide youth facilities. Of course, it began as a $170 000 exercise and the YWCA was to put in its share. Subsequently, the YWCA amended its building program and the Northern Territory Housing Commission became involved and provided its expertise. The cost to build increased to about $210 000 which meant that the YWCA would have had to put a greater proportion of funds into the project. However, we agreed to provide additional funding to the YWCA for the construction of that particular facility on the land allocated by the Lands Branch. I had discussions with the YWCA regarding its operation and agreed to proceed.

The collapse of the trustee company in Victoria would have knocked that on the head anyway. However, about a month ago, I had discussions with the Director of the YWCA. Because of the YWCA's financial constraints, we offered the old Northern Territory Housing Commission site office for use as a youth drop-in centre. She thought it was a good idea. I am unable to proceed with that at the moment because that particular facility has not been zoned. A memo is being drafted to the Chief Minister explaining that the need for zoning is delaying occupation of the facility. I have also had informal discussions with the Chairman of the Town Planning Authority who said that, if we are to proceed with the old site office, it is his opinion that a zoning change might be necessary. Those are the complications in that area. That would have given us our second area in the northern suburbs. With the change in mind of the YWCA and the problems with the site office, we may have to go back to the drawing board. I asked the Director of Youth Sport and Recreation to see if he can find space that could be rented in the northern suburbs to provide this facility. That investigation is being carried out now. Some suggestion has been made that the Casuarina Plaza could be a possible location.

Regarding the second recommendation, the government intends to enclose part of the Casuarina High School and turn that into a community facility. That is being designed at the moment and the government is anxious to complete it as soon as possible and has attempted to include it on the 1983 capital works list. It has been listed on an informal basis until such time as the Departments of Education and Transport and Works work out what the extensions are to be. The third recommendation related to transport. The Minister for Transport and Works has asked the bus service to come back with a proposal to provide a mini-bus service. At this stage, no firm arrangements have been made. The fourth recommendation related to the setting up of a coordinated volunteer youth organisation within the area. That has been done.

The recommendations have been assessed seriously. I think that a couple of points need to be driven home a little bit harder by myself in the next couple of weeks. The Chief Minister is anxious that those recommendations be carried out. There are those difficulties: the change of mind by the YWCA and the zoning problem with the old site office. The Chief Minister has said that he will fix that and we will have to wait and see how it will pan out. If we cannot find a location to build on immediately, I would be quite happy to rent a certain area in one of the northern suburb community shopping centres to get this thing off the ground.

Aboriginal Teaching Assistants in South Region

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it correct that a directive has been issued by the department to

Aboriginal schools in the southern region that would result in Aboriginal teaching assistants being removed from those schools that have one teacher only?

ANSWER

I am not aware of that directive. If he could provide me with more details, I will seek information from the Department of Education.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TUXWORTH (Conservation)(by leave): Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition asked me to advise whether the Conservation Commission for the Northern Territory employs an experienced shooter. With the exception of those only recently appointed, all rangers are competent in the use of firearms. The Conservation Commission uses a wide selection of firearms for specific duties. The majority of rangers are above-average marksmen. Some have a much higher degree of marksmanship than others: for example, Queen's Shoot Prizewinner, ex-police marksman, ex-serviceman etc. The Conservation Commission conducts a firearms course once a year to have those rangers who lack the necessary expertise brought up to the degree of competency required by the commission. The Conservation Commission presently employs 86 rangers of whom approximately 80% are experienced marksmen. There are a number of other persons within the commission's structure who are also experienced marksmen. These persons can be called upon to perform field duties with firearms at any time should the need arise.

ABC telecasts to NT 112
Aboriginal -
  communities, wages and employment study 106
  employment in NTPS 103
  land claims *75
  teaching assistants, southern region 157
Aerial-medical services 83, 141
Alice Springs airport, upgrading 149
Alice Springs to Darwin railway *75, 99, 112
Apprentices *75
Archives building, site 114
Aviation fuel costs 125
Beef -
  export licences *81
  sale to South Korea 131
Berrimah, rates 95
Berry Springs zoo 119, 135
'Boozers are Losers' campaign *77
BTB program *82
Bus services 136
Channel Island bridge 96
Chan Park Nursing Home *80
Chief Minister, meeting with Prime Minister 112
Child-care courses at DCC 152
Chiropractors, registration 119
Community health, medical officers *76
Conservation Commission, shooter 90, 91, 158
Container crane, tenders 121
Criminal Code 147
Darwin airport 106
Darwin Community College -
  degree courses 150
  library books 156
Darwin Performing Arts Centre 114
Darwin Prison -
  mentally-ill prisoners 144
  missing money 124
Deep Well Station, agriculture 117
Douglas-Daly farms 133, 135
Drinking law, 2 km *77
Dump, relocation 109
East coast shipping service 108
East Point Reserve 155
Education, budget *77
Electricity -
  outback communities *76
  subsidy *82
Federal deficit 131
Fort Hill Wharf 121, 122, 123, 125, 126
Frances Bay Drive 132
Fred's Pass Police Office 90
Fred's Pass Show, police exhibit 106
Fuel storage depot, site 119
Grants-in-aid scheme *78
Heavitree Gap, causeway 127
Hilton Hotels, proposed development in Alice Springs 123
Housing, effects of overcrowded accommodation 103
Housing Commission, allocations *81, 145
Howard Springs, forest areas 152

Investment seminars, report 107
Jabiru Town Development Authority 141
Kalano Association, financial arrangements with Department of Health 83
Karama, bus services to 116
Kargaru bush camp *75
Katherine -
  facilities for RAAF squadron 144
  housing needs *82
  lot 384 *76
  Rotary Road Safety Centre *82
  tax on beer and soft drinks 118
  Terrace *81
  water quality 140
Kirton and Whiting Report *76
Koolpin Gorge, road 100
Koolpinyah Station, boundaries 95
Kurringal Court, sale of units *81
Local Government Act, amendments 121
Lotteries, government-sponsored 111
Malpa Trading Company 118
Mereenie crude oil, vehicle powered by 122
Mining Act, amendments 93
Motor vehicle use by government departments -
  Attorney-General *78
  Chief Minister *78
  Community Development *79
  Education *79
  Health and Housing *79
  Lands, Industrial Development and Tourism *79
  Mines and Energy *80
  Primary Production and Conservation *78
  Transport and Works *80
  Treasury *79
  Youth, Sport, Recreation and Ethnic Affairs *80
Mt Wells battery *82, 85
MV Islander 149
Nabalco plant site, Construction Safety Act 106
National Companies and Securities Scheme *81
National Tuberculosis Advisory Council 146
Native birds 108
Newcastle Waters, power supply 84
Nhulunbuy -
  air services 151
  power 127
  sale of Housing Commission homes 90, 136
  seminar on future of 120
  Sunday air services 115
  teachers, rent subsidy 148
Northern Land Council, legal advisers *75
Northern Territory Aerial Work 132, 134, 135, 136, 137
Noxious weeds 84
NTDC, review of operations 111
NTEC, computer billing 115
NTPS, Aboriginal employment 103
Palmerston, bus service 105
Palm leaf beetle 134
Palm Valley gas 153
Pastoral leases -
  breaches of covenants *77
  sale 116

Pathology laboratory, Darwin Hospital 85
Pensioner concession scheme 117
Pigs, outbreak of disease in rural area 121
Pine Creek area, mining 103, 145
Poker machines 127
Police Administration Act *76
Police aircraft, use for tourist purposes 87, 110
Power-station, crushing mill *77
Prawn fishery 150
Primary schools, staffing 90
Prison farm, Alice Springs 128, 130
Radiological services, NT hospitals 105
Radium concentrates in mussels 94
Rapid Creek, bridges over 151
Rapid Creek Water Gardens 104
Roe Creek, manslaughter case 101
Rural area -
  dingoes 139
  large-animal pound 122
  lights at intersections 113
  marauding stock 125
  oldtimers 146
Rural blocks, stamp duty 146
Sadadeen subdivision 126, 155
Salvation Army, nursing home 87
Sanderson high school 129
School councils 115
Schools in northern suburbs 129
Sewage treatment plant *80
Solar ponds, Alice Springs 154
Spark and Cannon Pty Ltd, transcription contract *81
Specialist medical services *76, 83
Stock squad 96
Stuart Highway, realignment 84
Superannuation payments, tax 104
TAB 110
Technical education 154
Timber Creek, land claim *75
Tindal RAAF base, educational needs *75
TIO, policy 126, 134
Tobacco product advertising 100
Tourist industry, submission 116
Uranium, world demand 142
Vocational Training Commission, role 152
VRD and Newcastle Waters Stations 91, 138
Water restrictions 147
Wildfowl, bag limits 105
Wildman River Station 140
Yarralin community 93
Yirara College, staffing 139, 143, 148
Youth needs, northern suburbs 156
Yulara, service station site 93, 96, 113

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.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 15 March 1983

Kargaru Bush Camp - Lease

795 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Will he grant a special purposes lease to the Kargaru bush camp, Tennant Creek, to enable the provision of adequate ablution facilities?
2. Was an application for a special purposes lease for the Kargaru bush camp lodged with his department in January 1982 and rejected by him in October 1982?
3. On what date did he inform the applicants of his decision to reject the application?

Apprentices

800 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware that only 5 panelbeating firms in Darwin employ apprentices?
2. Do the Territory Insurance Office and other government authorities give preference to firms employing apprentices?
3. Are corporations such as Telecom encouraged to employ and apprentice local youths in their Northern Territory operations?

Aboriginal Land Claims

810 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that under the Aboriginal Land (Northern Territory) Act (a) water is a mineral, and (b) river banks and river beds can be claimed?

Timber Creek - Land Claim

811 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that the township of Timber Creek is under land claim?
2. If the claim is successful, will the houses and improvements become the property of Aboriginals?

Northern Land Council - Legal Advisers

813 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he able to say how many legal advisers are employed by the Northern Land Council?

Railway Electrification

817 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of his predecessor's statement late 1982 about reticulating power from a gas-fired power station in Darwin to Daly Waters, and in view of the proposed gas-operated power station in Alice Springs, will consideration be given to electrifying the Darwin to Alice Springs railway?

Electricity - Outback Communities

820 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Accepting that consumers of electricity in major NT centres, including Aboriginal communities, are heavily subsidised, will the NT government consider extending this scheme to outback communities on cattle stations, tourist ventures and mining operations so that town rates are charged for power consumed, with a subsidy to cover the actual cost of power generation and maintenance?

From 22 March 1983

2 km Drinking Law - Advertising

830 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was (a) the cost of preparation and distribution, including postage, of the 2 leaflets, (b) the cost of the recent TV advertisements, and (c) the cost of recent newspaper advertisements regarding the 2 km drinking law?

Crushing Mill - Darwin Power Station

832 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Will a crushing mill for converting lump coal into powder for use in the proposed coal-fired power station be constructed in Darwin?
2. If so, (a) where will it be constructed, and (b) what is the anticipated cost?

From 24 May 1983

Grants-in-Aid Scheme

837 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme was given to community service organisations in 1981-82?

National Companies and Securities Scheme - Participation

855 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Has a decision been made by the government to participate in the National Companies and Securities Scheme?

Electricity Subsidy

861 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Why do Territorians who have their electricity supplied by NTEC receive a handsome subsidy when (a) Territorians who have their electricity provided by the NT government pay nothing, and (b) Territorians living in remote areas on cattle stations, mining settlements and tourist camps pay full tote for their electricity requirements, generators, fuel and maintenance?

Mt Wells Battery - Payment

862 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What is the reason for the delay in full payment by Jingellic Minerals to the government for the Mt Wells battery and associated leases?
2. When will this be resolved?

From 23 August 1983

Employment Studies - Aboriginal Communities

867 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Department of Community Development carried out any studies of salaries, wages and employment on Aboriginal communities, or is it in the process of doing so?
2. If so, will he provide details of these studies?

Vocational Training Commission - Staffing Review

868 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What are the reasons for a staffing review being undertaken of the Vocational Training Commission?
2. Why is it necessary to have 2 reviews of the commission within a 12-month period?
3. Did the instruction for the staffing review come from the Chief Minister and, if so, why not from the Minister for Education?

From 31 August 1983

NTDC Loan - Corkwood Bore Abattoir

870 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has Corkwood Bore abattoir received an NTDC loan and, if so, what was the purpose of the loan?

NTDC Loan - Edward Souery

871 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the status of the NTDC loan of $858 000 to Edward Souery for the construction of the Tennant Creek meatworks?
2. Was (a) a second loan of some $110 000 made by NTDC to Edward Souery and, if so, (b) for what purpose was the loan made, (c) what is the security for the loan, and (d) what is the present status of the loan?

NTDC Loan - Point Stuart Estate

872 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has an application been made for an NTDC loan of $500 000 by Point Stuart Estate for a buffalo domestication program and, if so, has such a loan been granted?

NTDC Loan - Moudal Consultants

873 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has an application for an NTDC loan been received from a Hong Kong based company called Moudal Consultants to establish a horse meat processing operation at Tennant Creek and, if so, has the loan been granted?
2. Has land been made available to Moudal Consultants for the establishment of a horse meat processing operation at Tennant Creek and, if so, on what terms?

Tennant Creek Meatworks - Purchase

874 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Was the Northern Territory government approached by any parties interested in the purchase of the Tennant Creek meatworks for assistance with respect to information about the operation?

2. If so, (a) who were those parties, and (b) what assistance did the government provide to them?

Breaches of Hygiene Regulations

875 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

What breaches of hygiene regulations in meat processing establishments were reported in the Territory in 1983?

Slaughtering of Horses

876 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

1. How many horses were slaughtered in the Territory in 1983?

2. In which meatworks did the slaughters take place?

Tennant Creek Meatworks

877 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the value of (a) land, (b) electricity, and (c) water supplied to the Tennant Creek meatworks to 31 August 1983?

Tindal - Education

819 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is being done to anticipate the educational needs of the proposed RAAF base at Tindal?

ANSWER

On the basis of the limited initial advice received from the Commonwealth government, the Department of Education has projected enrolments on the assumption that an influx of RAAF personnel occurs at a linear rate up until 1987.

Based on present enrolments a new pre-school unit is proposed for the 1986-87 financial year. However, to accommodate projected enrolments due to RAAF personnel moving into Tindal, additional demountable accommodation would be required in the short term. In the longer term, the provision of a new primary school and a new secondary school could be warranted.

However, until a definite indication is received from the Commonwealth government, the Department of Education alone is unable to take any positive moves towards the implementation of any building program.

Lot 384, Katherine

822 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Is he aware of the neglected condition of lot 384, Katherine Terrace, Katherine?

2. If so, when will this lot be brought into keeping with the Territory's tidiest town?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. The former lot 384 has been subdivided into 2 new lots, numbered 1881 and 1882. Lot 1881 is subject to a Crown lease and the lessee, the Territory Insurance Office, has undertaken to have the lot cleared by 30 April 1983. The lease for lot 1882 is administered by Australian National and is therefore outside NT government control.

   I understand the Katherine Town Council has written to the lessee seeking to have the site cleaned up.

Specialist Medical Officers

824 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

What is the (1) number, and (2) description of specialist medical officers (a) employed by his department in the year ended 31 December 1982 who have gone into private practice and have entered into sessional or similar arrangements with the department, (b) employed by his department at 1 January 1983 who are expected to enter private practice prior to 31 December 1983 and are negotiating sessional or similar arrangements with the department, (c) positions existed in the department at 1 January 1983, (d) positions vacant at 1 January 1983, and (e) does the department plan to be employing at 31 December 1983?

ANSWER

(a) (1) Five.

(2) Registrar (Medicine)
Specialist (Paediatrics)
Specialist (Anaesthetics)
Specialist (Orthopaedics)
Specialist (Surgery)

(b) None.

(c) (1) Thirty-six.

(2)

Darwin Hospital		Alice Springs	
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	2	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	1
Anaesthetics	3	Anaesthetics	1
Medicine	2	Medicine	1
Paediatrics	2	Pediatrics	1
Ophthalmology	2	Ophthalmology	1
Psychiatry	2	Psychiatry	1
Pathology	4*	Pathology	1
Radiology	2	Radiology	1
ENT	1	ENT	1
Dermatology	1	Surgery	2
Surgery	4		
	25		11

* One pathology position is used as a rotating senior registrar position from the Sydney Eye Hospital.

(d) (1) Nine.

(2)

Darwin Hospital		Alice Springs	
Ophthalmology	1	Ophthalmology	1
Psychiatry	1		
Pathology	2**		
Orthopaedics	1		
Surgery	1		
Paediatrics	1		
Anaesthetics	1		

** One position is used as rotating senior registrar as mentioned in (c) (2).

(e) The department anticipates recruiting 2 ophthalmologists, 1 orthopaedic surgeon, 1 psychiatrist and 1 forensic pathologist to the vacant positions mentioned in (d) (2). The total number of specialists employed will be dependent upon whether the 5 specialists mentioned in (a) (1) return to full-time employment with the department.

Kirton and Whiting Report - Cost

825 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

What were (a) consultant's fees, and (b) other costs incurred by his department in the production of the Kirton and Whiting Report on urban-based community health centres?

ANSWER

The costs associated with the production of the Kirton and Whiting Report were (a) consultant's fees $9 000, and (b) other costs incurred $3 799.

Community Health Medical Officers

826 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

How many community health medical officer positions (a) existed, and (b) were vacant at 1 March 1983?

ANSWER

(a) Number of community health medical officer position at 1 March 1983:

Darwin Region	10
East Arnhem Region	2
Katherine Region	2
Alice Springs and Barkly Region	2
TOTAL	16

(b) Number of community health medical officer positions vacant at 1 March 1983:

Darwin Region	2
East Arnhem Region	1
Katherine Region	-
Alice Springs and Barkly Region	-
TOTAL	3

Protective Custody

828 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Since its inception in 1979, in regard to Division 4 of Part VII of the *Police Administration Act*, on a yearly basis -

1. how many persons have been apprehended;
2. how many of those apprehended were (a) Aboriginal, and (b) non-Aboriginal;
3. how many of the persons apprehended were subject to subsequent apprehension;
4. what is the average period of apprehension;
5. how many persons were released under the provisions of section 131(1); and
6. how many persons were dealt with under section 132?

ANSWER

The question relates to protective custody of intoxicated persons under the *Police Administration Act*.

This legislation commenced on 1 August 1979, but statistics relating to

Aboriginals were not kept until 1 August 1980.

1. Number of persons apprehended:

1 August 1979	-	31 July 1980	15 149
1 August 1980	-	31 December 1980	4 910
1 January 1981	-	31 December 1981	13 980
1 January 1982	-	31 December 1982	16 611
		TOTAL	50 650

2. Number of (a) Aboriginals, and (b) non-Aboriginals apprehended:

			Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
1 August 1979	-	31 July 1980	No statistics kept	
1 August 1980	-	31 December 1980	4 226	684
1 January 1981	-	31 December 1981	12 332	1 648
1 January 1982	-	31 December 1982	14 709	1 902

3. Persons apprehended who were subject to subsequent apprehension:

No statistics are kept. Those apprehended are not positively identified by fingerprints. However, on a names basis only, statistics were gathered from Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Elliott, covering the period March to December 1982 (both months inclusive).

The following table shows (a) the total apprehensions for each centre over that period, (b) the total number of persons apprehended more than once, and (c) the percentage of persons apprehended more than once as shown in (b):

March to December 1982	Darwin	Katherine	Nhulunbuy	Alice Springs	Tennant Creek	Elliott
(a)	2 410	1 494	272	4 697	976	609
(b)	378	520	36	791	274	225
(c)	15.7%	34.8%	13.2%	16.8%	28.0%	36.9%

4. Average period of apprehension:

No statistics have been kept but the figure is believed to be approximately 6 hours. This is due mainly to the provisions of section 129(3) which states -

"(3) A person who has been taken into custody under this section and who is in custody after midnight and before half past 7 o'clock in the morning on that day, may be held in custody until half past 7 o'clock in the morning on that day, notwithstanding that the person is no longer intoxicated.".

5. Persons released under the provisions of section 131(1):

No statistics are kept but the number would be exceedingly few. Volunteers to take over the care of intoxicated persons from the police are rare.

6. Persons dealt with under section 132:

No statistics are kept but the number would be very low.

Education Budget 1982-83

829 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In regard to the 1982-83 Education budget -

1. what are the specific budget allocations for each primary and secondary school in the Northern Territory;
2. what is the overall allocation for remedial teachers in the Northern Territory education system;
3. what is the budget allocation for teacher recruitment;
4. what is the budget allocation set aside to establish and implement testing procedures and tests themselves;
5. in the sections of the Education budget where both Territory and Commonwealth money is spent, what is the actual allocation of each; and
6. what capital works items are budgeted for and what is the breakdown of their allocations?

ANSWER

1. At Appendix A is a schedule of budget allocation for all Northern Territory government schools for 1982-83.
2. There are 41 remedial teachers in the Northern Territory generating an estimated salary expenditure in 1982-83 of $980 000.
3. The budget allocation for teacher recruitment in 1982-83 is $375 000.
4. The specific provision in 1982-83 for the establishment of procedures to implement testing is $46 000.
5. At Appendix B is a schedule of budget items jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments showing the exact allocation from each funding source.
6. At Appendix C is a schedule of specific items on the 1982-83 Capital Works Program and projects funded from the bulk allocations.

APPENDIX A

SCHEDULE OF ALLOCATIONS TO NORTHERN TERRITORY SCHOOLS 1982-83

NORTH

NOTE: The allocation for urban school based funding schools include provision for communications, furniture, general services and school supplies while the rural schools allocations relate to school supplies only. It should be noted however that schools do get other funding from time to time from Superintendent's Contingency Funds, Dollar for Dollar, Schools Commission and Transition Education.

School	Allocation	School	Allocation
Alawa	$ 48 711	Casuarina High	$ 175 491
Gochan Jiny Jirra	$ 975	Milikapiti	$ 5 261
Moil	$ 75 384	Nightcliff High	$ 216 079
NT Secondary Corres. School	$ 100 000	Rapid Creek	$ 50 237
		Jingili	$ 62 030
Wagaman	$ 64 064	Leanyer	$ 13 434
Manaruni	$ 2 222	Warruwi	$ 3 453
Anula	$ 83 447	Dripstone High	$ 231 438

Henbury Avenue	$ 15 124	Millner	$ 62 615
Nakara	$ 107 727	Nightcliff Primary	$ 51 383
Pularumpi	$ 6 036	Tiwi	$ 68 489
Wanguri	$ 62 883	Karama	$ 13 434
Malak	$ 87 901	Maningrida	$ 18 023
Wulagi	$ 89 916	St Therese	$ 18 597
Adelaide River	$ 5 001	Batchelor School	$ 10 534
Berrimah	$ 61 782	Darwin High	$ 241 691
Douglas Daly	$ 704	Humpty Doo High	$ 9 135
Jabiru	$ 75 629	Larrakeyah	$ 24 310
Middle Point	$ 2 818	Oenpelli	$ 13 232
Peppimenarti	$ 3 854	Stuart Park	$ 42 864
Wooliana	$ 3 643	OLSH Wadeye	$ 19 672
Angurugu	$ 19 022	Milingimbi	$ 28 698
Nhulunbuy Primary	$ 42 740	Ramingining	$ 10 334
Umbakumba	$ 8 199	Amanbidgi	$ 945
Beswick	$ 4 841	Bulla	$ 1 851
Xavier Boys	$ 6 865	Batchelor College	$ 190 000
Belyuen	$ 3 816	Berry Springs	$ 18 654
Darwin Primary	$ 31 235	Howard	$ 79 448
Humpty Doo Primary	$ 23 367	Kormilda	$ 461 384
Ludmilla	$ 78 551	Narbalek	$ 949
Parap	$ 58 184	Point Stuart	$ 817
Tipperary	$ 522	St Francis Xavier	$ 3 918
Alyangula	$ 35 571	Gapuwiyak	$ 6 259
Nhulunbuy High	$ 38 602	Numbulwar	$ 10 223
Shepherdson College	$ 24 152	Yirrkala	$ 26 187
Bamyili	$ 15 922	Borroloola	$ 19 625
Bulman	$ 1 788	Katherine School of the Air	$ 56 793
Killarney	$ 1 752		
Mataranka	$ 2 987	Clyde Fenton	$ 93 605
Ganjarani	$ 794	Kalkaringi	$ 7 823
Mountain Valley	$ 412	Nutwood Downs	$ 1 014
Pine Creek	$ 9 317	Urapunga	$ 5 093
Wave Hill	$ 1 066	Katherine South	$ 45 883
Lajamanu	$ 11 916	Minyerri	$ 2 212
Djembere	$ 1 568	Hodgson River	$ 593
Katherine High	$ 79 993	Ngukurr	$ 8 374
Pigeon Hole	$ 3 723	Roper Valley	$ 4 136
V R D	$ 1 378	Yarralin	$ 7 290

SOUTH

Alice Springs High School	$ 129 878	Braitling inc. Teppa Hill Pre	$ 60 531
Karguru and Pre	$ 50 722		
Sadadeen High	$ 108 133	Tennant Creek High	$ 48 786
Yirara College	$ 106 057	Ammaroo	$ 3 000
Areyonga	$ 1 643	Beetaloo	$ 1 000
Docker River	$ 3 483	Epenarra	$ 2 041
Haast's Bluff	$ 1 640	Jay Creek	$ 1 801
Mallapunyah	$ 1 000	Mt Allan	$ 1 000
Napperby	$ 2 250	Murray Downs	$ 1 113
Neutral Junction	$ 1 000	Bradshaw	$ 69 522
Gillen	$ 57 622	Ross Park inc. Rona Glynn and Sadadeen Pre	$ 42 592
Alice Springs School of the Air	$ 22 485		
Alexandria	$ 1 000	Traeger Park inc. Ida Standley	$ 44 842

Amoonguna	$ 1 809	Banka Banka	$ 1 000
Brunette Downs	$ 1 425	Elliott	$ 4 681
Finke	$ 1 855	Hermannsburg	$ 13 166
Lake Nash	$ 2 232	Maryvale	$ 1 908
Mt Ebenezer	$ 2 385	Mbunghara	$ 1 000
Papunya	$ 12 502	Newcastle Waters	$ 1 000
Plenty River	$ 1 000	Ross River	$ 1 000
Santa Teresa	$ 9 580	Ti Tree	$ 5 106
Warrego	$ 3 963	Yulara	$ 3 000
Special School	$ 5 000	Tennant Creek Primary	$ 3 472
Hospital School	$ 650	Charles Creek Pre	$ 500
Ti Tree Operational	$ 5 000	Bilingual - Travel	$ 300
Rockhampton Downs	$ 1 844	- Yuendumu	$ 1 500
Stirling	$ 1 925	- Willowra	$ 500
Utopia	$ 6 943	- Papunya	$ 2 000
Warrabri	$ 13 808	Willowra	$ 3 253
Yuendumu	$ 13 115	Sadadeen Primary	$ 20 000
Remedial School	$ 500	Giles House	$ 1 450
Yirara College Operational -	$ 417 000		
- Docker River	$ 500		
- Areyonga	$ 1 500		
- Contingency Fund	$ 1 000		

APPENDIX B

1982-83 BUDGET - JOINT COMMONWEALTH/NT GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

DIVISION 44-4 - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TRANSITION SCHOOL TO WORK PROGRAM

Total Allocation	$ 746 000
NT Component	$ 301 000
Commonwealth Component	$ 353 000
	$ 654 000
ADD	
Employment Program Unemployed Youth	$ 92 000
	$ 746 000

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS - GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND ALLOWANCES

Total Allocation	$ 5 721 000
NT Programs	$ 1 904 000
Commonwealth Schools Commission Programs	$ 3 817 000
	$ 5 721 000

DIVISION 46 - COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Automotive Training Program - Priest Street

NT Government	$ 21 000
Commonwealth Component	$ 48 000
	$ 69 000

APPENDIX C

1982-83 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

		Program Provision
Darwin - Construct Karama Primary School No. 2		$ 2 053 000
Darwin - Construct Stage II Leanyer Primary School		$ 450 000
Alice Springs - Construct Stage II CCCA		$ 5 130 000
Tennant Creek - Construct New High School		$ 5 000 000
Alice Springs - Gillen House Upgrade Kitchens		$ 360 000
Katherine Rural College Stage I		$ 1 936 200
Darwin - Upgrading Ovals at Stuart Park, Tiwi, Ludmilla and Casuarina High School		$ 100 000
Peppimenarti - Relocate 2 Classrooms and 1 Toilet Block from Humpty Doo Primary		$ 49 000
Darwin - Karama Primary - Relocate Transportable Classroom from Jabiru		$ 67 334
Humpty Doo Primary School - Air-condition Classrooms		$ 200 000
Darwin High School - Transportable Accommodation for Intensive Language Program (Migrant Education)		$ 150 000
Gapuwiyak (Lake Evella) - Provide 2 Transportable Teachers Residences		$ 140 000
Raminginning - Provide 1 Transportable Teachers Residence		$ 70 000
Epenarra - Relocate Mobile Classroom		$ 57 000
Amaroo - Provision of Transportable School and Residences		$ 230 000
All centres - Transportable Units - Purchase and Relocation -		$ 163 666
Douglas-Daly	$ 40 000	
Docker River	$ 28 700	
Humpty Doo Janitors Residence	$ 8 000	
Katherine High School	$ 20 000	
Raminginning	$ 1 630	
Mainoru	$ 16 000	
Taminmin High Janitors Residence	$ 19 000	
Henbury Ave School	$ 9 200	
Balance	$ 21 136	
	$ 163 666	
All centres - Mobile Units - Relocation and provision of services		$ 140 485
Cannon Hill	$ 12 000	
Mt Ebenezer	$ 6 497	
Yarralin	$ 3 000	
Berry Springs	$ 1 140	
V R D	$ 24 500	
From Ranger Site to Store	$ 1 797	
Batchelor	$ 3 500	
Berry Springs	$ 8 700	
Point Stuart	$ 6 300	
Bulla Camp	$ 15 100	
Elliott	$ 5 500	
Balance	$ 52 451	
	$ 140 485	

Office Partitioning	$ 50 000
Minor New Works	$ 460 000
89 jobs distributed throughout the Territory costing less than $40 000 each	
	$ 16 806 685

'Boozers are Losers' Campaign

834 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. How much is being spent on the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign?
2. For what reason was the contract awarded to a southern firm?
3. Has any contact been made with the liquor industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

ANSWER

1. The approved budget for the public education campaign against alcohol abuse from December 1981 to December 1982 was $130 000.
2. Invitations were issued to advertising agencies to put forward proposals for the campaign, and one was selected. Unfortunately, there was no advertising agency resident in the Northern Territory, at that time. In any event, the fact that one might be established in the Northern Territory might not necessarily mean it had the capability even though the government might want to support it and would hope that in due course the marketing industry will establish itself in the Northern Territory.

   Clear directions have been given that, in the expenditure of funds in a campaign such as this, all possible resources available in the Territory must be used provided they are economical.

   About $60 000 of the budget went to Territorians in one form or another.

   It is the policy of the government that, wherever possible, local business will be used and indeed there is the preference provision in relation to the awarding of contracts.
3. Prior to the campaign being launched, it was suggested by some that the liquor industry may mount a counter-advertising campaign to combat the anticipated impact of the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign on sales. To attend to this concern, the Chief Minister sent personal letters to the managing directors of various brewing companies whose products are sold and promoted in the Northern Territory; the Northern Territory Hoteliers' Association, the National Spirits Merchants Association, and controllers of various national retail liquor outlets operating in the Northern Territory. All these people were advised of the nature of the campaign and their support for its aims was sought. Generally responses were positive. Local licensees and retailers were also invited to a function to mark the launching of the campaign. Currently, at a national level, and the NT is represented here by the Drug and Alcohol Bureau, there is ongoing negotiation with the advertising and liquor industries on the issue of the advertising of alcoholic beverages.

Pastoral Properties - Breach of Covenants

836 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Why did the government decide in 1980 not to take action against pastoral lessees in breach of their covenants?

2. A recent report on the ABC program 'After 8' stated that 59% of pastoral properties in Victoria River District, 66% in Darwin and Gulf regions, 23% in Barkly region and 25% in Alice Springs region were in breach of their covenants. In each region, how many properties in breach of covenants were (a) locally owned (i.e., owned in the Northern Territory), (b) owned by Australian interests outside the Northern Territory, and (c) owned by overseas interests?

3. In each region, what were the main breaches of covenants recorded?

ANSWER

1. Action against breach of covenants on pastoral leases was suspended on 19 March 1980 whilst an inquiry into pastoral land tenure was undertaken. This inquiry has subsequently been referred to as the 'Martin Report'.

2. A detailed analysis of pastoral lessees in breach of covenants, on the basis specified in the question has not been carried out.

3. The main breach of covenants throughout the Territory has been for lack of maintenance of existing improvements with non-compliance with stocking and fencing requirements being the next most neglected areas.

Motor Vehicles

838 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

NOTE: This answer also covers answer to questions Nos 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 947 and 848.

(a) Summary of Government Motor Vehicles Operated by Departments/Authorities

(Survey Date: November 1982)

Minister	Department/Authority	Total Motor Vehicles	Garaged Centrally	Home
CHIEF MINISTER and MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM	Chief Minister	72	18	54
	Public Service Commissioner	7	1	6
	Lands	69	54	15
	Palmerston Devlpmt Auth.	5	2	3
	NT Development Corporation	9	-	9
	NT Tourist Commission	14	-	14
	Police	208	177	31
	NT Emergency Services	25	21	4
	Auditor-General's	2	-	2
	Abor. Sacred Sites Prot'n Auth.	4	1	3
	Ombudsman	2	-	2
	Legislative Assembly	1	-	1

TREASURER and MINISTER for EDUCATION	Treasury	10	3	7
	Education	31	15	16
	Darwin Community College	21	14	7
	Vocational Training Comm.	10	-	10
	Racing & Gaming Commission	5	-	5
	NT Teaching Service	2	1	1
	University Planning Auth.	2	-	2
MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION and MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	Primary Production	213	107	106
	Community Development	148	81	67
	Agric. Devlpmt & Marketing Authority	12	2	10
	Conservation Commission	203	149	54
	Museums & Art Galleries	13	11	2
ATTORNEY-GENERAL and MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY	Law	24	7	17
	Mines and Energy	86	59	27
	NT Electricity Commission	130	63	67
MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS and MINISTER ASSISTING the TREASURER	Transport and Works	493	355	138
	NT Port Authority	25	11	14
MINISTER for HEALTH & HOUSING and MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT, RECREATION & ETHNIC AFFAIRS and MINISTER ASSISTING the TREASURER	Health	247	216	31
	NT Housing Commission	74	45	29
	Liquor Commission	5	1	4
	SUB-TOTAL	2 172 (100%)	1 414 (65%)	758 (35%)

(b) Criteria for Determining Use of Government Vehicles

The policy on usage and acquisition of all motor vehicles and plant items within the Northern Territory Public Service is laid down in Public Service Commissioner's Memorandum 1980/27, which was promulgated in accordance with Cabinet Decision Nos. 333 and 980.

Following lengthy investigation and discussion at meetings of the Co-ordination Committee, Cabinet endorsed the issue of principles to be adhered to by departments/authorities (PSC Memorandum 1981/54) in the use and home garaging of official vehicles. In essence, these principles gave full responsibility to Chief Executive Officers and prescribed authorities in the use and operation of vehicles under their control.

The principles, however, provide that departments and authorities should ensure:

1. Vehicles have appropriate identification;
2. Internal instructions are issued to provide for:
   (a) Regular reviews and vehicle criterion and allocation,
   (b) maintenance and security procedures;
3. Home garaging, unless in exceptional circumstances, shall be on the basis of work requirements.

The proper administrative and financial procedures for the recording of government vehicle usage is covered under the Financial Administration and Audit Act, Division 10 Treasurer's Directions and accounting and property manuals. Specifically, the Treasurer's Directions on the Use of Official Transport, Section 15.4 and 15.5.

All drivers of government vehicles are required to hold a current Northern Territory driving licence appropriate to the classification of the vehicle.

In addition, some departments/authorities (e.g. Primary Production and Health) require employees to hold an internally issued permit or authority to drive.

Internal circulars, memoranda or procedural manuals relating to use of government vehicles are issued by the Port Authority (Circular Nos. 32 and 33); Electricity Commission, (Use of NTEC Vehicles); Development Corporation (Procedure Manual No. 155); and Department of Law (Circular No. 80/75).

Only in exceptional circumstances will approval be given by the responsible minister for government vehicles to bear private number plates.

(c) General Policy on Officers Garaging Vehicles Overnight or Weekends

Extensively covered by PSC Memorandum 81/54, Principles on the use of Government Vehicles and Home Garaging.

Generally, permanent arrangements for home garaging are reviewed at least every 12 months and in many cases, particularly in the larger departments, reviews are carried out every 6 months. Normally, written approval is required and can only be given by Chief Executive Officers and the prescribed authorities. For casual home garaging to meet operational requirements, individual approval is provided by the delegated officer, at divisional or branch head level.

(d) Restrictions Placed on the Use of Vehicles Garaged

Vehicles with government number plates are restricted to official business only and must be secured in accordance with PSC Memorandum 1980/27. Government vehicles must not be parked on the street or in a public place overnight. Employees home garaging government vehicles are required to utilise the most direct route to and from the workplace.

When an employee is absent from work or away from his/her home location, the home garaged government vehicle must be made available for official use.

Vehicles with non-government number plates have no restriction on usage overnight or weekends other than for 'reasonable' private use.

Motor Vehicles

839 Mr SMITH to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

840 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

In his departments -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the departments;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

841 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

In his departments -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the departments;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

842 Mr SMITH to TREASURER

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

843 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

In his departments -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the departments;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

844 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

845 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

846 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

847 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In his department -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

848 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT, RECREATION and ETHNIC AFFAIRS

In his departments -

(a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the departments;

(b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;

(c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

(d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Subsidy - Chan Park Nursing Home

849 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

What is the nature and extent of the subsidy paid to Chan Park Nursing Home by the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government assists residents in the Chan Park Nursing Home by paying the difference between the established fee and the Commonwealth benefits and statutory pensioner contribution.

The estimated amount in 1982-83 is $290 000, i.e., approximately $29 per day per adult and $40 per day per child.

Sewerage Treatment Plant - Darwin

850 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What were the modifications to the Darwin central zone sewerage treatment plant recommended in the consultants' report of 1980?

2. What modifications have been made to the plant?

ANSWER

1. In the April 1980 report by consultants Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey the following modifications were recommended:

   (i) An effective flow meter be installed to assist in the correct

control of lime dosage.

(ii) The incinerator be taken out of service and arrangements made for land disposal or storage of the lime sludge.

2. (i) Three flow meters have been received and are in the process of being installed. Installation requires timing to cope with anticipated influent.

(ii) The chlorine system has been modified. Two cylinders are connected at one time with an automatic change over facility.

(iii) Two additional chlorine detectors have been installed.

(iv) An alarm system connected to Wormald International Security Service was installed to monitor critical items of the plant.

(v) The incinerator was taken out of service and the sludge disposed of as land fill, in the adjacent tidal mud flat as recommended.

Kurringal Court - Sale of Units

851 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

With reference to Kurringal Court -

1. On what date did the units become available for sale?

2. How many (a) 2-bedroom units, and (b) 1-bedroom units, have been sold to public servants?

3. How many (a) 2-bedroom units, and (b) 1-bedroom units, have been sold to people who were not otherwise eligible in terms of waiting-time for Housing Commission accommodation?

4. How many (a) 2-bedroom units, and (b) 1-bedroom units, are still vacant?

ANSWER

1. 10 August 1982.

2. (a) 11, (b) 4.

3. (a) 6, (b) 5.

4. (a) Nil, (b) 6.

Allocation - Housing Commission

852 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. How many persons are awaiting allocation of ground floor Housing Commission flats/units for medical reasons?

2. What is the waiting time for allocation of ground floor single bedroom flats/units?

ANSWER

1. Fifty-seven applicants are awaiting allocation of ground floor Housing Commission flats/units for medical reasons.

2. Approximate waiting time for allocation of ground floor single bedroom flats/units is 3 years. However, the 3 year wait time will be drastically reduced around April/May 1984 with the completion of 55 x 1-bedroom ground level pensioner units; in June/July 1984 the completion of a further 30 x 1-bedroom ground level pensioner units should reduce the wait time to zero.

Secondary Mortgage Market - Report

853 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

The fourth annual report of the Department of Law (p. 10) indicates that a report on the 'Secondary Mortgage Market' would be provided to you. Has the report been provided to you and, if so, what are its recommendations?

ANSWER

The report on the feasibility of a Territory secondary mortgage market has been presented to me.

Several conclusions and recommendations were reached but essentially the finding was that a secondary mortgage market was unlikely to develop unless various changes took place. The major drawbacks were seen to relate to the characteristics of home loan interest rates. As these are usually below those which generally operate in Australian financial markets, trading in home mortgages would not provide the returns that could be obtained from alternative forms of investment. Concessional rates of interest have been brought about by Commonwealth, State, and Territory government action to encourage home ownership. In addition to the problem of the interest rate level, there are also problems as a result of the majority of loans being long term at a variable rate and of a 'credit foncier' nature which are difficult to package into marketable securities. Investors are generally looking for short term investments that are readily marketable. In Australia, limited secondary mortgage transactions have generally been based on short term, interest only, loans with high rates of interest. In countries where secondary mortgage markets are more significant there is a greater proportion of home loans having these characteristics.

The report also concluded that it was unlikely that a market would develop in the Territory alone but that there could be benefits for the Territory if a market developed at the national level. The possibility of a national market is to be examined by the Commonwealth which has recently announced the formation of a working party to investigate this. It is our intention to liaise with the Commonwealth on this matter and to offer any assistance we can.

Transcription Services - Contract

854 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Will he provide details of the contract with Spark and Cannon Pty Limited entered into in April 1981 for transcription services and advise what steps are being taken to obviate the necessity for this work to be carried out outside the court service?

ANSWER

I will provide the honourable member with a copy of contract documents.

I do not propose to change the current arrangement. The contractor is providing at Alice Springs a good service at a lower per page cost than the government service in Darwin. The contractor employs Alice Springs residents and has been required under the terms of the contract to establish an office there. Very little work is performed by the contractor's staff outside the Territory and introduction of a government service would not significantly add to employment opportunities in Alice Springs.

Expenditure in respect of this contract by financial year is 1980-81, $292; 1981-82, $84,047; and 1982-83 (Projected), $96,000.

ANNEXURE 'A' T.B.1239/80

SPECIFICATIONS - COURT REPORTING CONTRACT

1. PERIOD & EXTENT OF CONTRACT

For tape reocrding and/or transcription of court proceedings in the Supreme Court and Magistrates Courts sitting in Alice Springs or other such places, or other such courts, tribunals enquiries, hearings and proceedings in and about Alice Springs as and when directed for two years commencing 27 April 1981.

2. FORM & REQUISITE OF TENDER

The Tenderer shall submit his tender on the attached Schedule of Prices and in conformity with these special conditions.

3. SECURITY DEPOSIT

The Contractors will not be required to lodge a security deposit.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION

The tenderer shall supply his tender, all data and information requisite for the Deputy Secretary's full understanding of the tender.

5. SERVICE REQUIRED

When required by the Deputy Secretary or his nominated agent the contractor shall provide as directed a service to record and transcribe or record or transcribe court proceedings and to provide such copies of transcript as are required. When directed to transcribe any proceedings the contractor shall be advised as to whether a running or delayed transcript is required.

(a) Running Transcript

(i) A running transcript will be required for all Supreme Court criminal sittings in Alice Springs. It is anticipated that there will be six (6) two-week criminal sittings in Alice Springs per annum.

(ii) In the event of further requirements for running transcript (other than for criminal sittings) the contractor will be given at least 24 hours notice.

(iii) The contractor is to provide the master copy of the morning transcript by the resumption of the afternoon sittings, and of the afternoon sittings no later than 90 minutes after adjournment.

(iv) The contractor will accept orders for transcript only from the Deputy Secretary or his nominated agent(s) and provide such transcript and copies as are required.

(v) The contractor will be guaranteed a minimum daily payment for providing a running transcript. This payment will cover the cost of providing services of a court monitor and the transcription of a minimum number of pages. The minimum pages will be calculated from the tenderer's specified rate per page and the minimum daily payment sought.

(vi) In the event of fewer pages of running transcript being provided than the minimum calculated in (v) above the contractor will be required to transcribe sufficient recorded tapes to bring total pages transcribed to the minimum

specified. If pre-recorded tapes cannot be provided on that occasion the minimum daily payment will still be made for that day.

(vii) The contractor shall deliver to the Deputy Secretary's nominated representative in Alice Springs master tape recordings within 24 hours of the conclusion of the hearing.

(b) Delayed Transcript

(i) As directed by the Deputy Secretary or by his nominated agent, the contractor will be required to transcribe pre-recorded tapes of court or of other proceedings.

(ii) Transcripts will be required both from recordings made by the contractor and from recordings made by Departmental staff.

(iii) Tenderers shall specify the maximum and average delays in the provision of delayed transcript. After a specific request by the Deputy Secretary or his nominated agent delayed transcript must be provided within ten days. Contractors may be asked to provide delayed transcript at shorter notice where urgency requires.

(c) Photocopying

(i) The contractor will be required to make photocopies of transcript as required by the Deputy Secretary or his nominated agent.

(ii) The Northern Territory Government will provide the contractor with the use of a photocopier, supply all consumables and be responsible for all maintenance. The contractor shall liaise with the nominated agent of the Deputy Secretary on all matters regarding the operation of the photocopier.

(iii) The contractor shall at all times during the term of the contract use the said photocopying equipment strictly in accordance with the hirer's instructions and pay the cost of any repairs arising out of the contractor's misuse.

6. TRANSCRIPT STANDARD & FORMAT

All transcripts of proceedings must conform to the transcript standard and format prescribed by the Department. Transcript is only to be provided within the Departments policy guidelines. A copy of the transcript standard and format manual and transcript policy guidelines are available from the officer in charge, Court Reporting Branch, Department of Law, Darwin.

7. MASTER TAPES OR CASSETTES

The contractor shall provide a master tape of all sittings monitored. The Deputy Secretary or his nominated agent shall be entitled to possession of the master tapes of all proceedings recorded by the contractor.

8. LABELLING OF TAPES OR CASSETTES

The contractor shall clearly label each master tape in order that the recorded proceeding on such tape shall be readily identifiable.

9. EQUIPMENT

Tenders will be accepted under either of the following arrangements:

(i) (a) The contractor to provide all equipment necessary for the proficient execution of the specified work including microphones, recorders, transcribers and typewriters.

The contractor will be required to transcribe from tapes and cassettes recorded by Departmental staff. At present the Alice Springs Magistrates Courts use Lanier cassettes recorders and Tanberg 350x reel-to-reel recorders, however it is likely that cassettes, will be used exclusively in the near future and during the period of this contract.

(b) The contractor shall at all times during the term of the contract maintain and keep in good and substantial repair condition and working order to the satisfaction of the Deputy Secretary or his nominated agent, all equipment owned and used by the contractor in the performance of its obligations under this contract.

(c) The contractor shall have available a suitable additional or substitute recording machine with which to be able to continue recording if there shall be a mechanical or electrical failure in the main recording system normally used to record proceedings in any Court.

(ii) The contractor to use appropriate tape recording and tape transcription equipment supplied by the Department of Law, that is, Lanier cassette equipment - the contractor to provide typewriters and consumables only.

10. ESTIMATED WORKLOAD

The following estimated minimum number of pages of transcript per annum are provided as a guide only.

Supreme Court Running Transcript (Alice Springs)	3,500 pages
Supreme Court Delayed Transcript (Alice Springs)	1,300 pages
Magistrates Courts Transcript (including Darwin and Alice Springs work)	10,000 pages

(The Magistrates Courts Transcript includes work to be accepted from the Darwin Magistrates Court).

11. EMPLOY SUFFICIENT SKILLED PERSONS

The contractor shall at its own cost and expense employ sufficient skilled persons to comply in all respects with the terms of this contract?

12. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

The contractor shall guarantee that at least 70% of all delayed transcript from whatever source is transcribed/typed in Alice Springs by locally based staff.

13. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

The Northern Territory Government shall provide the contractor rent free office accommodation in the Alice Springs Law Courts Building (corner of Parsons and Hartley Streets, Alice Springs) for staff engaged on the transcription of proceedings covered by these specifications.

The tenderer will be required to make himself familiar with the locality of the Law Court Building accommodation and to acquaint himself with all equipment furniture, fixtures and fittings currently installed.

Should the contractor wish to locate in the Court building staff engaged on other work for parties other than the Territory Government, the availability of accommodation will be subject to the approval of the Deputy Secretary and a charge may be levied.

Appointments to examine facilities may be arranged with the Clerk of Court Alice Springs.

14. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The contractor shall submit to the Deputy Secretary or his agent at the beginning of each calendar month a statement of account setting out: -

(a) The number of pages of (i) delayed and (ii) running transcript transcribed on each day during the preceding month.

(b) The number of hours of monitoring performed each day during the preceding month.

(c) The dates on which the minimum daily rate for provision of running transcript is charged.

A page is described as any quantity of typed material exceeding half of the available space for typing. Any quantity of typing under half a page is to be calculated as a half page.

15. INDEMNITY & INSURANCE

The contractor shall: -

(a) indemnify the Northern Territory Government against all actions and demands against all costs and expenses incurred or payable by the Territory in connection with or arising out of damage or loss to property and or and bodily injury sustained by any persons as a result of the service being provided by the contractor while performing its obligations under this contract. ie. Public Liability to the extent of $250 000 and Workers Compensation.

(b) not make any claim against the Territory in respect of any loss of or damage to any property of the contractor installed in the Alice Springs Law Court Buildings at the direction of the Deputy Secretary or his agent pursuant to this contract where such loss is due to fire, storm, tempest, earthquake, strikes, riots, malicious damage, internal or external explosion, aircraft and other aerial devices, flood and water.

(c) for the term of the contract insure and keep insured with a reputable insurance company to full insurable value thereof all equipment owned and used by the contractor in the performance of its obligations under this contract.

16. COPYRIGHT

Copyright in all transcripts and master tapes made or recorded by the contractor pursuant to this contract shall be reserved to the Attorney-General for the Northern Territory and no part of any master tape or transcript shall be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means whatsoever by the contractor except in accordance with the provisions of this contract or the authority of the Attorney-General.

17. NOTICE OF COPYRIGHT ON TRANSCRIPT

The complete transcript of each case recorded and transcribed by

the contractor shall have the following words at the head thereof:

"COPYRIGHT RESERVED"

(N.B.) Copyright in this transcript is the property of the Crown. If this transcript is copied without the Authority of the Attorney-General of the Northern Territory, proceedings for infringement will be taken.

18. DEFAULT

If the contractor shall default in due performance or observance of any obligations herein contained the Deputy Secretary may give notice in writing to the contractor specifying the default or defaults and request that they be made good to his satisfaction within such time as he shall specify in the notice.

19. DETERMINATION

The Deputy Secretary shall be at liberty to determine this contact by notice in writing to the contractor without prejudice to the rights of either parties in respect of any breach antecedent to such determination upon any one or more of the following events namely: -

(1) If any distress or execution shall be levied on or against any of the property or assets of the contractor or if a receiver or receiver and manager be appointed with respect to the whole or any part of the assets and undertaking of the contractor and the debt for which the levy shall be made or the receiver or receiver and manager is appointed shall not be paid within seven (7) days; or

(2) If the contractor becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangements or compromise with his creditors; or

(3) If an order is made or an effective resoltuion shall be passed to wind up the contractors company; or

(4) If the contractor shall threaten to cease or cease to carry on its obligations under this contract in a proper and efficient manner; or

(5) If a compromise or arrangement is proposed between the contractor and its creditors or any of them or if any application is made to the Court for an order summoning a meeting of the creditors of the contractors company; or

(6) If any encumbrancee shall take possession of the undertaking or any of the property or assets of the contractor or if the contractor shall dispose of its undertaking or a substantial part thereof.

20. NOT TO MORTGAGE OR ASSIGN

The contractor shall not mortgage, charge or assign its rights and privileges in this contract without first obtaining the written consent of the Deputy Secretary. The Deputy Secretary may withhold consent in his absolute discretion.

21. LAW OF THE CONTRACT

This contract shall be governed by and constructed according to the law of the Northern Territory of Australia.

22. NOTICES

Any notice or demand to be given or served by the Deputy Secretary or his agent upon the contractor may be deemed served by leaving or posting the notice at the contractors registered office or principal place of business in the Northern Territory.

23. SCREENING OF EMPLOYEES

The contractor shall submit to the Deputy Secretary at least seven (7) day prior to commencement of contract, or within such time as the Deputy Scretary may allow after application in writing by the contractor, a list of names and addresses of all persons who will be employed by him in the recording and/or transcription of court proceedings. At least seven (7) days before any person whom the contractor proposes to employ in the recording and/or transcription of court proceedings, commences duty, the contractor shall submit to the Deputy Secretary, the names and addresses of each such person. The Deputy Secretary may then without being bound to give any reason, by notice in writing, direct that the contractor shall not employ that person and the contractor shall comply with the direction immediately. The Deputy Secretary may at any time and without being bound to give reasons, withdraw approval under this condition to the employment of any person by the contractor on the premises and in such cases the Northern Territory Government shall not be liable to the contractor or to any person claiming through the contractor for any claim for damage or otherwise arising out of the withdrawal of approval. No persons (including children) other than those engaged and employed within the terms of this contract shall be permitted access to any building.

24. CONTRACTOR TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS EMPLOYEES

The contractor shall be responsible for the good and proper conduct of the persons engaged by him and employed in the Court Recording Service.

ANNEXURE 'B' T.B. 1239/80

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. PRICE BASIS: The tenderer shall stipulate in his tender whether the tendered price is to be firm over the whole of the contract or is to be subject to alteration by an amount equal to: -

(a) The increase or decrease in the costs of the contract resulting from: -

(i) variations which may be approved subsequent to the date of tendering by the appropriate Commonwealth or state Authority in respect of rates of pay and/or conditions of employment; and/or

(ii) variations subsequent to the date of tendering in the ruling market prices of those materials required for the performance of the service and which can be identified unmistakably and conveniently as forming part of the service, provided that where the price of such material is controlled by competent Statutory Authority, only such variation as is authorised by the Authority will be recognised; and/or

(iii) variations in the cost of sub-contracted work determining in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (i) and (ii) of this clause.

The maximum increases in price which will be allowed under contracts arranged subject to price variations are those payable if services are performed within the time specified in the contract, unless authority to charge otherwise is sought, in writing, prior to the date for completion of deliveries and granted in writing on behalf of the Board.

All applications for price variations must be sought within one month after the occurrence of the event giving rise to the claim.

All documents and records necessary to substantiate any application for price variation must accompany the application.

Any proposal may include provision for variation in the rates of exchange, duty cost of materials, labour and/or freight components only. No provision shall be made for variation in percentage profit.

If a tenderer requires variation of tendered prices or rates during the currency of the contract, he shall indicate in the space provided, his proposed formula for effecting such variation. A tender shall not be accepted until the Tender Board and the tenderer have agreed on the actual price variation formula which will apply.

2. INSPECTION: Acceptance of any service shall be subject to its being in accordance with this specification and to the satisfaction of the Inspecting Officer or his representative. (Clause 13 of the General Conditions refers).

INFORMATION/DATA TO BE PROVIDED BY TENDERER

ITEM	SERVICE REQUIRED	TENDERED RATE
1A	For Tenderers Proposing to Provide their own Monitoring Equipment	
	(i) Monitoring and Equipment: -	
	- less than 3 hours booked	$ 39.60
	- more than 3 hours booked	$ 69.30
	- beyond 5 p.m. per half hour	$ 6.50
	- minimum attendance fee per day	$ 39.60
	(ii) Running transcript rate per page	$ 4.67
	(iii) Delayed transcript rate per page	$ 3.90
	(iv) Minimum charge for transcription on any day on which a running transcript has been sought by the Deputy Secretary or his nominee	$303.55
	N.B.: Tenderers completing the above should also complete 1B in the event it is decided that the N.T. Government owned equipment must be used by the successful tenderer.	
1B	For Tenderers Proposing to Utilise N.T. Government Monitoring Equipment	
	(i) Monitoring and Equipment: -	
	- less than 3 hours booked	$ 39.60
	- more than 3 hours booked	$ 69.30
	- beyond 5 p.m. per half hour	$ 6.50
	- minimum attendance fee per day	$ 39.60
	(ii) Running transcript rate per page	$ 4.67
	(iii) Delayed transcript rate per page	$ 3.90

(iv) Minimum charge for transcription on any day on which a running transcript has been sought by the Deputy Secretary or his nominee $303.55

SIGNATURE OR SEAL OF TENDERER: . . . . . .

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: . . . . . .

PRICE BASIS: The tendered prices are: - (See Special Condition 1).

a. ☐ Firm

b. ☑ Subject to variation in accordance with Special Condition No. 1 . . . . . .(a) (i) . . . . . (Insert applicable Clause).

The tenderer is required to place a tick in the box against one of the alternatives above. Unless otherwise stated by the tenderer, the tendered price will be regarded as firm. Other things being equal, firm prices will be preferred.

If the tendered price will be subject to variation, the tenderer is required to state hereunder the basic costs and rates upon which the tendered price is based (e.g. labour, freight rate, price of materials): -

Price Component	Percentage of Price	Rate/Price on which Tendered Price Based
Labour	90 %	$ 8.50

Please provide full details of the formula for the variation:

Tendered rates in 1A to vary by an amount equal to 90% of any increase in the basic or minimum wage awarded during any quarter by the Commonwealth Arbitration Commission, such variation to be effective from the date of written application by the contractor.

SIGNATURE OR SEAL OF TENDERER:. . . . . .

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: . . . . . .

3. PROVISION OF DELAYED TRANSCRIPTS

The tender is to specify the maximum and average expected delays in the provision of delayed transcripts (refer Annexure 'A' Paras. 5b (iii).

Maximum Delay	5 working days	Hours
Average Delay	3 working days	Hours

4. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

Total number of employees to be used in the performance of the service: 6.

No. of Personnel	Position Held, ie. Monitor, Typist, etc.
1 Manager/Snr Monitor 2 Audio-typists 1 Typist-monitor 1 Junior Clerk (Accts/wages - subcontract) Alice Springs	Adelaide labour content relating to administration, financial control, and absorption of some delayed transcript work estimated to equate approximately to one senior reporter for 35 weeks for the first year.

The number of personnel (included in the above total) who are locally (Alice Springs) based staff 5 refer (Annexure 'A' Para. 12).

No. of Personnel	Position Held
5	As above.

5. MONITORING EQUIPMENT

Tenderer shall ~~state if it~~ would be their intention to use Northern Territory Government monitoring equipment.

~~Northern Territory Government Monitoring Equipment~~ (Delete that which is not applicable)

or

Tenderers Monitoring Equipment.

Should you elect to provide your own equipment detail hereunder the equipment to be used in the event of being awarded the contract. (N.B.: Include Substitute Equipment. Ref.: Para. 9 (1) (c) of Specification).

Custom built mains power and battery charged 8-channel mixers with AKG microphones - mono system with simultaneous transcription cassette and master cassette recordings on AIWA and Sony recorders mains/battery. Transcription to be done on Sony Transcribers using IBM Selectric typewriters. Lanier units for pre-recorded cassette transcription.

Total value (for insurance purposes) of the above mentioned equipment: $ 12,000 approx.

6. INSURANCE

In accordance with Specification Para. 15 provide the following information in respect of:

(i) Workers Compensation: (To be advised if tender successful)

INSURER (Company) . . . . . .
POLICY NO. (If available) . . . . . .
NATURE OF POLICY (Extent of cover). . . . . .

(ii) Public Liability ($250 000):

INSURER (Company) . . . . . .
POLICY NO. (If available) . . . . . .
NATURE OF POLICY (Extent of cover). . . . . .

(iii) Contractors Equipment on N.T. Government Premises:

INSURER (Company) . . . . . .
POLICY NO. (If available) . . . . . .
NATURE OF POLICY (Extent of cover). . . . . .

N.B.: (i) The successful tenderer agrees to effect and keep in force in respect of the services with an insurance office approved by the Territory (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld) an adequate public risk policy for an amount of not less than an amount approved by the Territory covering injury to person and property and Workers Compensation policy and shall produce to the Territory evidence of payment of the premiums of such insurances.

The successful tenderer agrees that should (they) the contractor at any time fail to effect and maintain insurances as referred to in Specifications Clause 15 or if any such insurances shall or may be liable to cancellation or be

voidable or if the contractor shall fail to produce to the Territory upon request any policy or the receipt for the current renewal thereof the Territory may do all things necessary to effect or maintain such insurances and all moneys paid or expenses incurred by the Territory for such purposes shall be repayable by the contractor on demand and may be recovered as payment in arrear.

7. CAPACITY OF TENDERER TO PERFORM THE REQUIRED SERVICE

The Tenderer shall state hereunder details of experience in providing the type of service required in this contract:

Both working directors of the company have in excess of 20 years court reporting experience - initially as shorthand writers but for the last 18 years totally with sound recording systems. The company has reported proceedings in all states of Australia and currently has contracts in Western Australia and South Australia (State) and involvement in all states (Federal) in a sub-contract capacity for the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. Company personnel currently number 46 (30 in Adelaide).

SIGNATURE OR SEAL OF TENDERER: . . . . . .
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: . . . . . .

Upgrading - Katherine Terrace

856 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Are there plans to upgrade the pavement in Katherine Terrace to a standard such as the Mall in Darwin in the 1983-84 financial year?

ANSWER

There are no plans to upgrade Katherine Terrace footpaths during 1983-84.

However, my department is aware of some deterioration in the kerb and footpaths in the Katherine Terrace commercial area. The department proposes to include appropriate reinstatement works in the maintenance program for 1983-84.

The Darwin Mall is purely a pedestrian way and footpath reinstatement treatment in Katherine Terrace needs to take account of different considerations. Reinstatement of the pavement to the previous standard is all that is planned at this stage. If at some time in the future subsequent upgrading is undertaken discussions with the Council will then take place to determine the appropriate treatment to be utilised.

Beef Export Licence

857 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

Has any decision been made on the need for a special export licence for beef killed to Australian domestic standards?

ANSWER

Yes. Following initiatives taken by the Northern Territory at meetings of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (SCA) and the Australian Agricultural Council (AAC) in Adelaide in February 1982, the need for export licences for beef killed to Australian domestic standards has been acknowledged by the Royal Commission into the Australian Meat Industry, the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry (CDPI), and by SCA at its 127th meeting in Sydney in February 1983.

A Draft Standard for Construction of Australian Meatworks has been distributed by CDPI and a meeting of Commonwealth, State and Territory officers will be convened in the near future to consider the draft and to recommend such amendments as may seem to be appropriate.

Standard export licences will be issued to meatworks conforming to the common Australian standard, and ... such abattoirs will be eligible to supply meat to interstate markets and to such international markets as are prepared to accept meat of the same standard.

Special export licences will be issued to establishments complying with such additional, special requirements as particular importing countries may require.

Non-export licences may be issued to slaughterhouses complying with requirements for the marketing of meat within prescribed local areas; but not licensed to supply interstate or international markets.

BTB Eradication

858 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

What steps will be taken to fund the BTB eradication campaign in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Following the adoption of the national BTEC plan by Agricultural Council in February 1983, officers of the Department of Primary Production have been negotiating an agreement with the Commonwealth for the introduction of the new measures of assistance to commence in the 1983 cattle working season. This agreement is now close to finalisation.

Mr Kerin, Minister for Primary Industry, Canberra, has advised that funds for the existing forms of assistance, namely, campaign operational costs and compensation, will continue to be made available by the Commonwealth. While the Commonwealth is unable immediately to provide funds for the additional measures of assistance, funding for these additional measures will be considered in the 1983-84 Budget context.

Housing Need - Katherine

859 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. Is he aware of the urgent need for houses and flats in Katherine?

2. When can action be expected for the alleviation of this problem?

ANSWER

1. Yes, for NTPS staff housing.

As at 1 April 1983 the following numbers are on waiting lists:

Staff:	1-bedroom flat	33	Wait time	22 months
	2-bedroom flat	Nil	Wait time	Unknown
	3-bedroom house	22	Wait time	17 months
	4-bedroom house	Nil	Wait time	Unknown
General public:	1-bedroom flat	61	Wait time	10 months
	2-bedroom flat	48	Wait time	12 months
	3-bedroom house	44	Wait time	12 months
	4-bedroom house	4	Wait time	15 months

The optimum wait time for all types of accommodation units is 12 months and wait times for NTPS staff and general public 4-bedroom houses

exceed this period. The staff housing list has been closed off. New staff applicants go on a combined general public staff listing. Residual applicants on the staff housing list will be offered staff housing but they have the option to transfer to the general public wait list.

2. Twenty-nine houses are yet to be completed on the 1982-83 Housing Program and a further 74 units of accommodation are proposed for 1983-84 Housing Program. Completion of both programs should alleviate the staff housing problem and maintain all wait times at 12 months.

Rotary Road Safety Centre - Katherine

860 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are Katherine school children taking full advantage of the Rotary Road Safety Centre near Clyde Fenton School?

ANSWER

Katherine school children are taking as full advantage of the Rotary Road Safety Centre as circumstances allow. It must be realised that schools have a crowded curriculum with many competing demands for school time. While schools are well aware of the importance of education in road safety and devote as much time to it as they can, there is only a proportion of this limited time which might properly be spent utilising the facilities of the Katherine Rotary Road Safety Centre.

Already this year, Year 5 and 6 classes from Clyde Fenton, and Year 5 from Katherine School of the Air, have used the centre. Other classes from Katherine primary and pre-schools will use it as the year progresses. On 7 April 1983, the Regional Superintendent circularised all Katherine town schools encouraging use of the centre.

Beef Export

863 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

1. What advantage would there be for NT cattlemen if Darwin became the outlet for its export beef?

2. What advantages would there be for NT cattlemen if all export meatworks practised a uniform Halal kill approved by Muslim law?

ANSWER

1. Australian beef exports to its major customers are handled by various conferences (commercial associations) of individual shipping lines. The Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation (AMLC) designates the individual shipping lines that are approved for the trade and sets a maximum freight rate for each of the major trade routes. The AMLC does not designate ports that the lines must serve. This is purely a matter for commercial judgment.

   If services for the direct export of beef through Darwin were available, the export beef processors at Mudginberri, Point Stuart and, to a lesser extent, Tennant Creek would save a significant proportion of the costs they currently incur due to the necessity to transport export product to one of the larger southern ports.

   In the case of the Katherine abattoir, this works is a party to a special centralization cost-sharing agreement. Under this scheme, Katherine production is uplifted from Wyndham at the shipping line's expense. Thus, the implications of direct export through Darwin are

different for Katherine abattoir compared to other Territory abattoirs.

Adequate quantities of cargo must be available for uplift if international shipping lines are to be induced to call at the port of Darwin. However, Darwin could be of interest as a 'topping-up' call for lines operating the Australia-Japan trade.

Discussions are currently being held with a major shipping line interested in utilizing the port of Darwin in this manner. Beef shipments would hopefully be part of the cargo available for uplift. Because most of the Northern Territory beef exports are destined for the United States of America this beef would have to be transhipped in Japan.

2. Quality control of Australian rural exports is administered by the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry. Australian meat exports to importers stipulating a requirement for Halal kill must be accompanied by Department of Primary Industry documentation certifying that the meat has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Islamic faith. Halal kill is primarily required by Malaysia and the Middle East nations.

   Malaysia requires all meat imports to have been slaughtered according to the Halal ritual and will only permit the importation of meat slaughtered at establishments that are approved and listed by the Malaysian government.

   The latest official Malaysian inspection tour took place during the seasonal closure of works in northern Australia and, consequently, none of the Territory's abattoirs are currently listed for export to Malaysia. The AMLC is attempting to have this situation rectified. Iran also requires special listing but since this trade is primarily in mutton it is of less concern to NT processors.

   It is a condition for Department of Primary Industry certification of Halal killing that the slaughtering is performed by a member of one of several recognised Islamic groups or individuals. These groups and individuals charge a fee for performing the Halal ritual. This fee varies between organisation but averages about 20 cents per carton or $1 per carcass where exports are in whole carcass form. The AMLC and the recognised Islamic groups are currently negotiating a single system of certification of slaughtermen and a single set fee.

   Because of the additional charge involved, it would be disadvantageous to have the entire throughput at export abattoirs slaughtered according to Halal requirements when this is not required by all importers.

NTDC Loan

864 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Has a NTDC loan been granted to the Territory based company, Northern Research Pty Limited?

2. If so, what was the value of the loan and for what purpose was it granted?

ANSWER

1. No. The corporation has not at any stage provided financial assistance to a company of that name.

2. Not applicable.

Reclassification - NTPS 'E' Levels

865 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many public servants in the 'E' levels of the NTPS have been promoted or reclassified upwards since 1 January 1982?

2. Have any promotions or positions reclassified upwards since 1 January 1982 not been published in the *Government Gazette* and, if so, why?

ANSWER

1. For the period 1 January 1982 to 30 June 1983, 62 NTPS employees were promoted within the executive levels.

2. In the same period, one only promotion was not notified in the *Northern Territory Government Gazette*. A position in the Housing Commission was reclassified to the executive level E4 as a result of reorganisation.

   The employee promoted, had performed the role at a lower level for a number of years; was considered competent; and, no good reason would have been served by either advertising the position or notifying the promotion in the *Northern Territory Government Gazette*.

Tenders - Low-cost Housing, Alice Springs

866 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

In response to advertisements inviting tenders for low-cost houses in Alice Springs, (a) how many tenders were received, (b) how many houses will be built and how many blocks has the Housing Commission set aside, and (c) when will the first building associated with this project be commenced?

ANSWER

(a) Helm Constructions Pty Ltd, 3 tenders (3 house types); H. Muller, 1 tender (1 house type); Universal Constructions (N.T.) Pty Ltd, 1 tender (2 house types); Acinorev Pty Ltd, 4 tenders (4 house types); Robri Constructions, 2 tenders (2 house types).

The entries were judged by a panel consisting of H. Weber (representing Alice Springs Council), M. Juett (Master Builders), R. Polwika (Director, Alice Springs NTHC) and Director Technical NTHC.

(b) At present no houses will be built. All entries except the one from H. Muller failed on the grounds that they were not low cost, Mr Muller has been offered one house but he is not available for 2 to 3 months.

The NTHC provisionally set aside 7 blocks but some of these have now been used.

(c) Possibly 3 months hence.

Vocational Training Commission - TAFE

869 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Since the Vocational Training Commission has been given overall control of policy and planning in relation to TAFE, have the terms of reference of the TAFE Advisory Committee changed?

2. If so, what are the new terms of reference?

ANSWER

The TAFE Advisory Committee came into existence following a resolution of the Vocational Training Commission at its meeting of 17-18 February 1983.

The terms of reference set for the TAFE Advisory Committee at that meeting have not altered and are as follows:

To make recommendations to the commission on:

- the formulation of policy and planning advice on matters relating to the co-ordination of TAFE in the Northern Territory;
- the preparation of co-ordinated funding proposals on TAFE;
- advice on TAFE funding and building needs as they relate to both Commonwealth and Territory sources; and
- accreditation of TAFE courses.

Conditions at Berrimah Prison

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Given that prison officers have stated to the Supreme Court that conditions in Berrimah Prison for 2 chronically mentally-ill persons currently held there are inhumane, what will the government do to provide 24-hour hospital and medical care for these and similarly-placed persons?

ANSWER

I advise her that the matter is sub judice.

Retirement Centre for Rural Old Timers

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS

What is the position regarding allocation of land to the Rural Old Timers' Association in the rural area for a retirement centre?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think that,2 or 3 weeks ago, Cabinet received a submission from the Department of Health regarding the provision of land and other assistance for the establishment of an old timers' home in the rural area. This submission came as a response to requests from the Rural Old Timers' Association with the support of the honourable member for Tiwi. The Cabinet decided to lend certain assistance to the Rural Old Timers' Association and, in addition, to allocate to them approximately 7 ha of land. Judging from submissions made to me by the honourable member for Tiwi since then, it appears that this particular piece of land is not entirely suitable in the view of the Rural Old Timers' Association. The land is apparently across the road from where they would like to have their land. Although the Department of Lands is of the opinion that this is superior land, the Rural Old Timers' Association apparently wants the land across the road because it believes it would allow for future expansion. I point out that it has been offered an area of approximately 15 acres which, I would imagine, would allow for considerable expansion.

The land across the road is considered to be inferior in that it is rougher terrain and is also partly covered by old hard standing areas established in the Second World War to service Sattler airstrip. Nevertheless, I have requested the Department of Lands to accede to the request of the Rural Old Timers' Association. Steps are now being taken to reverse the Cabinet decision in relation to the particular lot number and make available a similar area of land across the road. There is only one drawback from the government's point of view in that services will have to be extended to the other area which will cost additional money. In the interests of peace, harmony and cooperation with a very active group in the rural area, we have conceded that it may have the particular piece of land that its heart is set upon.

I hope that this will be satisfactory both to the honourable member for Tiwi and to the chairman and members of the Rural Old Timers' Association. We certainly wish it well in its endeavours to establish facilities in the rural area including a retirement village for older people. It will require considerable financial assistance too from the Commonwealth and from the Territory government. Let us hope this will be forthcoming.

Criminally Insane Persons

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What provisions does he intend to make for that category of persons requiring specialised medical attention who are known generally as the criminally insane?

ANSWER

The Leader of the Opposition would be aware that I made a statement in the Assembly earlier this year. That statement has not been debated yet and I advise him that I will address myself to his question at the appropriate time.

Gas Reticulation for Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is the suggestion to reticulate gas along the Esplanade and other city streets in Darwin under consideration by the Northern Territory government and, if so, what stage have those considerations reached?

ANSWER

The government, through the Department of Mines and Energy, has indeed been approached by a well-known national distributor of gas products, Boral. Its proposal is very similar to that mentioned by the honourable member for Port Darwin. Members would be aware that it is the normal practice of governments throughout the western world not to deal directly with companies but to call for tenders or expressions of interest. Although that system is designed to protect the taxpayers' money against collusion between governments and various companies, it results inevitably in the delay of very good project ideas. It is the government's intention to call for expressions of interest in gas reticulation throughout Darwin. If that is successful, I would like to see a similar call for expressions of interest in reticulating gas in Alice Springs and other centres if and when that ever becomes economically viable.

As Minister for Mines and Energy, I will be inserting advertisements in newspapers nationally within the next couple of weeks calling for that expression of interest. Naturally, we would expect detailed proposals to be put forward including routing, structuring, aesthetic considerations, storage and safety facilities to secure the tanks against accidents. The logical place for a gas storage facility in Darwin would be down from the cliffs, probably in an area adjacent to this building. Of course, the environmental and aesthetic impact of that would have to be considered carefully. Such things as traffic disruption, the method of laying the trenches and the amount of inconvenience to the public generally would have to be considered. With regard to the reticulation of gas in this manner, we are talking about a long-term benefit to the people of Darwin as opposed to short-term inconvenience while the system is installed.

We would also want to be assured of continuity of supply. We would want the expressions of interest to address themselves to such issues as the compatibility of the reticulation system and the possible advent of natural gas from offshore. There is an enormous deposit but, of course, it is enormously expensive to bring it onshore having regard to the remoteness of

the known gas fields in the Bonaparte Gulf and elsewhere.

Mr Speaker, all of those matters will be addressed in the advertisement calling for expressions of interest. I have little doubt we will receive very good responses from Boral and perhaps its competitors such as CIG and so on - the more the merrier; the greater the competition, the better. When we have those responses, they will be subjected to detailed analysis by government and, based upon the worth or otherwise of those projects, decisions will be made at that time. I hope to see a positive response from industry in order that the government's response may be positive. I can see a great deal of benefit in this as an alternative and perhaps long-term and secure heating supply. Any form of heat can be used also for air-conditioning purposes as was demonstrated by the use of kerosene for many decades. There is a wide range of application for such reticulation. In view of the diminishing fossil fuel reserves of the world, the enormous reserves of gas in its various forms which are available to us would render such a reticulation system very desirable indeed.

Solar Appliance Rebates

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What are the reasons for discontinuing the solar appliance rebates which have been available to eligible householders for the past 2 years?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, they have not been discontinued at all, as I made clear in a press statement recently. Those rebates will continue. It is only necessary for people to apply to NTEC as they always have. If any confusion has been caused, I accept responsibility for it. There is a Cabinet submission currently before government which addresses itself to the possible extension of rebates to photovoltaic cell use and so on. Within the resources available to us, we would prefer to extend the program rather than curtail it. I do not know where the honourable member for Sanderson obtained her information. The Cabinet submission must have fallen off the back of a truck because it asks for Cabinet's formal approval for the continuation of the scheme. Obviously, I did not make it clear to NTEC that I did not want the matter of its continuation brought into question at all. Of course, we will continue with that very worthwhile scheme. For my part, I would like to see it extended, not only in terms of percentage of rebate - that may be a little difficult in the budgetary sense - but certainly to encourage the wider use of solar technology in the urban environment and particularly the rural environment.

Mr Speaker, this technology is advancing very rapidly. Recently, we were treated to a display of photovoltaic developments in the USA by a group of USA designers and engineers. It was quite a fascinating study. They are now obtaining megawatts in electricity production. These trackers are large, photovoltaic panels about 32 inches by 32 inches. I apologise to Gus Henry of Professional Services Branch of the Department of Education. I use those figures because the USA is not yet metric. While producing electricity from solar energy at only 12% efficiency, these panels are nonetheless now providing grid electricity in the megawatt range.

While the McDonald Douglas project - and I am diverting a little here - was aesthetically displeasing to many, the newer technology coming on stream is not. While these systems are producing megawatts in city reticulation systems, they also have a very good application in the rural environment and

in remote communities all of which the government would like to address to see whether assistance can be made available.

Members who took the opportunity to visit the trade fair at Dripstone High School would have observed a photovoltaic cell-powered pumping system. If we translate the image of that system from an air-conditioned building into rural areas, and couple its incredible capacity for pumping water with a solar-powered desalination or purification plant, and the consequent saving in dieseline, then, where we are looking at general subsidies as taxpayers, if we can subsidise the solar side rather than the diesel side, we will be doing a service to everyone. It is true that the subsidy scheme will be continued and hopefully extended.

Land Reserved for Public Access

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS

My question relates to the rationalisation of the boundaries of Koolpinyah. I must preface my question by advising the Assembly that I have been advised that the government has acquired a beach frontage 1 km deep from the Tree Point to Gunn Point boundary. Is it now the government's policy to reserve such land for public access when the opportunity arises?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the member for Nightcliff has asked me for a statement of policy on the reservation of beach frontage land. Of course, it has always been the Territory government's policy in a general sense to reserve the foreshores for public use. My predecessor in the office of Minister for Lands put on public display the Darwin Foreshores Protection Scheme. I think that was adopted by the Darwin Town Planning Authority and other relevant authorities after a considerable period of public display and without a great deal of public debate. Perhaps that was because the scheme appealed widely to the community.

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the full details of the acquisitions that the government has undertaken at Koolpinyah. I know that we have acquired several areas of land after investigating the needs of the government and, of course, the needs of the public for land in that area. After protracted negotiations with the lessee, certain acquisitions have taken place. From memory, we have acquired an area on Gunn Point that belonged formerly to the lessee of Koolpinyah. Again, from memory, this was a special purposes lease or freehold area. I am assured by my colleague, the former minister who has had somewhat more to do with the matter than I have, that it was freehold. That would have a seafront area. The whole purpose of this project is to integrate this area with the government's proposal for a recreation area at Gunn Point for the people of Darwin and the Top End in particular but, for that matter, any people in the Territory or Australia who choose to avail themselves of it. Through the Conservation Commission, we have been taking steps in that area to put in boat ramps, access roads, toilets, barbeques and other facilities so that, whilst in a sense people will be roughing it, nonetheless, they will have the basic amenities. Hopefully, this will cause them to congregate together and not camp all over the place and perhaps damage the environment.

Certainly, it is the government's intention that that area of foreshore at Gunn Point be reserved for the use of the public. Honourable members will

appreciate that areas of foreshore in the Northern Territory are particularly valuable because somewhat in excess of two-thirds of our coastline is not open to the public. Indeed, a good part of the coastal waters for 2 km offshore in those areas is not open to the public and, in fact, can be alienated as well. Therefore, the Territory government has a settled policy to try to make available as much seafront land as possible for the recreation and enjoyment of the public although there will have to be alternative uses from time to time for sailing clubs, marinas, lifesaving clubs etc that cannot be located a mile or two inland. Nonetheless, we certainly intend, as far as possible, to keep the maximum amount of seafront land available to the public.

Spot Checks on Vehicles

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Are Transport and Works transport inspectors still operating spot checks on vehicles on the roads?

ANSWER

Transport inspectors carry out spot checks on taxis, hire cars, buses and vehicles in excess of 4.5 t in the course of their daily operations. Private vehicles up to 4.5 t which have safety defects are detected during normal patrols. All vehicles which have reported minor defects are liable for call in.

Hermannsburg Road

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer him to my petition in relation to the Hermannsburg Road. Is he aware of the dangers to my constituents, to visitors to Palm Valley and other tourist attractions in the Northern Territory and to people constructing the Palm Valley to Alice Springs pipeline? If the government is so aware, what action is proposed?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for his question. We do treat petitions seriously. Obviously, the petition will be considered by the department and a report will come to me on the status of the road and what action will need to be taken. We do not regard his petition as frivolous and every consideration will be given to it.

Spot Checks on Vehicles

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Would he consider a system of spot checks on heavy vehicles and buses on the owners' premises?

ANSWER

There are practical problems in undertaking spot checks of vehicles on the owners' premises as distinct from a field situation. However, the registrar can call vehicles in or ask to inspect vehicles which he believes

may be unroadworthy. Advice is available on suitable standards of maintenance. The Australian Transport Advisory Council has endorsed a maintenance code for buses and copies have been circulated to all Northern Territory bus operators. Consideration is being given to whether all school bus contract vehicles should comply with the code and the records being available for inspection from time to time.

Employment of Mr Combe as Lobbyist

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he advise if the amount of money involved in the employment of Mr David Combe as a lobbyist for the Northern Territory government in Canberra is in the order of $150 000?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this question is intersting. For the Opposition Leader even to have asked this reflects some doubt on my reputation for truthfulness. I have already told this Assembly and I have certainly told the media - and it has been given wide publicity - that the Northern Territory government is paying Mr David Combe a retainer of $25 000 a year. We have heard from Mr Peter Morris, the federal Minister for Transport, who has a reputation for saying anything that comes into his head, that we are paying Mr Combe $1000 a day. No one knows where Mr Morris got that figure from and he certainly has never enlightened us as to where it came from.

Mr B.Collins: Mr Combe.

Mr EVERINGHAM: The Leader of the Opposition says that he got the figure from Mr Combe. That shows us that Mr Combe's contacts with the federal ministry are as good as they ever were.

I believe, Mr Speaker, that a retainer of $25 000 per annum is not unreasonable in the circumstances. As I have previously told this Assembly, we use 'lobbyists' as they are called or 'consultants' as they actually appear in the public service documentation that talks about them to attempt to gain for the Northern Territory information, usually at the bureaucratic level, about events, programs or policies that are likely to be taken up which will have an impact on the Northern Territory. The processes by which the federal government operates usually mean that developments occur in the departments even before ministers get to hear of them. If one has consultants who have widespread connections through the bureaucracy, through political staff and so on, one obtains intelligence that enables one to take necessary remedial action where the interests of the Northern Territory are being threatened. It is for that reason and for no other that the Northern Territory employs lobbyists.

It has been said that we should use our federal representatives. We do, Mr Speaker. We use our federal representatives and always have done so to the best of our ability but there are only 3 federal representatives from the Territory and they spend a great deal of their time on committees and in the House. When they are in Canberra, they are usually flat strap anyway and they have very little contact with the bureaucracy. For that matter, it takes them years to build up the sort of contacts that are of any use. That is why, to put it bluntly, you buy information from these people called 'lobbyists'. It is certainly one of the oldest professions in the world.

I think that lobbyists are recorded as having been in the precincts of the Roman Senate and, no doubt, they were received.

Mr B. Collins: Were their conversations monitored?

Mr EVERINGHAM: They were probably written on tablets of stone, Mr Speaker. I understand too, from my reading on the subject when I was younger, that lobbyists in the days of the Roman Empire received substantially larger fees than they do today.

While I am on my feet, and reflecting on the Leader of the Opposition's apparent disbelief of my statements, I think I have told the media at least 20 times that this government does not propose to have an early election. We believe that, unless some extraordinary event occurs, we should run our full term. The Leader of the Opposition appears to doubt my veracity on this subject as well by referring in an off-handed way to elections. However, I would like to try to put this subject to bed because I believe that the efforts of the media and the opposition to keep the subject of an early election at the forefront of people's minds are simply unsettling to the community at a time when we really need to be getting on with the job. Unemployment figures in the Territory are high and perhaps that can be attributed to the season. But, we want to keep this community in a state of confidence and, as far as possible, tranquility, so that people will put their hands in their pockets and pull their money out or go to see their bank manager or their financier and borrow money to get on with projects. We do not want totally unnecessary talk about early elections.

I do not know how many times I have given what virtually amounts to a categorial assurance. It is with great reluctance that I raise this subject in the Assembly because I should not have to. The Leader of the Opposition seems to be intent on creating uncertainty about the whole subject. I believe that sort of uncertainty can only do harm to the Territory's situation. If the Leader of the Opposition is interested in jobs and employment, he should cease talking about an early election. I have said more than most leaders of any government anywhere would say on the subject. I have said that, unless some extraordinary event occurs, the Northern Territory will have its election at the normal time.

Commonwealth Financial Assistance for NT Electricity Generation

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

What has the Territory government been doing to ensure continuous Commonwealth financial assistance for electricity generation in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, members will be aware of the importance of our funding arrangements for electricity with the Commonwealth. They are important to our very future. It is the one area of Northern Territory funding that, if it ceased, would probably send the Northern Territory broke. Honourable members will be aware that the Memorandum of Understanding which was settled at self-government provided that, for the first 4 years of the agreement, actual losses in the electricity system in the Northern Territory would be picked up by the Commonwealth. That arrangement was put in place in the absence of any other arrangements and in order to settle the matter and not have self-government delayed as a result of uncertainty about the electricity

system.

In June last year, at the end of that 4-year period, agreement was reached with the previous federal government in regard to a formula subsidy arrangement to apply until 1987. This formula arrangement included assistance with the construction of the Channel Island power-station stage 1. Unfortunately, the formal written details of that agreement were only finalised by officials of both governments early this year. The new Labor government refused to endorse the agreement when we raised the matter with it in March this year. Very shortly after its election, the Chief Minister and I saw Senator Walsh, the minister responsible, and asked him to confirm his government's support for that particular agreement. At that time, he refused.

I can assure honourable members that, because of the importance that we place on these arrangements with the federal government and the terrible consequences to the Northern Territory of those arrangements not being confirmed, the Chief Minister and I have made repeated representations to both Senator Walsh and the Prime Minister on virtually every one of the many trips made by the Chief Minister, and to a lesser extent myself, to Canberra since the Labor government came to office. We have sought to reinforce the importance which the Northern Territory government places on this particular agreement which, we are adamant, had been reached completely with the previous federal government but simply had not been signed at that state. Mr Speaker, during the period in which we raised this matter with those respective ministers and the Prime Minister, our case was not assisted at all by the rantings of the Leader of the Opposition in this Assembly and the NT member of the House of Representatives about how the Territory was over-funded in their view. Honourable members will be well aware of what has been said in that regard. That attitude certainly did not help those negotiations. However, there is a satisfactory ending. I am pleased to advise that the Prime Minister has written as recently as this morning to the Chief Minister informing the Northern Territory that the federal government has now confirmed the agreement reached last year with the former federal government which, up until this morning, the present federal government had refused to ratify. I am satisfied that, in the end, justice has been done. It has been an agreement all along. However, agreements are only as strong as the people who are to stand by them. We now have this assurance that the new federal government will stand by that agreement, as indeed it should because it is a specific part of the basis of the self-government settlement.

Ratification of Electricity Agreement

Mr LEO to TREASURER

Is it true that the electricity agreement to which the Treasurer has just referred had not been signed by the Fraser government for a period of 7 months after it had been drafted?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is not true. In fact, the documents were prepared finally for signature between the former federal minister, Senator Carrick, and myself. They were ready for signature at the time the federal government called the election and were not signed for that reason. The documents had not been ready for 7 months.

Shooting of Buffalo from Helicopters

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Is he aware that about 600 head of buffalo have been shot from helicopters this year and left on the ground at Kakadu? In his liaison capacity with the federal minister whose portfolio includes the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, would the minister undertake to stop this wasteful and useless slaughter of buffalo?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am concerned that the honourable member may have a view that the destruction of buffalo is a useless and wasteful slaughter. I do not think that view should prevail in our community. While every effort is made to remove buffalo from the park in the most acceptable way, regrettably, it is not always possible to satisfy everyone. As a result of receiving the honourable member's representations, I took the matter up with the Conservation Commission because I was worried that an image like that should exist. I would like to read the advice from the Conservation Commission because the area in Kakadu to which the honourable member refers is under the control of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. Our relationship with that body is one of consultation and cooperation. Advice on this matter was received from Mr Chris Haynes of the ANPWS:

> *The policy of the ANPWS is to remove feral animals from Kakadu National Park and they make every effort to cooperate with musterers and pet meaters. However, where buffalo are unmusterable or otherwise inaccessible, the rangers eradicate those remaining by shooting. For example, the buffalo at Malabanbandju were repeatedly mustered and shot by pet meaters and yet a small number of buffalo remained forcing the rangers to complete the elimination in another way.*

The answer to the honourable member's question is that there will always be times when we have to shoot buffalo from helicopters because of the inaccessibility of the terrain. However, it is never an intention of the ANPWS nor the government to be seen to be uselessly and careflessly slaughtering animals in an inhumane way to the disadvantage of the community.

Report on Staffing in NT Primary Schools

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Have the findings in the report on staffing in Northern Territory primary schools undertaken last year by a joint departmental working group and the Northern Territory Teachers Federation yet been accepted by the government, and, if so, when will the findings be implemented?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member refers to the report being accepted by government. It has been accepted inasmuch as it has been received. I do not have particular details before me but the report itself advised caution in looking at its recommendations because of the very poor statistical basis of the information in it. It indicated that caution should be taken with interpretations because of poor sampling, poor responses to samples and

so on. Whilst I have the report at this time - and I provided a copy to the NT Teachers Federation which was on the working party that prepared it - I cannot give the honourable member any further information about it at this time.

Old Darwin Hospital Site

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

I am continually asked about the future of the area of land that was previously occupied by the old Darwin Hospital. What is the current situation with regard to the future development of that piece of land?

ANSWER

Expressions of interest were invited in relation to the old Darwin Hospital site. I think everyone here agrees that, if it is to be redeveloped, and we believe it should be, it must be approached by us with considerable caution. We must get the best possible use out of the land in the interests of the whole community. Expressions of interest were invited earlier this year and, from memory, they closed at about the end of July. Several expressions of interest were received from local and overseas parties and I understand that, at present, these are being evaluated. Of course, evaluation includes discussions with the proponents and the seeking of further information. I have advised the Secretary of the Department of Lands that the government would rather do nothing with this land than give it away to someone who would use it for an inferior purpose.

I anticipate that the process of evaluation may take many months. In due course, when the various proposals have been developed to a level where they can be taken to Cabinet, that is where I will take them. In the meantime, Mr Speaker, I have confirmed to the YMCA and YWCA that the lease that they have over the old nurses' quarters will continue and that the government will see that it is honoured to the extent that they have tenure within the terms of the lease. I believe that they may have an option. We have indicated that the lease will be honoured.

As to the likely future use of the site, all I can say at this stage is I imagine it will be something in the order of hotel or commercial condominium-type development. It could even be something in the nature of a total resort complex because a beach fronts onto the site. I think all honourable members would want to see that the site receives very special treatment.

Labor Proposal for University

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it the intention of the government to support the opposition's proposal for the establishment of a university and can he advise if the recommendation of the TEC's 1981 submissions on the university render the Labor proposal unworkable?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, we would be most unlikely to support the ALP's narrow-view university. I think it has been described as a lean-to university, a tin

shed university, a cluster of demountables down the back of the community college. That is hardly appropriate in our view, Mr Speaker. I think it would be rather inappropriate for me to hold up the Assembly by listing specific items which we feel are quite inappropriate as far as the Northern Territory is concerned if it wants a university of any credibility whatsoever, a university other than in name which it seems the honourable Leader of the Opposition is proposing. It seems the proposal was framed without any information from the University Planning Authority which expected him to fulfil an undertaking that he gave to it that, following some discussion on the various aspects of the government's case for the university put forward at recent meetings of the Universities Council held in the Territory, he would give more information on the ALP's case. More recently, it was released in the press. It seems that what has been released in the press subsequent to his confidential talk with the universities council has, if anything, attempted to torpedo the government's case, the case we have been putting for some time and refining from time to time after further talks with the universities council.

The honourable member has taken considerable exception to the fact that I have said that the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission had already indicated in its earlier report on the Territory's first submission that what the ALP is putting forward now is totally inappropriate. It stated that it would not be considered by it at all as far as the establishment of a university is concerned. I would refer him to page 23, paragraph 3.31, of the report of the Tertiary Education Commission on the proposal to establish a university in the Northern Territory. As a matter of fact, I think it would be quite appropriate in answering the honourable member's question, particularly since he asked for my reference point, to read this paragraph. I quote from the report on the first proposal put forward:

> *Another of the commission's concerns stems from the fact that the proposal is based largely on the transfer of advanced education courses from one institution to another rather than the establishment of further opportunities for higher education for residents in the Territory. Leaving aside the problems that this would create in staffing the courses and the implications for the future development of the Darwin Community College, the commission believes that this would not provide an adequate base for the successful development of a university and that it would prejudice the future of advanced education. Moreover, the commission has reservations generally about universities offering subgraduate courses and would be prepared to support such arrangements only where a university is the only local institution with the resources necessary to offer courses at the level in the relevant disciplines. This is clearly not the case in Darwin where, under the present proposal, the Darwin Community College would continue to offer some UG3 courses in those areas forming the basis of this university's operations.*
>
> Then comes the key part of the paragraph:
>
> *The commission considers that a future university in the Territory should develop independently from the beginning. It should offer recognised university courses from which teaching and research activities can develop logically and progressively.*

Mr Speaker, I suggest that the ALP have a good hard look at that because the case it has put forward in its policy is particularly shallow.

It totally overlooks considerations such as that the Darwin Community College site, in a few years, will prove to be inadequate for its own activities. If honourable members opposite would care to have a look at the Darwin Community College's master plan for its whole site at Casuarina, they will see that there is simply no room at all for any additional activities on campus. One would have to abolish the car-park and landscaping etc.

The opposition seems to think that Palmerston is way down in the bush and no one could possibly want to travel a few kilometres down there. I think it undersells the importance of Palmerston - the population that is there now, the population that will be there in just a short few years and communications networks by way of roads etc which will exist between Darwin and Palmerston. For it to put forward the view that Palmerston is simply an outback area with an atmosphere like Timber Creek demonstrates that it simply has not taken the issue seriously. It seems to me that it wanted to develop a case which did anything but support the government's case. That is what it has done.

Buffalo and Cattle Eradication

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Will he undertake to have the Conservation Commission fully cooperate with pet meaters in buffalo and cattle eradication on land controlled by the Conservation Commission?

ANSWER

I confirm for the honourable member that the Conservation Commission's policy in destocking feral animals from land which it controls is one of cooperating fully with pet meat operators and other people involved in the industry. I would make the point, though, that one of the conflicts of interest that the Conservation Commission officers have is that, in trying to balance the needs and the requirements of pet meat operators, they have also to balance the impact that these operators have on the environment, particularly with the vehicles they use and the sort of operation that they conduct. However, I confirm that pet meaters will be used wherever possible. If there have been cases from time to time where people believe pet meaters should have been used, then I can only say that the commission must have felt that damage done by the operators may have been greater than the benefits derived from putting the animals through a pet meat works.

Accommodation at Old Darwin Hospital

Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the fact that it has been reported in the media that there are now 7000 unemployed people in the Northern Territory, could some part of the old hospital at least be used as temporary accommodation for needy people?

ANSWER

I do not believe that the old hospital could be used as temporary accommodation for needy peoply. Firstly, all the old wards other than the sisters quarters, as far as I know, have been demolished and removed. There are some flats on the site,which, I understand, are being used by government employees at present. Mr Speaker, the former administration

buildings etc have not been designed to provide accommodation. They would require very extensive and expensive renovations. It would cost a mint of money to bring the services at the old Darwin Hospital back into operation. It is far more economical to continue to put all the government's money into the housing program rather than attempting to convert buildings to a use for which they were never intended.

East Coast Shipping Service

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

He has stated that shipping companies other than ANL could provide a satisfactory service to the east coast if they were given the opportunity. Which shipping companies have expressed an interest in the provision of such a service?

ANSWER

The Department of Transport and Works and the Port Authority have made many attempts to secure adequate shipping services for Darwin outside the existing subsidy arrangements with the Commonwealth. Most of the responses we have received from various organisations, such as TNT Bulk Ships, Bourkes and State Ships have involved some subsidy requirement. Our proposal has been that the Commonwealth pass to the Northern Territory the subsidy required and enter into a 3-year arrangement with the Northern Territory government so that it may choose the right shipping service to meet Darwin's needs. This has always been our proposal. At no stage has the Commonwealth agreed to that proposal. The federal government has decided to fund the operations of ANL on a year-to-year basis. This has been unacceptable to the Northern Territory government because no one would know where the subsidy was applied and we would not be prepared to make a contribution to a subsidy on that basis. Recently, we have agreed that we would go all out in the marketing of ANL on the basis that the federal minister has offered to subsidise the ANL operation again during the current year. At this point, we have no advice from the federal minister as to the extent of that subsidy. He has announced a $2m subsidy and we hope that there will be some advice, either in the budget or in a covering letter, in the next few days.

Purchase of Housing Commission Houses in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HOUSING

This relates to a situation which has persisted for ages. When will Housing Commission tenants in Nhulunbuy be allowed to purchase the houses in which they live?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member is right when he says this situation has lasted for ages. I imagine it will continue for a further period. As the honourable member would be aware, the housing question in Nhulunbuy is tied up with the joint venturers' lease held with the Aboriginal community in that area. Until such time as the Department of Law can resolve the question with the joint venturers, I am unable to answer the question.

Heavitree Gap

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TOURISM

What action does the government propose to improve the present state of the gateway to Alice Springs at Heavitree Gap?

ANSWER

When I was there a couple of weeks ago, there was a lot of earth lying around as a result of digging from the gap pipeline. Certain roadworks were under way. I understand a new causeway is programmed to go across to the farm area for which tenders are to be called shortly and a contract let in about October. There is a park area which, as I understand it, is the responsibility of the Alice Springs Town Council. Certainly, the area from Heavitree Gap into Alice Springs is quite clearly the responsibility of the Alice Springs Town Council in terms of beautification. I acknowledge that the area is not looking its pristine best at the moment but the situation is difficult when one considers that transport and other services all converge in that area. The railway line, the road, the river, the pipeline, electricity and telephone wires, sewerage lines and the water supply lines all go through the Gap. Naturally, work has to be done on these things from time to time.

I feel certain the relevant authorities will see that, after the work is carried out, restoration and beautification will be done. This year, we have had the added troubles of a flood through the Gap which at least left the roadway substantially unharmed this time because of the new methods of securing the foundations. However, there has been considerable work there and I am sure that beautification will be carried out over the course of the next few months. To have tried to plant grass and trees during an Alice Springs winter would have been undesirable. The grass and trees would have died back in the first frost that came along and certainly would not have been shooting until spring time. I expect that the Conservation Commission and the town council know this as well as anyone and will be planning to get on with the work when the weather is more congenial.

Air Services in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he received any recommendations on the future of air services in Nhulunbuy following a recent inquiry on the matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I acknowledge that there has been no improvement in the services to Nhulunbuy as a result of my actions and whatever actions the honourable member has taken himself in this matter. The government has initiated passenger surveys of all air and bus services throughout the Northern Territory. Particularly in relation to the Gove situation, a public meeting was held. I understand a meeting was held also at Groote Eylandt to determine the attitude of users of those services. As further information comes to hand, I will be happy to pass it on to the honourable member.

Job Opportunities for Territorians

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Given the increase of 17.1% in federal funding to the Northern Territory announced in last night's federal budget and the fact that most of this money is untied grants, will the government ensure that this funding will be used to generate the maximum number of job opportunities for Territorians?

ANSWER

It will certainly be up to the Northern Territory government, in its budget, to try to generate the maximum number of jobs for Territorians because the federal budget certainly has not done that as far as specific Commonwealth initiatives are concerned. I would like to point out that the increases in payments to the Northern Territory government almost exclusively are not the result of specific federal initiatives and decisions taken to assist the Northern Territory. They are a result of the federal government fulfilling obligations, some of which are 5 years old, in formulas laid down in the Memorandum of Understanding. Virtually all the Northern Territory's funding stems from those formulas. To have the view portrayed over the last few hours that local members of the opposition have been enormously influential in getting additional funds for the Northern Territory is simply nonsense.

In relation to the electricity subsidy, there is a formula for assistance to the Northern Territory from the federal government. In fact, this ties the federal government's hands to some degree in the amount of money allocated to the Northern Territory. On top of that, the Grants Commission has a specific special grant to the Northern Territory of $16.9m which was provided to us after an assessment of the Territory's needs. In addition, the Bi-centennial Roads Development Program and housing funding are matters which have been settled for some considerable time and present no surprises in the budget because the federal government has fulfilled obligations rather than taken specific initiatives in the Northern Territory to create jobs. In the area where it could have done so - Commonwealth capital works - it has been decidedly short on activity of past years. Honourable members will be well aware that the good news of the commencement of upgrading and relocation of the Darwin Airport brings with it the news that a mere $1m is to be spent this year. Very much of that $1m will be taken up in design and documentation and probably very little work will be done on the ground. Where that will create jobs in the Territory is hard to see because most of it will be done in South Australia and some of it in Western Australia by consultants engaged by the Commonwealth government.

There is precious little Commonwealth capital works in the budget. There are some 9 or so houses to be built for Commonwealth public servants in the Northern Territory. The good news is that a control tower will be commenced at Nhulunbuy. Other than that, there is very little. When we consider the levels of Commonwealth capital spending in the Northern Territory in the past on things like the patrol boat base, we seem to be missing out on many of the opportunities the federal government has to create employment in the Northern Territory. How the suggestion by the federal government, that this budget will stimulate private investment, will come to pass escapes me completely because I can see where there would be specific disincentives to private investment coming out of this budget

rather than incentives.

Amongst the disincentives in particular which will affect Territorians very seriously, and which has been played down by commentators from the other side, is that petrol and diesel fuel prices will rise some 5% or 2¢ a litre, and that will be indexed. That is bad news as far as the Territory is concerned because we have persistently advocated to federal governments that to touch the cost of transportation in the Territory affects us more than elsewhere in Australia. In the first year, the cost of that impost is likely to be in the vicinity of $8m a year. Of course, only one group of people will pay that $8m: the consumers. It must be passed on. The cost of transporting goods and persons to the Territory by road, air or sea will rise. The only way you will escape it is to walk or ride a bike in the Northern Territory. Obviously, the cost of food, clothing, houses, cars, travel etc will rise.

That is only part of the bad news. The most dangerous aspect is that the government has taken steps to index the excise on fuel and other products such as cigarettes and fortified wines. The indexation of a tax is a particularly nasty move by a government because it enables it to forever gather from the populace ever more revenue without wearing the odium of having to say 'We have just put it up again'. Not only will the government receive the benefit of increased turnover and activity from increased consumption of goods like fuel as Australia's economy recovers, it will also receive an additional loading every 6 months. That will build in a spiral of rising prices which will reflect in the CPI. It can do nothing else but reinforce inflation in this country for as long as taxes are indexed. It is a most detrimental thing to have done to Australia. It has established a new line of evil in imposing taxes on people. This will affect the Territory more than most because of our reliance on transportation throughout.

Honourable members opposite who claim that this budget is a marvellous fillip to the Northern Territory ought to rethink. The advantages to us in this budget stem from the Memorandum of Understanding and the electricity agreement which are fixed obligations on the Commonwealth government. There are no favours there. Where it does have a discretionary power, we have been sold short.

Darwin Performing Arts Centre

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Recently, he made some very strong statements in regard to the Darwin Performing Arts Centre and the government's involvement in that project. Is he planning to have further meetings with the Lord Mayor of Darwin about the Darwin Performing Arts Centre?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, prior to my assuming the portfolio for community development and the responsibility for the arts centre and its funding through the Department of Community Development, the Lord Mayor raised with the Chief Minister the concept of the Northern Territory government setting up a formal Araluen-type trust to take over the operation of the arts centre in Darwin. My understanding from the Chief Minister is that he advised the Lord Mayor that the government would not favour such a course of action and that the council was to be responsible for the operation and the administration of the centre. How it did that was really a matter for itself

and we would not be involved. Subsequently, the Lord Mayor met with me and some of my officers and raised the matter again. I advised him that it was not the government's intention to become involved with the administration and operation of the arts centre and that, in fact, if the council wished to have an autonomous body to run it, it was really a matter for itself. Subsequently, I understand that the council was seeking a meeting of officers to find the best way of setting up a body. While the expertise of the department would certainly be available to the council to discuss what options might be available, it is certainly not the government's intention to become involved.

For the benefit of some people who have said that Araleun has a trust and therefore the Darwin arts centre ought to have a trust, I think there is a distinct difference. The body in Alice Springs that sponsored the Araleun centre was a community group. It was not sponsored by the Alice Springs council. In the case of the Darwin arts centre, the project has always been sponsored by and understood to be the responsibility of the Darwin City Council. We do not intend to become involved in the operation of the Darwin arts centre. We have an agreement with the city council that we will contribute to the funding of the centre and we will meet that obligation. Discussions will be held in the months to come about the level of funding required. It is early days so far as setting a level of funding is concerned. The centre is not due to be opened for about 12 to 15 months at the earliest. We expect to be involved in consultation with the city council to arrive at a level of funding that we believe the government is committed to. I hope that answers the honourable member's question and puts the matter into perspective.

Housing Grants

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HOUSING

In view of the previous answer - if you could call it that - from the Treasurer, could he confirm whether the 41.7% increase in the federal budget in housing grants for the Northern Territory is part of the Memorandum of Understanding?

ANSWER

To my knowledge, Mr Speaker, not all of it.

School Buses

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Do all school buses undergo full mechanical tests over the pits on re-registration?

ANSWER

They do in areas where testing facilities exist. Further, inspection is mandatory every 6 months. Periodic spot checks are carried out in the interests of road safety and to determine the extent of voluntary compliance by the operators. In areas where testing facilities are not available, all buses are inspected at 6-monthly intervals by the Vehicles Standards Section inspectors on site.

Apprentices at Territory Training Centre

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

My question concerns the automotive and diesel apprentices attached to the Territory Training Centre, at the old bus depot on the corner of Bagot Road and the Stuart Highway. Could he advise if they will be stationed there permanently or, if not, what future arrangements will be made for that depot and for the apprentices?

ANSWER

I agreed a little time ago with the Vocational Training Commission that it could take over the old bus depot on the corner of Bagot Road and the Stuart Highway as an interim move to accommodate additional apprentices. It wanted to take on further apprentices but there was insufficient room at the Territory Training Centre in Armidale Street. At present, there is an interim arrangement which ensures that those trainees are not unduly affected. We will consider the long-term use of that particular site. No doubt, we will consider the possibility of continuing to use it for those types of activities, depending on a whole range of questions to be raised about its suitability for that use, for long-term growth and so on. I can assure any trainees who are attending that site that we will ensure that they are adequately accommodated so that their training is not interrupted unduly.

Upgrading of Girraween Road

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of repeated requests to repair Girraween Road in the rural area, and considering its importance as a through-road from Howard Springs to Humpty Doo and to the extractive industries,can the road be considered immediately for upgrading?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the development of an extractive industry in the Girraween Road area has resulted in an increase in traffic for which the present road was not designed. I can assure her that the Northern Territory government appreciates the nuisance this must cause. Memebers will be aware of the government's policy of progressive upgrading and reconstruction of the rural road system between Batchelor and Darwin. However, because of the massive funds involved in this program, demands will only be satisfied over a number of years. Girraween Road has been programmed for re-gravelling next month and this will reduce the dust problem. Minor upgrading of a causeway on the road will also be carried out at that time. I have asked my department to conduct a study, including traffic counts, to determine whether higher priority for sealing the road is warranted.

Federal Funding for NT Rehabilitation Centres

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In light of the Treasurer's statement this morning, is the increase in the federal budget announced last night in the desperately needed area of

rehabilitation centres for the Northern Territory from $800 000 to $5.3m - an increase of 560% - part of the Memorandum of Understanding?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the only funds that we will receive from the federal health budget is an additional $7m which is anticipated to be the loss of revenue from the introduction of Medicare on 1 February 1984. In the health budget, some $20m has been allocated for the provision of community health services. That is additional. Of that additional funding to the Australian community, the Northern Territory will receive about $14 000.

Control Scheme for Quota Meats to USA

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

It is understood that the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation has implemented a control scheme limiting Australian shipments of quota meats to the USA for the balance of 1983. Is he aware of this scheme and will it disadvantage the Territory meat export trade?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I became aware yesterday of the proposal outlined by the honourable member. I would like to read a sentence from a telex I received. It was addressed to my colleague, the Chief Minister, and came from the Northern Territory Meat Exporters Association. The information in the telex is that the AMLC has implemented a control scheme from 16 August 1983 limiting Australian shipments of quota meats to America for the balance of this year and it has released 40 000 t to be divided amongst eligible exporters. This scheme is disastrous for the Northern Territory meat exporters and cattle growers as other Australian exporters have shipped without restriction since January. Honourable members would be aware that our killing season starts later in the year, in April-May.

There are several matters of concern about this. The first is that we have received no information at all from the AMLC or the federal department, which I would have thought was appropriate under the circumstances. I would like to brief honourable members on a paper that has been given me by the department on the significance of this restriction. Negotiations between Australia and the USA over the limitations on beef shipments during 1983 have concluded with Australia agreeing to a restraint level of 272 000 t. Australia's traditional export level to the USA is approximately 290 000 t. and trade agreements should have provided access for about 305 000t. Higher than expected levels of shipment from Canada and New Zealand in the first half of 1983 meant some restraint on imports would be required in the second half of the year. Australian trade officials refused an American offer of access for 255 000 t, which was made early in July, and a second offer of 262 000 t made later the same month. The USA offered 272 000 t and we accepted this on 12 August.

This agreed restraint level means that the balance of shipments for this year will total between 40 000 t and 45 000 t. Quota entitlements for individual abattoirs are based on their total export tonnages last year as a proportion of total Australian exports. This allocation mechanism is extremely unfair to the Northern Territory beef processors because of the seasonal nature of the killing season in the Northern Territory and because

Territory beef exports are almost entirely directed to the American market. The southern abattoirs have 3 or 4 months unrestricted access to the American market over and above that of their Territory counterparts. In addition, through-puts at the Territory abattoirs are predominantly manufacturing-class meats suited to the United States trade. This means they have little opportunity to diversify their market outlets and are further penalised by the quota system.

The combined effect of these 2 factors seriously disadvantages the Northern Territory processors. In fact, it is estimated that beef quotas at Northern Territory abattoirs could be filled by early September while entitlements at southern abattoirs may not be filled until mid-October. When entitlements have been filled, beef exports to the United States will have to be placed in bonded storage. This will have adverse consequences on the cash flow position of Northern Territory exporters.

I am very concerned at the developments that have taken place in this area and I propose to take the matter up with the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation and also with my federal counterpart, the Minister for Primary Industry because, as is outlined in the paper, the proposition that the Northern Territory be curtailed in its production, primarily because we have a killing season that runs for about 6 months instead of the whole year, is inequitable and unreasonable. It needs to be re-negotiated with the people concerned. I can say to the honourable member that we are concerned about it and we will try to do something about it because it cannot go on if we are to maintain a stable meat industry in the Northern Territory.

Rehabilitation Centre

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the minister intend to transfer the rehabilitation centre from the old Darwin Hospital to Dundas House at Parap, despite the fact that there is insufficient space at Dundas House to maintain the range of services currently offered at the existing centre, in view of the increase in allocation for rehabilitation centres in the federal budget to the Northern Territory from $800 000 to $5.3m - an increase of 560%?

ANSWER

The original intention of the Department of Health to transfer the rehabilitation patients from the old Darwin Hospital to Dundas House was to be done on a short-term basis until evaluations were carried out by a person who had been employed by the Northern Territory Department of Health, Dr Makita. Until such time as the evaluation has been completed, Dundas House will be used on a short-term basis. However, the subject of constructing a facility at a cost of almost $1m is under consideration.

Primary School for Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Department of Education investigated the need for another primary school at Nhulunbuy and, if so, what recommendations have been made to the minister?

ANSWER

I expect to receive a report later this week from education officers following a visit to Nhulunbuy. A proposal has been put forward that some demountables be moved from the primary school to the high school. There is concern by some members of the community over that move to place Year 7 students on the high school campus. I will receive that report later this week and perhaps report to the honourable member later in the sittings.

Net Gain for NT from Federal Budget

Mr B.COLLINS to TREASURER

Can the Treasurer confirm, using official figures contained in the budget papers, if the real gain in net terms for the Territory - discounting the non-farm sector inflation rate which is the way in which the budget papers present this figure - this year from the federal budget is 8.8% as compared with 4.5% for last year's budget?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have all the Commonwealth budget papers before me so I cannot answer the honourable member's question specifically. Quite clearly, he is trying to continue the smokescreen which was raised very effectively by the federal government in the pre-budget process to have everyone shuddering in his boots about a horror budget. I would like the Leader of the Opposition to tell me that the federal government did not create an environment of a horror budget.

Mr Collins: If you do not know the answer, sit down.

Mr PERRON: When the budget did indeed come down, a great deal of the expected bad news was not realised and the people felt somewhat relieved. It will take a few days for the real message of this budget to sink in and the charade that it is in so far as creating a climate in Australia that will create 500 000 jobs over 3 years. In its budget, the Northern Territory government will move to fill many of the gaps that the federal budget has left in the Northern Territory and allocate funds to areas which are specifically short in funding. The honourable member mentioned that we should be feeling really good about an increase in housing funds. Housing funds rose from something like $20m to $28m. We spend $50m a year on housing. The Commonwealth is merely topping up the base which we double every year. I think he had better get the whole scheme into perspective.

Mosquitoes

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Mosquitoes may not be in plague proportions in the northern suburbs and I am very pleased to hear that. I can assure the minister that there are a few mosquitoes flying around the inner city area. Is the government monitoring all of the suburbs in the Darwin district and how often will the larvaciding operation be carried out?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member's question reminds me of the 'Don't be a little mozzie breeder' campaign that was launched by the Department of Health.

We have had significant success in the northern suburbs with a chemical called Temphos. Recently, the Northern Territory government accepted the recommendations of a joint working party - comprised of people from the city council, the Department of Health, the Conservation Commission and the Department of Transport and Works - to upgrade the drains around the Darwin area through a 5-year program. It is hoped that that will reduce the breeding areas. We have an education campaign . I think it is important that that particular campaign be maintained. We have the areas under surveillance and surveys are carried out by the Department of Health. Hopefully, this problem will be eradicated in those areas still affected. There is no short-term solution to the problem. The Department of Health and other departments are doing all they can to alleviate the problem.

Regulations Governing Pet Meat Operations

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Would he undertake to re-examine the regulations under the pet meat legislation to make sure they are not causing hardship to pet meat operators?

ANSWER

I would be more than happy to consider that proposition. I ask all members of the Assembly if they have any knowledge of unreasonable regulations that are causing unnecessary hardship to people in the pet meat industry. We would be only too happy to look into the matter. Pet meat regulations are designed to prevent pet meat being put into export packages and misrepresented as an export product. While it is the intent of the pet meat regulations to ensure that contaminated meat is not sold, if those regulations are unreasonably harsh and need redressing, I am happy to consider any specific points that the honourable member may raise.

Electricity Charges

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will the federal government allocation of $64.7m for fuel for NTEC be sufficient to hold electricity charges at their current level next financial year, outside, of course, of the agreement to keep them in parity with north Queensland?

ANSWER

The amount of money allocated in the federal budget is the amount NTEC sought in pursuance of the agreement between this government and the Commonwealth government. I understand that, in so far as that goes, there is no problem. At the moment, we are investigating a rather horrendous possibility that, as a result of removing other fuel sources, such as avtur, from the list of products previously exempt from excise and then indexing that by 4.3%, it may well catch up heavy fuel oil.

Mr B. Collins: Is that speculation?

Mr ROBERTSON: I am having it confirmed. The wording used in the budget speech is not very clear. To answer the question, I understand that the amount of money is sufficient for the purposes of maintaining the agreement between ourselves and the Commonwealth.

Darwin Arts Centre Statutory Authority

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question follows on from one by the member for Port Darwin about the Darwin arts centre. Why has the minister rejected the conclusion reached by the Darwin City Council after long deliberations that a statutory authority with a majority of members appointed by the council is appropriate for the Darwin centre?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, quite simply, the government had an agreement with the Darwin City Council concerning the level of funding, operational costs and the method of management. That was agreed on some years ago. We believe that agreement is fair and reasonable. It enables the council to conduct any form of management it wishes.

Mrs O'Neil: It wants a statutory authority.

Mr TUXWORTH: If it wants a trust, I guess it is well placed to see its family solicitor and establish one. The government has never indicated, intended or agreed in any way at all to have an Araleun-type trust for the operation of the centre. It is quite inappropriate given that the arts centre is being sponsored by the Darwin City Council, which is a government organisation in itself.

Freight Inquiry Support Staff

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What support staff does the freight inquiry have?

ANSWER

I understand that, at this stage, an officer has been allocated to support the freight inquiry. No limit has been put on the number of people who are available to service or conduct research for the members of the inquiry. So far as I know, the staff involved are quite capable of doing what needs to be done. If the chairman of the freight inquiry should suggest to me that additional assistance is required, I would be quite happy to consider that request.

TMPU Funding

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I preface my question by referring him to my comments in the adjournment debate yesterday about TMPU funding for town camps in Alice Springs. Does he regard the special purposes leases held by Aboriginal associations in the vicinity of Alice Springs as Aboriginal communities? If so, will the government continue TMPU funding for them as is done for other Aboriginal communities in the Territory?

ANSWER

I heard with interest the points raised by the honourable member in the

adjournment debate yesterday. This morning, I asked the secretary of the department to obtain the files on the origins and funding arrangements for all the special purposes leases we have in all towns in the Territory. My understanding is that these are not considered to be remote communities. They are not considered or funded as remote communities and are members of a normal town community. On that basis, their responsibilities within the community should be the same as those of anyone else. However, I will look through the relevant files to see what the origins of these sites are and where we go from here.

Unemployment in Remote Communities

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to his previous answer in which he said that such leases are not regarded as remote communities. Is he aware of the amount of unemployment in those communities that would necessitate the same special consideration as would be necessary in the remote communities to which he referred?

ANSWER

I am most conscious and concerned at the level of unemployment in Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, be they in town, on special purpose leases, in fringe camps or in remote areas. Whenever possible, the government has made every endeavour to try to employ as many Aboriginals as possible within the resources that it has available to it. From the information that is available to me, I do not see that the level of Aboriginal employment in the Northern Territory is a criterion for deciding whether a town lease is a remote community.

Policy on Aboriginal Education

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he indicate when the government's policy on Aboriginal education will be released?

ANSWER

I cannot indicate a specific date. I have looked at 2 drafts of the particular document concerned and I am not entirely satisfied with it. For one thing, it was far too long. I have asked for a more concise version. Unfortunately, it was not available prior to these sittings. I was hoping that it would have been. As soon as it is available, I will have it circulated to all members of the Assembly.

Vanderlin Drive and McMillans Road Intersection

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What steps are to be undertaken to reduce the hazardous conditions at the corner of Vanderlin Drive and McMillans Road in the Sanderson electorate?

ANSWER

There has been considerable representation to the government about the intersection that the honourable member refers to. There will be specific

references made to this in the budget papers when they are handed down next week. As soon as the budget is handed down, I will be happy to provide additional information.

Building Code

Ms LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Following a request from me at the last sittings, he circulated copies of the new Building Code. Could he indicate when those regulations are to be gazetted and confirmed?

ANSWER

I cannot indicate at this stage when the regulations will be gazetted. However, I will seek that information and advise the Assembly at a later time.

Local Government at Jabiru

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

At a public meeting in Jabiru last year, he indicated that full local government could be expected in the town in about 3 years. What progress has been made towards this end?

ANSWER

Due to the fact that no further uranium development is expected as a result of federal government policies, the town of Jabiru would appear to have stabilised for the time being. The original concept of Jabiru was that it would service not only the personnel attached to the Ranger Mine but also the personnel from the Jabiluka Mine when that mine was given the go ahead. The personnel of the Jabiru Town Development Authority were looking forward to renewing their efforts and probably doubling the size of Jabiru. As it stands at the moment, I think it has a population of approximately 1200 people.

Unfortunately, with the change of government, the future of uranium mining is at the best uncertain. The considered view of this government is that there is unlikely to be any development of uranium mines over the next couple of years, at least in the Northern Territory. For some reason or other, the federal government policy provides that existing mines may continue - although there is some reference to even those being wound down - and that Roxby Downs, which is only in the exploration stage, apparently has the go ahead in some sort of exception to the general policy. It seems extraordinary that a mine in South Australia can be given the go ahead but mines in the Northern Territory cannot. That seems to make a nonsense of the policy and to be extremely discriminatory against the Northern Territory, especially in terms of the companies that hold the leases at present getting on to the market and securing contracts. No doubt, if Roxby Downs is able to market its product, it will probably make it harder for Jabiluka and Koongarra to market their product in due course because one of the first acts taken by the present federal government was to withdraw the approval that Jabiluka and Pancontinental had to be in the marketplace attempting to secure contracts.

All this has bedevilled the future of Jabiru. It is true that I said to the people of Jabiru last year that, as far as I was concerned, they could

have local government immediately, provided they were prepared to accept a couple of basic premises. One was that they would have to pay rates if they were to have local government. The other was that there were certain complex negotiations going on between the government and the Ranger company at that time that would have had to continue with Jabiluka. At that time, Jabiluka had its go ahead. It was out in the marketplace and everything looked as though the wind was fair to France.

Mr Speaker, the position has quite changed. We are now winding down the Jabiru Town Development Authority. This is causing a great deal of heartburn to me personally and even more to the people in the Jabiru Town Development Aurthority because we have either to find other spots for them in the government or declare them to be redundant. I have instructed the Co-ordinator-General, who is responsible to me for the Jabiru Town Development Authority, to do his utmost to try to find alternative employment for the personnel of the Jabiru Town Development Authority.

Subject to a Cabinet submission, we are proposing to devolve responsibility for local government functions, with the consent of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council, on that council, with the request that it has them undertaken on an agency basis by the authorities that are presently carrying them out: Transport and Works etc. As I understand it, we have not yet put this plan in detail to the Jabiru Town Advisory Council. It has not been to Cabinet. It has had its genesis in the Chief Minister's Department and the Jabiru Town Development Authority. We hope it will be acceptable to all the parties. I hope that no one is upset by the information I have disclosed in trying to answer this question as frankly as possible.

We believe that is certainly the next step on the road to local government for the people of Jabiru, if they want it. We can only find that out when we talk to their representatives about it. Of course, the final step to local government will be a difficult one for Jabiru because no one out there owns his house. The land-holding situation is, to say the least, a most complex one. There is a lease from the Aboriginal people through the Northern Land Council to the Director of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. As I understand it, he subleases the area of the town of Jabiru to the Jabiru Town Development Authority. Leases which could be issued by the Jabiru Town Development Authority, with the approval of the 2 previous parties who have better title, would obviously only be for a term. I forget what is the term of the headlease from the NLC to the Commonwealth. The worth of these titles will be very hard to determine. As well as that, in any event, Ranger will want to hang on to its houses for its changing personnel. It is doubtful whether it will want to sell.

Therefore, introducing a rating system in Jabiru will be, when it is finally accomplished, one of the wonders of the western world. But, I do not believe that one can really have true local government unless there is some responsibility on the local people. They will have their representation but it has always been part of having representation that there is some taxation to make it responsible representation. It is a very complex question which is being addressed. We see an intermediate step happening in the relatively near future. The final evolution to local government will need to be accompanied by a great deal of consultation.

Cost of Self-government Celebrations

Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he make public the total cost of the self-government celebrations as he promised to do on the local talk-back radio program?

ANSWER

I have a statement of expenditure here in relation to the self-government celebrations. The self-government celebrations were throughout the Northern Territory and extended to places like Bathurst Island and other remote areas. The sub-total is here. I will table this document: Government Printing Office - $49 917; entertainment - $71 179; media information campaign - $45 778; community gifts - $45 369; fireworks - $20 142; celebrations in Territory centres - $18 871; contract co-ordination fees - $17 839; freight charges - $7753; photography and video hire - $7785; casual employment - $2731; miscellaneous - $8468. The total is $295 832.

Vanderlin Drive and McMillans Road Intersection

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

This question relates to my previous one concerning the intersection of Vanderlin Drive and McMillans Road. Isn't it a fact that last week the minister made a statement to the press announcing that a traffic island would be constructed at this intersection and, that being the case, why in answer to my previous question did he refer me to the budget of next week?

ANSWER

The honourable member is perfectly correct. I did make a mistake; I think my hearing must need a bit of attention. I thank her very much.

Coastal Management Policy

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS

Does the government still intend to release a coastal management policy as promised by the then Minister for Lands some 15 months ago?

ANSWER

Certainly, the government will develop a coastal management policy. I understand that we have already approved a Darwin foreshores management policy. The development of a coastal management policy will take considerably longer and is being developed between the Conservation Commission and the Department of Lands.

Public Service Staff

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he confirm the government policy with respect to employment in the Northern Territory Public Service as enunciated by him in his radio talk of 29 November 1981 - that there will be no redundancies and that natural wastage will be the only method used in reducing staff numbers where necessary? I refer the Chief Minister specifically to employment in NTEC.

ANSWER

The first thing to be aware of when the Leader of the Opposition raises the subject of employment at NTEC is that, to the best of my knowledge, NTEC is outside the Northern Territory Public Service. There are certain arrangements in relation to NTEC which exist between the Territory and the Commonwealth whereby, immediately after self-government, a consultant was appointed to study the staffing arrangements of NTEC. I must say that I found this to be a rather hypocritical exercise but the Territory had little option but to come to the party on it because NTEC and electricity consumers in the Northern Territory are totally dependent on the Commonwealth subsidy which amounts to approximately 50% or more of NTEC's operating funds. The Commonwealth required that a consultant be appointed to study the staffing arrangements at NTEC. Of course, NTEC was an amalgamation of the old sections of the Department of Northern Territory that dealt with the clerical and billing side of the electricity supply undertaking and those elements of the previous Department of Construction that dealt with the actual generation of electricity, maintenance and repairs etc. These 2 areas were welded together into NTEC. The Commonwealth, which had employed all these people, then required that a consultant be appointed from the Victorian State Electricity Commission to study whether the staffing was too high.

After 9 months, the consultant submitted a report which we proceeded to argue with the Commonwealth about for approximately 3 years. Finally, in the course of the negotiations for the ongoing subsidy, we were forced to concede. I do not have the figures off the top of my head. If the Leader of the Opposition wanted a precise and detailed reply, he should have given me a bit of notice. There were about 900 to 1000 employees of NTEC and the consultant said there should only be 750. We were eventually forced to concede that we would have to reduce the staffing of NTEC to about 850 plus 50 or 60 apprentices.

I guess one could say that the Commonwealth finally met us halfway between what the consultant recommended and the number of people that it had hired in the first place. It is true to say that, in the meantime since its inception, NTEC had hired a very large number of apprentices. Since that time, because of the very overt supervision by the Commonwealth of NTEC's finances, it has been necessary for us to waste staffing at NTEC to bring them down to the required number. We cannot have any more staff at NTEC than the Commonwealth is prepared to fund. I can assure you that the present Minister for Resources and Energy seems to adhere very strongly to the arrangements that were made previously. In my discussions with him in April and May this year, he considered the arrangements made for NTEC were extravagant, lavish and a luxury. Although he has now caused the federal government to adhere to the previous agreement, we have to get the staffing numbers down otherwise the Northern Territory electricity consumer has to foot the bill.

As far as I know, NTEC is attempting to waste the staff. I am not aware that NTEC has embarked on any policy of creating redundancies. I hope that that is the case. If NTEC is not to receive further criticism for increases in tariffs then, obviously, to meet the Commonwealth subsidy obligations, it has to waste its staff down to the requisite number prescribed in the agreement between the Commonwealth and the Territory.

Undoolya Road Connector

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

When will work start on the connector road from the Undoolya Road to the Todd River bridge?

ANSWER

The contract for this work was awarded only last week. McMahons was the successful contractor and the total value of the work is $800 000. The work is due for completion in February next year.

Training of Motorcyclists

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he under consideration a proposal to legislate for compulsory training for motorcycle riders prior to the issue of a licence?

ANSWER

I am unable to state that this proposal is under consideration. Much of our legislation in respect of land transport is under review and it may be that, in the review process, that matter is being considered.

Heavitree Gap Causeway

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the present position with regard to the reconstruction of the Heavitree Gap causeway south of Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Other members have made representations to the government in respect of this causeway. The causeway was damaged during the March floods which caused extensive damage in and around Alice Springs. I am pleased to be able to advise that design for permanent reinstatement of the existing causeway at Heavitree Gap has been completed and tenders for the first stage of the work will be called today. All work is expected to be finished by the end of October. As a result of approaches made by the Alice Springs members, the government accepts that there is a need for the provision of a much better crossing of the Todd River south of Heavitree Gap and this proposal is the subject of feasibility study.

Tindal Air Base

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he confirm that $1.7m has been allowed for in the federal budget for preliminary planning for Tindal air base in Katherine and that it is a budget list C item - that is, a budget allocation for preliminary planning and EIS work without necessarily a policy decision on construction?

ANSWER

We heard with interest the remarks made in the media by the Leader of the Opposition. We rang Mr Scholes' office this morning and he has checked with Mr Hurford. He has received confirmation that the $1.7m is for detailed preliminary design work. That is the information we received from the minister. The amount does not show up readily in the budget and he doubts if we could find it even if we looked for it. Those are the words from the personal staff of the minister, Mr Scholes.

Mr B.Collins: You could have me.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, order!

Mr STEELE: You might have that available to you but we do not.

Mr B. Collins: I do.

Mr STEELE: The project is now at design list C status, meaning it is not yet in the budgetary process. He was not prepared to comment on whether it would go into the budgetary process, saying only that the Commonwealth would not spend $1.7m lightly.

Assessment of Student Performance Program

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In the July 1983 edition of the Northern Territory Education Bulletin, there appeared an article on the program for the assessment of student performance in the Northern Territory schools. Can he explain why the element of secrecy in regard to the results of this assessment is necessary, especially in relation to parents who, according to this article, are to be informed of the results only after the regional council of principals, COGSO, the Teachers Federation and school councils?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there is no element of secrecy at all in regard to the release of the results of student assessments. It is more a matter of interpretation of how the system works. The purpose of assessment in schools is so that people may be aware of relative performances and action can be taken to keep everybody up to the barrier. The aim of the system is to ensure wide dissemination and understanding of the results and that is particularly important. It is very easy for lay people to draw unreasonable conclusions from results if they cannot interpret them properly.

There are 2 distinct kinds of reporting in relation to the results of student assessment. The first is the report to individual parents who

will be interested mainly in the results of their own children. This kind of reporting already exists in schools in the form of school progress reports and parent-teacher interviews. In the Northern Territory assessment program for Years 5 and 7, which is the particular point the honourable member refers to, the children will be continually assessed for competency in the core skills in English and Mathematics. Apart from school progress reports and parent teacher interviews, parents can find out how their children have performed at any time from the school.

The second kind of reporting is embodied in the departmental report which is intended to give information on the performance of Territory children from the schools as a whole. The report will focus on areas in which it has not been satisfactory and recommendations for remedial provisions. The departmental report goes first to the working party on student assessment and to the regional councils of principals, COGSO, the Teachers Federation and school councils, so that implications of the report can be fully studied and schools can compare their strengths and weaknesses against the overall Northern Territory results. It is essential that principals and school councils go through this process so that they are able to explain the implications of the report to individual parents. The summary will be made available to the public,and parents, if they wish, may examine the detailed departmental report made available to their school council.

Mr Speaker, I hope that satisfies the honourable member that indeed we are not running an assessment program and keeping the figures totally in house. However, it will be run carefully so that, hopefully, the wrong construction will not be placed on the results.

Katherine High School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise the Assembly - and I do understand the situation is an extremely sensitive one - of the problem at the Katherine High School? I understand that this problem has caused the resignation of 3 teachers over the last few weeks.

ANSWER

Unfortunately, the Leader of the Opposition was out of the Assembly last night when I touched briefly on this matter. There will be a major meeting in Katherine tonight of the parents and friends organisation of Katherine High School, and a meeting of the school council after that meeting. A departmental officer will be present to assist or be a fly on the wall, whichever is appropriate. I can assure the honourable member that, at my request, the Teaching Service Commissioner spent Friday in Katherine looking into the matter. The secretary of the department spend Monday and, I think, Tuesday in Katherine. He may still be there. I have also been looking into the various aspects of this subject. In fact, I have received phone calls from parents in the area. I would like to leave the matter, if I may, pending the outcome of tonight's meeting. I am taking a personal interest in the situation and hope it can be resolved without people being named, which will not serve any particular purpose.

Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

I have always been concerned about the spread of the palm leaf beetle in the Darwin area. With the wet season coming, with its high humidity, can he tell me whether the introduction of the parasite to control the palm leaf beetle has been successful? If not, what is the government doing to make sure that the spread of that particular beetle does not continue?

ANSWER

I can tell the honourable member that our office uses the expressions 'Tom's beetle' and 'Tom's weed': the palm leaf beetle and coffee bush. The honourable member, over the years, has waged a crusade against both these pests. They are very important and serious environmental issues for us to resolve.

The information from the Conservation Commission is as follows. More than 3300 adults of the palm leaf beetle parasite have now been released in the Darwin metropolitan area. The release sites extend from the city to Kahlin, Parap, Fannie Bay, the Narrows, Winnellie, Ludmilla, Nightcliff and Wanguri. Two recent searches for the parasite pupae in sites of early release have not been successful. While this is discouraging, it does not prove that the wasp has failed to survive. In some overseas countries, it has taken up to a year or more after the release of the parasites for their numbers to build up. It is quite possible that our present parasite stock, which has been in captivity for some generations, is weak in some qualities important to its success in the field. A new stock of the same species freshly collected from the field could be sought from entomologists in New Caledonia which has areas of seasonal rainfall similar to Darwin.

I would also make the point that the program has suffered a temporary setback in that our technician who has been working on the parasite program has temporarily left us. We are in the process of filling that position. I would like to assure members that we regard the elimination of the palm leaf beetle as a very high priority. The department and the Conservation Commission will not rest until we have succeeded in eliminating it.

Child Abuse

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What additional staff has been made available to the Department of Community Development to cope with recently introduced legislative requirements for the reporting and investigation of incidents of child abuse?

ANSWER

I cannot answer her question in specific terms. I am aware that the child abuse area within the department is receiving a very high priority. I will obtain for her specific details of people who are working in this area. I will also try to ascertain if there is any need for additional staff and, if so, whether that need has been addressed. The government places a very high priority on the matter of child abuse. The frequency of child abuse in our community is of great concern. If there is any way at all that we can improve matters, the department will be quick to respond.

Regulation of Insurance Brokers

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Does the government propose to introduce legislation to control the activities of insurance brokers and, if so, when?

ANSWER

I have answered questions on this matter in the Assembly previously. The Northern Territory government was taking a close interest in activities in the states on this matter and we were examining the line that we should take with legislation on the subject of insurance brokers because of considerable concern about the effects of their departure from the commercial scene. We have been advised unofficially that legislation for the registration of insurance brokers and agents has been prepared by the Commonwealth. Whilst there has not been any public announcement, it is possible that legislation could be introduced during the current session of federal parliament. The Northern Territory government believes that the subject is more appropriately handled by national legislation because some of the brokers have Australia-wide organisations. We would be happy to step back from this field if the Commonwealth is going to do something. For the time being, the Territory government has dropped proposals to introduce legislation on the subject.

Construction Safety Act

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will the Department of Mines and Energy make those provisions of the Construction Safety Act which relate to rigging and scaffolding safety apply to all those sites where these skills are used?

ANSWER

I understand that traditionally there have been separate arrangements made in respect to the operations of Nabalco on the Gove Peninsula. Nonetheless, I am willing to have the matter thoroughly examined. I will advise the honourable member later in the sittings.

Mutitjula Community Adviser at Ayers Rock

Mr BELL to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

I preface my question by referring him to the funding in the federal budget of a community adviser position at Ayers Rock for the Mutitjula community there. Does he accept the necessity for this particular position in the context of the increasingly complex social situation caused by the development of Yulara village and, if he does accept the necessity for that position, why does he not fund it through the Department of Community Development and its Community Government Division for which he is responsible?

ANSWER

The member poses a question that crosses a few areas. It is the prerogative of the Commonwealth to fund positions in the Northern Territory

It does so as often as it wishes in matters that are important to it. I am not aware of what the role of the community adviser would be. Until I have some knowledge of the intended role of that officer, I cannot comment on it or even give an indication as to whether it would be appropriate for our government to offer funding for it. The role of community advisers throughout the Northern Territory is well known to all members of the Assembly. It is quite likely that the nomenclature has been picked up by the Commonwealth and given to an officer in an enclave of the Commonwealth in the Northern Territory who will carry out work that might not have any relationship to the sort of activities that our community advisers perform. If the honourable member would like to leave it with me, I would be quite happy to obtain a report from either the Conservation Commission or the Department of Community Development on what the role of the community adviser is likely to be and whether there has been, in our judgment, a need for the position. If there has been a need, I will ask why the funding was picked up by the Commonwealth rather than ourselves.

Rubbish Dump

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the current position with regard to using part of the Darwin rural area for the establishment of a rubbish dump?

ANSWER

Consideration for the establishment of a rubbish dump in the rural area has been taking place at departmental level for some time. I understand that some areas have been selected in terms of their suitability. One of the areas that has been considered is also under the control of the defence forces. At the moment, our departments are discussing with the defence forces the possible release of this area so that it can be used as a rubbish dump. We are very conscious of the need for a suitable rubbish dump facility in the rural area. We are working quite intensively to try to overcome the problem.

Accommodation for Handicapped Children

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will the government continue to support the provision of non-institutional residential care for handicapped children, such as at Bunyip House, or will more handicapped children be accommodated in the future in the nursing home?

ANSWER

Through Somerville Homes, the people at Bunyip House have been advised that the pilot project will continue for another 12 months. At the moment, Dr Makita, who is the Director of Aged and Special Services, is evaluating the need for the types of facilities that will be required in the Northern Territory and not just in the Darwin area. At one stage, there was a proposal that the Chan Park Nursing Home should incorporate a children's facility isolated from the rest of the home. At this time, there is a question mark over the subject of licences through the Commonwealth. That came out in a press release last week which said that it was being held up by the bureaucracy in Adelaide which ignored the Commonwealth interests in the area. It is the government's intention to provide facilities for the

handicapped. If we eventually accept facilities similar to those at Bunyip House, I have no doubt that we will continue. The government's intention is to improve existing facilities to cater for special circumstances.

Giles House

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What progress, if any, has been made towards implementing the proposed day program for difficult schoolchildren at the Giles House education centre?

ANSWER

Quite by chance, I had the opportunity to visit Giles House last week and to look at the progress that is being made there. I would like to say that Giles House is a real success story in child remand. It really is going very well. There are some children in the Alice Springs community who, while they are not offenders, could certainly benefit from the sort of educational system that Mrs Daff and her willing workers run at Giles House. To enable Giles House to take these children in, work has been done on an adjoining block of flats to establish an accommodation unit and a schoolroom. The first admissions to this new program were taken early in August. As far as I can see, it can only expand and do well in the community because it is a very excellent program. It is the result of the department's own initiative. The Department of Education, the Department of Community Welfare and people involved in the care of difficult children in Alice Springs should be very proud of it.

Land in Bynoe Harbour Area

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS

When will land in the Bynoe Harbour area be released for auction?

ANSWER

I said at the last sittings or the sittings before that it would happen soon. I then realised that I had spoken too soon. I went back to my office and was assailed with briefs from the department to advise me that there is a land claim over this land at Bynoe Harbour: the Kenbi (Cox Peninsula) Land Claim. Of course, that claim is a long way from conclusion. It is wending its way through the different legal tribunals because, as members know, part of the land is in the extended Darwin Planning Area.

Mr Bell: Which is greater than London.

Mr EVERINGHAM: I heard a remark from the honourable member for the wild and woolly wastes opposite. I seem to remember that some Australian states are entirely covered by planning legislation. In fact, I think that New South Wales has planning legislation that covers every part of that state. Obviously, as the Northern Territory grows, whether the honourable member for MacDonnell likes it or not, planning legislation will have to cover areas outside the major cities. It is indicative of what is happening that the honourable member for Nightcliff, who represents people in the Darwin area, obviously asked on behalf of her constituents who are concerned because they want to get a holiday block of land at Bynoe Harbour where they have had shacks for years. That is uncontrolled development on Crown land. Is

there any better illustration of why the government extended the planning area of Darwin than the reasons behind the question asked by the honourable member for Nightcliff.

To revert to the question, obviously nothing can be done until the land claim is resolved. As I recall it - and this was some months ago - I requested the Department of Lands to proceed with survey work so that the land could be subdivided or offered for sale as soon as possible after the land claim is resolved, assuming that the land claim over the area is unsuccessful. That is not an assumption that I would make a book on.

Imported Fuel Levy

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Did he become aware yesterday of a levy of 9¢ a litre on imported fuel oil imposed in Tuesday's budget? What will the government do about it and what effect could this have on the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I became aware yesterday morning of a provision in the Commonwealth budget which would impose a 9.02¢ per litre levy on fuel oil used at Stokes Hill power-station. At that stage, I disbelieved it; I could not accept that such an impost would be levied by the Commonwealth government and that is why I was very cautious in my answer yesterday to a question from the Leader of the Opposition. Subsequently, we have had the matter very accurately checked out. At this stage, that levy would apply. Once I had confirmation of that, I alerted the Chief Minister who has been in personal contact with the Minister for Energy and Resources. He has also been in contact with the Prime Minister's office. As a result, I understand a number of interdepartmental committee meetings were held in Canberra yesterday but, as of this morning, there is no resolution of the problem. The Chief Minister's proposal, of course, was to obtain exemptions from that totally crippling tax. That is the position this morning - the tax still applies. Nonetheless, the Chief Minister and I are doing everything possible, through our various departments and personally, to persuade the federal government that this tax simply cannot be borne by the Northern Territory under any circumstances. The result of the imposition of this tax, in a full financial year, would be a loss to the Northern Territory Electricity Commission by way of payment back to the Commonwealth of $14.9m. The result of that application would be probably an immediate increase of 28.24% in electricity tariffs throughout the Northern Territory. I note the honourable member for Nhulunbuy nodding his head over there. The resultant effect on his area, of course, would be far more catastrophic. It would be something like $30m a year. We are still trying to persuade the Commonwealth that an error has been made and that these sorts of imposts simply cannot be borne by the Northern Territory. There would not be a person on either side of this Assembly or a member of the public who would accept for a moment such an impost. We are still hopeful of a satisfactory resolution.

Mr Speaker, I might just touch briefly also on the effect of the distillate tax increase of 1.5%, and its effect on NTEC. It would result in an expenditure back to the Commonwealth in the initial phase of $553 000 in a full year. As I said yesterday, we are very happy that the Commonwealth has seen fit to honour previous agreements and we are not ungrateful for that.

Under that rebate system, in respect of distillate, we would have returned to us by the Commonwealth $359 000 so the net loss to NTEC would be in the order of $194 000 in a full year in respect of distillate for its various power plants around the Northern Territory. In respect of petroleum distillate used for the purposes of transport and lubricating oil, NTEC expenditure would be about $250 000 but most of that would come back to us. This one does not cause us a great deal of difficulty as the net cost to the Northern Territory would only be about $50 000.

The $14.9m figure that I have given, or the resulting 28.24% increase in the tariffs, is over a full year. That would apply if we had to pay that impost as of yesterday. The position is that, whereas the budget takes effect as from today, there will be some savings because the excise does not apply for the full financial year. The figures I quoted are for a full financial year. In addition, NTEC does have certain stocks on hand. Obviously, we are not buying fuel oil across the wharf at the moment. We do have considerable stocks in hand so there would be some lead time before the actual impact would occur. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition is also horrified at what his colleagues have apparently done to us. As a result of all of our efforts, we are hoping that sanity will prevail.

Report on Wharf Construction

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the report by McDonnell, Wagner and Priddell into wharf construction been received and, if so, what does it say?

ANSWER

A report from the consultants has been received. The report is in response to questions framed by the department in consultation with the Port Engineer, taking into account the matters raised by the ALP in this Assembly. That report is under consideration. I propose to send a copy to the Leader of the Opposition in the next few days.

Tennant Creek High School

Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise what progress is being made on the design and construction of the new Tennant Creek High School?

ANSWER

The government is certainly very much committed to the construction of a high school in Tennant Creek to serve the worthy citizens of that fine town. I do not have specific details of matters such as construction dates etc. If he can possibly wait until about Tuesday of next week and the Northern Territory budget, we hope to be able to give specific times of construction, commencement and completion.

Responsibility for City Parks

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Given the apparent reluctance of Darwin City Council to maintain many of

the urban parks, including several in my electorate, have any discussions been initiated with the Conservation Commission with a view to that commission being responsible for both the establishment and maintenance of city parks?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand the frustration that underlies the honourable member's question, which results from endeavours to get the Darwin City Council to meet its obligations in relation to parks and many other things in the community. We are in somewhat of a dilemma because, for the government to take up responsibility for Darwin parks, footpaths, pop-up sprinkler areas and whatever else is not fair and reasonable for the whole of the Northern Territory. Most people would acknowledge that, in many areas in Darwin, the Conservation Commission has helped with the establishment of parks and the installation of equipment and pop-up sprinklers, planting programs, lawns, footpaths etc. However, it takes only a little while before people say : 'Why has it all gone to rack and ruin?' Generally, the answer is that it is because the city council had not placed the priority on it that we would have given. It is fair to say that the Conservation Commission is happy to help people, whether it be the Darwin City Council, departments, the Spastic Centre or whatever, in the establishment and occasional upgrading and improving of beautiful areas such as parks and gardens. But, it is not a reasonable proposition for the government to take over in toto the maintenance of all the parks and gardens in Darwin or any other centre in the Northern Territory. That is what city councils are for and the responsibility should not be taken off their shoulders. We should encourage them to accept their responsibility and do their job properly.

Alice Springs Recreation Lake

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the current position regarding the Alice Springs recreation lake, particularly in relation to the federal government inquiry?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, a couple of weeks ago, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Holding, wrote to me after an interregnum of 2 or 3 months, during which time he was considering the draft terms of reference prepared by the Northern Territory government for the inquiry into the Alice Springs recreation lake. Apparently, he spent that time consulting with various groups and individuals in relation to the terms of reference. They were finally returned to me a couple of weeks ago. It is unfortunate that the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs seems to have 2 standards in relation to consultation. He consults with anyone at all over terms of reference submitted to him by the Northern Territory government and proposes whatever changes those people suggest. But, in relation to a matter that affects the Northern Territory in a most intimate and controversial way - namely, the Aboriginal Land Rights Act - the minister established an inquiry under Mr Justice Toohey and gave that judge terms of reference without so much as one scintilla of consultation with the Northern Territory government over those terms of reference. The NT government is the government most interested because it will be affected much more by it than the Commonwealth government. Yet there was not one word of consultation. To secure any

consultation on the terms of reference to Justic Toohey, we have had to make strong representation to Mr Holding. He has refused to alter the terms of reference to Mr Justice Toohey by one iota, but has given us an oral assurance, for what it is worth, that Mr Justice Toohey will entertain the whole of the Northern Territory government's submission to him.

Mr Speaker, that is an illustration of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs' double standards in relation to consultation. That is something that really irks me about this government that preaches consultation and consensus. Continually, we hear of things arising about the Northern Territory - the business of Kakadu over the last few weeks for example. We sent a telex to the Prime Minister back in June over these proposed liquor regulations for Kakadu. What consultation was there with the Northern Territory? We pointed out our concerns over the introduction of this kind of proposed special law for Commonwealth enclaves and for select groups in the Northern Territory over and above the normal liquor laws, especially in the light of the lengthy consultations that the Northern Territory Liquor Commission has had over licensing in the Kakadu area. I might point out that the Northern Land Council withheld itself from that process of consultation and went running to the Commonwealth in an attempt to have the 'big stick' technique used once again. Of course, the Commonwealth complied willingly and without consultation with the Northern Territory government. I read these regulations in a copy of the Commonwealth Gazette, Mr Speaker. That is consultation and consensus a la the Hawke government. It talks consultation; it talks consensus. It does not practise either. Sooner or later the public of Australia and the media will wake up.

I could produce to this Assembly numerous other telexes that I have sent after learning of things from newspapers. We received these terms of reference a couple of weeks ago. I took them to Cabinet informally to get them through as quickly as possible without submission. I have since responded to the minister in the last few days. One of the suggestions made by the Northern Territory government is that all parties to the inquiry should exchange all relevant information. I hope that that point is accepted by the Commonwealth because we want this to be a frank and open inquiry and not held in any way behind closed doors like the Combe Royal Commission. Let us hope that this inquiry gets under way fairly soon.

Overseas Visitors to NT

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TOURISM

Will he give details of the present and proposed cooperation with the Australian Tourist Commission for the purpose of attracting overseas visitors to the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Obviously, this is a question that should be put on notice. I could reply to it in about 10 or 20 pages of detail. I suggest that, if the honourable member for MacDonnell doubts the good relations the Northern Territory has with the Australian Tourist Commission, he should be aware of the expressions of support that I have received for some of the Northern Territory's proposals vis a vis tourism. I notice that none of these have been accepted by the federal government in the budget. There are no

concessions to people who want to build tourist industry infrastructure. None of these proposals that would have helped get the economy moving and help create jobs has been reflected in the federal budget.

What we have seen in the federal budget in relation to tourism is a boosting of the funding to the Australian Tourist Commission from about $15m to about $22.5m. I might say that the Australian Tourist Commission's budget, in national terms, is not significantly greater than the Northern Territory Tourist Commission's budget. Only last week, I approved a visit by a Northern Territory Tourist Commission officer with an Australian tourist mission to South-east Asia and up as far as Hong Kong and even Taiwan or Korea. The Northern Territory is paying $3000 towards the cost of that mission in addition to our officer's fares and other travelling expenses. That is a concrete example of how the Northern Territory works in with the Australian Tourist Commission. I suggest that the member for MacDonnell telephone the Australian Tourist Commission and satisfy himself from them.

First-aid in Schools

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for EDUCATION

By way of explanation, a child of one of my constituents had a nasty accident at school in the playground when there was no teacher available. Has any consideration been given to the teaching of basic first-aid lessons in schools?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would have to seek some advice on that matter. I will answer him later during the sittings.

Design Work for Tindal

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the Minister advise whether the announced design work for Tindal air base will go to local or interstate firms?

ANSWER

It is not known exactly what the Commonwealth contemplates. We are writing to the ministers concerned with the construction projects that are coming on stream in the Northern Territory: the airport and the preliminary design work being undertaken at Tindal. We will be informing the ministers responsible in the federal sphere that facilities and expertise does exist in the Northern Territory and that much of the work in relation to these contracts could be undertaken in the Northern Territory. I understand that there is a major Housing and Construction Department personnel contingent in Adelaide which will be doing some of this work. We would hope that some of the work can be done by Northern Territory people.

Job-creation Scheme

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Will moneys allocated under the job-creation scheme for road construction

be available to the Nhulunbuy corporation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I certainly cannot give an answer on that. I would imagine that moneys that have been allocated to the job-creation program will be generally available to Northern Territory community organisations and perhaps to councils. As to whether the road funds will be available to the Nhulunbuy corporation, I could not say. This job-creation scheme has been established and it has quite a complex system of approvals. All proposals have to go to quite a large committee which considers them and the local federal member has to have some input. The Territory government has some sort of say in it but I am not sure where. Then, I believe, it all goes down to Canberra. I am not sure when these jobs will even start. It certainly will not be able to be operated as swiftly and efficiently as the last scheme.

I might point out that, in its scattergun approach of a month ago, the Commonwealth issued a press release condemning all the states and the Territory for not spending their funds under the previous job-creation scheme. We had spent about 90% of our funds at that time but we were included with the others because their administrative machinery is a lot slower than we get things done. Now, we really have had our style cramped because, the way this will operate, it will take ages to get anything through this vested interest group - which is what it amounts to - of a committee. I only hope that my predictions are untrue but the way this new scheme has been set up is certainly not, to my mind, good administration. It is likely to lead to delays.

Flood Mitigation Model

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

Will he undertake to set up the lake flood mitigation model at a suitable spot in Alice Springs and arrange demonstrations for interested people at advertised times?

ANSWER

The model will be displayed in the foyer of the government centre. It will be on show from 12 to 23 September from 12 noon to 2 pm each working day. Advertisements will be placed in the local papers prior to these dates.

Control of Therapy Equipment

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that something called magneto pulse therapy is being advertised to the public in the Northern Territory? As there are no direct controls over this type of equipment or treatment, when will the minister introduce legislation in this area for the protection of Territorians?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will have the matter investigated and correspond with the honourable member privately.

Funding to Aboriginal Communities

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I preface my question by drawing his attention to the scant town management and public utility funding provided to 2 communities in my electorate: Mt Ebenezer and Kintore. What provision will be made for equitable TMPU funding on these communities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would have to seek advice on Mt Ebenezer. As far as Kintore is concerned, there are discussions going on between ourselves and the federal government at the moment. One of the difficulties that we have with TMPU funding, community government funding and outstation funding is that there needs to be determined between ourselves and the Commonwealth a way of deciding when a community is an outstation and when a community is a community. The funding for both of those is done separately.

The Commonwealth sets up an establishment fund for outstations and we maintain it. At a later stage, it becomes a community with greater services provided: not just basic water and power services but schools, health clinics and a range of other municipal-type services. Kintore is a fine example of a group of people who moved from Papunya and set up at Kintore. I believe that they were funded by the Commonwealth. Even at this stage, our government is providing a level of service but whether it is what the people want and expect is another issue. I also understand that the Commonwealth has undertaken to fund an independent health service for Kintore but that is a matter for the people of Kintore. The matter of the provision of services such as water, power, drainage, airstrip, roads etc will have to be addressed as the days go on. I am looking forward to working closely with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs on this issue because it is closely involved. The Chief Minister has had discussions with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on how we should approach these issues. As soon as officers have some papers for us to consider, we will be in a better position to finalise the matter. It is not a simple matter of writing out a cheque. Some very serious issues are involved that need to be considered because the ongoing expenses will be very great.

Alice Springs to Darwin Railway

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

At a recent meeting in Alice Springs, the federal member, John Reeves, suggested that the Alice Springs to Darwin railway could be funded 30% by the NT government and then have the money claimed back through the Grants Commission. Is such a course of action tenable?

ANSWER

If that suggestion was made, it shows a decided ignorance on the part of the honourable member of another place on the operations of the Grants Commission. Unfortunately, the Grants Commission is empowered only to make recommendations to the federal government. The power of the Grants Commission is that its recommendations have so far never been ignored by any federal government. Let us hope that that situation continues, at least from the point of view of the people of the Northern Territory. It can make

recommendations only in relation to recurrent expenditure and not in relation to capital expenditure. In any event, the Alice Springs to Darwin railway is beyond the scope of the Northern Territory and its constitutional powers. Railways are not amongst those powers that are vested in the Northern Territory government under the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act of 1978. The suggestion, if it was made by the member for the Northern Territory, is one that might sound good to members of the media but does not bear examination.

Housing for Police and Fire Officers

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HOUSING

What is being done to ensure that public servants such as police officers and fire officers who are required to serve in any part of the Northern Territory are not disadvantaged when they transfer between centres and, as a consequence, have to rent out the houses they are purchasing under the Public Service Home Sales Scheme, thereby moving their interest rates up to the highest rate applicable on the table?

ANSWER

The public servants who are transferred to other Territory centres are given the opportunity, on a short-term basis, of renting their houses out in Darwin.

Mr Everingham: The police get a free house.

Mr DONDAS: That is correct. If a public servant is able to use the system to charge an extravagant rent, then a high interest rate must apply. If a public servant comes to some arrangement with the Housing Commission that he will charge a reasonable rent, that particular application will be assessed on its merits.

Pastoral Leases 785 and 786

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

Are the holders of pastoral leases 785 and 786 - that is, Point Stuart and Carmor Plain - in breach of their covenants? If so, what action has been taken to ensure that the breaches are rectified?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it really does the Leader of the Opposition no great credit to ask questions such as this. In fact, it is rather demeaning to this Assembly that I should be asked a question about 2 specific pastoral leases when there are over 400 pastoral leases extant in the Northern Territory. If I am supposed to carry details of the defaults of these pastoral leases around in my head with me, then I would have to be a remarkable man. If the Leader of the Opposition places the question on notice, I will see that an answer is obtained as soon as possible. If he wants to ask questions of such a specific nature, perhaps he could give me a few hours notice of them.

Stuart Highway through Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will a contract be let in Alice Springs for the reconstruction of the Stuart Highway through that township?

ANSWER

Tenders for the contract closed on 12 August. It is the government's intention to award the contract early this week and it is expected that the work will proceed early in September.

Northern Territory Motor-cycle Association

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS

Is he considering a request from the Northern Territory Motor-cycle Association for a grant of land to enable it to continue its voluntary driver tuition courses?

ANSWER

On Friday of last week, I received an application from the Northern Territory Motor-cycle Association for a grant of land. Even the honourable member for Nightcliff would appreciate that the weekend has intervened and insufficient time has elapsed for even a department that operates with the efficiency of the Department of Lands to process such an application.

Mereenie Joint Venturers

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the outcome of the investigation undertaken by the Department of Mines and Energy into a proposal by the Mereenie joint venturers to bring into production wells in the Pacoota sandstone formation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will seek some detailed information. I could give a broad answer to that question but I think it would be better if I gave that answer at a later hour.

Cane Toads

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

An item in yesterday's NT News indicated that cane toads were moving into the Territory. What is the Northern Territory government doing to contain the spread of the cane toads into the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have asked the Conservation Commission to provide some information for me. My officers tell me that there is some very comprehensive work being done. I would be happy to provide details to all members later hour.

Dam on Adelaide River

Mr B.COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the government considering the development of the Warri Dam on the Adelaide River as a future source of water for the city of Darwin?

ANSWER

The government is considering several sites as part of an ongoing investigation into water requirements for the years ahead. I understand that that dam site is being considered with the rest. Of course, the government's main concern is for people to conserve water so that there is less need for capital works of this nature to be brought on urgently.

Doctor for Jabiru

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why has the position of a doctor for Jabiru not yet been advertised in accordance with the undertaking given by him to a meeting of residents of the town several weeks ago?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Secretary of the Department of Health has made arrangements with the Public Service Commissioner's Office to advertise locally, nationally and internationally. Until the Public Service Commissioner's Office processes the paperwork for advertisements to be placed, they will not appear. In the meantime, the department has made arrangements to provide a doctor at Jabiru, on a temporary basis, who has been recruited locally. Until that particular doctor takes his place on a more permanent basis in Jabiru, the Darwin hospital will maintain a service there.

Regional Office of Department of Housing and Construction

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise whether the federal Minister for Housing and Construction has responded to his request to establish a regional office of the Department of Housing and Construction in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, some months ago, at the request of the Institute of Engineers, the Institute of Architects and the Master Builders Association, I made representations to the Minister for Housing and Construction, Mr Hurford, for the re-establishment in Darwin of a regional office of his department. At the time, these various organisations were extremely concerned that the regional office of the Department of Housing and Construction in Adelaide, which has the oversight of Northern Territory projects, was placing consultancy work for architectural and engineering projects for Northern Territory projects, such as the Darwin Airport and the Tindal air base, with consultants in South Australia, Western Australia and, indeed, Victoria. They believe that the Northern Territory's interests will not be best served whilst the housing and construction operations are oversighted from Adelaide. Presumably, the occupants of the regional office in Adelaide would know best how the consultancy works.

I took this matter up with the Minister for Housing and Construction directly when I met with him in Parliament House, Canberra, some months ago. He said that, if I made a written submission, he would look into the matter. Accordingly, with the assistance of the groups that I have mentioned, we have prepared a written submission which has been sent to the minister. After a couple of months, he responded that he is unable at this stage to re-establish a departmental regional office in Darwin. Nonetheless, we are not taking this lying down. I have again contacted the various groups and asked them to assist me in preparing a response to the minister because I believe that consultants in the Northern Territory, and the Northern Territory construction industry generally, will not be properly and adequately serviced until the regional office of the Department of Housing and Construction is once again re-established in Darwin, and not located in Adelaide basically to suit bureaucrats' convenience.

Racing and Gaming Bill

Ms LAWRIE to TREASURER

My question concerns his circulated amendment to the Racing and Gaming Bill. Has he taken steps to ensure that this proposed amendment has been circulated to licensed bookmakers operating within the Territory?

ANSWER

The particular amendment was proposed to me by the Racing and Gaming Commission and I took steps to have it circulated to honourable members last week. I have not sent it to licensed bookmakers in the Territory. If I had had a bit more time, I would have had it circulated. I can advise the honourable member that, as a result of the circulation of quite a number of copies of the Racing and Gaming Act Bill, there has been only one response from a bookmaker. No clubs or other bookmakers responded. The only other response was from the Federated Clerks Union which certainly supports

off-course bookmakers and licensing of clerks.

Motel at Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the winding down or at least the going-nowhere-fast policy forced on Jabiru town development by the non-opening of the uranium mines at Jabiluka and Koongara, is the Northern Territory government still pressing ahead for the building of a motel at Jabiru?

ANSWER

The question of a motel at Jabiru certainly raises the much more important question of tourist accommodation at Kakadu National Park. Over the years, the Northern Territory government has been negotiating with the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and the federal government, especially the Department of Conservation and Environment, for the establishment of adequate and proper tourist facilities in or adjacent to the Kakadu National Park. Obviously, from the point of view of economics, and in the light of our experience with Yulara, the Northern Territory government favours the establishment of a tourist accommodation complex in or near Jabiru. The reason is that the provision of services to these tourist complexes is one of their most expensive features. The Yulara complex will cost about $150m. A great deal of that money is being taken up in providing electricity, water and other services. Indeed, Telecom has refused to make provision for telephonic communications with Yulara so the Northern Territory government has had to find $5m, I think, to enable Yulara to have telephonic communication with the rest of the world.

Regarding Kakadu, we really are getting into a desperate impasse. Provision has to be made urgently for tourist accommodation in and around Kakadu. We have supported the South Alligator Motor Inn. I forget how much money the NTDC loaned the proprietors of that establishment - probably most of the money that they required to get it off the ground. Indeed, we would welcome the opportunity to lend them more money if they can put a viable proposition to us. But the inn will not solve the problem entirely because it is at one extremity of the park and it is a long drive from there to the features that the tourists want to see. We do not have uranium development, and it is not likely to happen for a couple of years at least. The federal government is going through all sorts of intricate manoeuvres in that area. Frankly, it seems to me that it cannot do anything about uranium mining until it alters its policy at a national conference but I hope, Mr Speaker, that I am wrong. However, I would say that any new uranium development in the Northern Territory is a couple of years away at best. I suppose also that we will have to get around the vested interests that Roxby Downs seems to have established in the ALP hierarchy where, for some reason or other, it has been given the go ahead but approval for Jabiluka to proceed has been withdrawn.

Tourism is becoming vital to the Northern Territory and the establishment of tourist facilities at Kakadu has to happen. It cannot be put off any longer. No longer can we be subject to the whims of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service which, for so long, has seemed to want to run the park solely for its own benefit without regard to the benefit of anyone in this Territory or, indeed, Australia. I have asked the Prime Minister, and he has agreed,that Northern Territory officials meet urgently with federal

officials to try to resolve the problems over Kakadu generally and to get some sort of progress going in that area. We are building hotels here in Darwin. We need them to accommodate tourists. If Jumbo-loads of tourists are to come here, there must be beds to put them in. Then, they have to be taken to places they want to see. What is there for them at Kakadu? At the moment, we have permission from the ANPWS to build a 25-unit motel at Kakadu for people having genuine and bona fide reasons to go there . There is not camping ground at Jabiru. This situation simply cannot continue. We are doing our very best. The previous federal government was no better about Kakadu in this respect but, at least, we had the hope that the Territory's short to medium-term future would be propped up by uranium mining. Now we know that we must have tourism and we must have it quickly. Decisions must be made about Kakadu and tourist accommodation.

Motel at Cooinda

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TOURISM

My question relates to the answer that he has just given. Is he completely unaware that the Gunwinggu Association is already well advanced in the construction of a modern, high-quality tourist accommodation complex at Cooinda in the middle of Kakadu National Park, a project costing several million dollars? In fact, I visited it last weekend. Is he also aware that this is being constructed with absolutely no assistance whatever from the Northern Territory Development Corporation?

ANSWER

I am well aware of the establishment of a relatively medium-sized motel at Cooinda. There has been tourist accommodation at Cooinda now for many years. It is pleasing to see the establishment of this motel. I hope that it will be operated to a high standard which is satisfactory to the national and international visitors whom we are hoping to attract to Kakadu. To my mind, and I have given some thought to this, I believe that the association should attempt to enlist the services of some well-accredited national operator to assist it to run this enterprise, at least in the first 2 or 3 years, to help the complex get off the ground. I wish the association every success. However, I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that the South Alligator Motor Inn and the motel at Cooinda will not cater for anywhere near the number of tourists that we must have coming through Darwin and going to Kakadu to really make the whole thing worth while. I welcome this motel. I would welcome the association building one that was double or treble the size. However, it will not really begin to solve the problem.

Katherine High School Meeting

Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Will he be making a statement on the meeting held between parents, teachers and the school council of the Katherine High School with officers of the Department of Education?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have a report from the Department of Education on some

problems at Katherine High School. It includes reference to a meeting held last week between parents and teachers at the school. However, it is a very frank report and it would not be appropriate or serve a great deal of benefit for me to read it out or table it in the Assembly. At the meeting, a resolution was passed that the newly-formed school council should immediately investigate such things as student discipline, teacher morale and school-community relationships. The third item is probably the most important of all to be investigated. We will be assisting the school council in that regard and doing whatever else we can. I have asked the Department of Education to mobilise its resources to assist. Within the resources of the Department of Education are many experts on many aspects of education. In addition, the chairman of the school council is in Darwin at present having talks with the Department of Education officials on the next stage of action to resolve the problems at Katherine High School. I will be meeting the chairman at lunchtime today to hear his views and give him mine on the subject. I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that I will keep the honourable member for Elsey informed of progress on this matter. It is one we take very seriously and will address quickly. However, I do not believe it would serve any purpose to go into details or mention names because I just do not think that is the way to solve the problem.

Kings Canyon

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS

I refer to a proposal for an excision from the Tempe Downs head lease for a conservation reserve in the vicinity of Kings Canyon. What stage has been reached in the negotiations with the Tempe Downs Pastoral Company in relation to that excision?

ANSWER

I cannot say that I am as fully au fait with this matter as the Minister of Conservation is but, as far as I am aware, the negotiations are finalised and some sort of provision is being made for the issue of a lease to the Conservation Land Corporation.

Bus Service to Bloodwood Caravan Park

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why was the bus service up Wallaby Holtze Road to Bloodwood Caravan Park discontinued without any prior notification to possible users?

ANSWER

The bus service was discontinued because only 1 person used it and then only on an irregular basis. The 8 km deviation from the usual route cannot therefore be justified. The honourable member does raise the point about advice going to residents about the discontinuation of the service and in future it is proposed that advice will go out to the local members in the area so that they may inform their constituents.

Working Party on Racing Industry

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

On Monday 22 August, he announced a further study into the structure and funding of the racing industry. Who is to conduct the study and when does he propose to announce the terms of reference?

ANSWER

The working party that is being established to look into the structure and funding of racing in the Northern Territory will be under the chairmanship of a very senior officer from Treasury. Having regard to the fact that most of the funding which goes to racing is taxpayers' money, we see that Treasury should play the principal role in looking at these questions and options. In addition, the Racing and Gaming Commission will be represented by the commissioner, Mr Davis. The Northern Territory Commissioner of Police will have a representative on the working party and there will be 2 members from the racing clubs - one from Darwin and one from Alice Springs - a representative of off-course bookmakers and a consumer representative. The terms of reference which we have been working on in the last few days will be announced hopefully within a few days. We have yet to receive specific nominations from race clubs for persons to be on the working party. The first meeting will determine how it will go about its task. I suspect that, some time during the course of its examinations, at least some if not all members of the working party will have to travel interstate. The government will be making announcements from time to time as the working party progresses with its work.

Working Party on Racing Industry

Mr LEO to TREASURER

Will the report from this working party be confidential or a public document?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, we would envisage that, after the government has assessed the report, there is every likelihood that the document will be released publicly. I am sure the views of many of the members on the working party will be well known even if the report is not released.

Kings Canyon

Mr VALE to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

What stage has been reached on the establishment of a proposed national park in the Kings Canyon area?

ANSWER

I am happy to advise that discussions between the principals of Tempe Downs and the Conservation Commission and the Department of Lands are nearing completion. It is anticipated that we will have a signing ceremony for the relinquishment of the proposed park area at Kings Canyon from Tempe Downs to

the Conservation Commission and the creation of a national park over Kings Canyon later in September.

For the benefit of honourable members, I would like to outline the details relating to the area concerned. The Kings Canyon area was first traversed in the early part of this century by teams from South Australia who were crossing the Northern Territory. Recently, reports of that have been delivered to me as extracts from the South Australian archives and it is very interesting reading. The creation of Tempe Downs in the early days was done on the basis of drawing lines on the map and Kings Canyon was included in it. At all times, the management of Tempe Downs have regarded the area as a superb conservation area which should be set aside for the benefit of the public and future generations. Negotiations for acquisition of the area had some troubled times. Earlier this year, we were able to find common ground with the people at Tempe Downs and agree to the acquisition of the area and the sublease of an area on the south side of Kings Canyon which the company can continue to use for grazing cattle. The area will be leased back to it by the Conservation Land Corporation.

Mr Speaker, I would just like to take the opportunity to outline to members what the government sees as the future in the area. Because of its proximity to Ayers Rock and the Yulara development, the development and use of Kings Canyon will increase tremendously in the years to come. Already, we have a problem where there is an incredible amount of use by the public of the area and I would have to be the first to admit that we have very few facilities for the people going there. No rangers are stationed there and, apart from some basic barbeques and rubbish facilities, the area is devoid of any infrastructure that would assist tourists. I do not believe that, with the creation of a park over Kings Canyon, this can be allowed to continue. I have been having discussions with Dr Letts on what we might do.

If we accept the premise that Kings Canyon could have 80 000 or 90 000 people a year going through it - and that is not an unreasonable proposition in 2 or 3 years' time - we very badly need to put some infrastructure in place. The first question that comes to mind is where to put it and the impact it will have on the people already there. Honourable members would be aware that recently a lease was granted by the government to Conway and Lander who wanted to run some cattle, break-in horses and camels and provide general camping facilities for people going to Kings Canyon. Also in the immediate vicinity, the Cotterill family operates Wallara Ranch. They have been there for at least 20 years to my knowledge. I understand that the future development of the Wallara site has a cloud over it because there is some difficulty between the head lessees of the pastoral lease on which the Wallara Ranch is situated and the Cotterills and a solution has been difficult to arrive at. I have had discussions with Conway and Lander and the Cotterills on what could be put in place in the Kings Canyon area to provide motel, camping and other facilities for people who would like to go there. I believe that Kings Canyon, as a tourist destination, is quite unique. It is one that ought to be developed, even in a small way, along the lines that we used to approach the Ayers Rock destination. I believe that, if we are to maintain credibility with our international tourists, we must have good facilities at Kings Canyon. It is likely that we could keep them in the Kings Canyon area for at least a day or two.

Mr Speaker, with the discussions going on at the moment between the government and Conway and Lander and the Cotterills, and the proposal being

worked up by the Conservation Commission in conjunction with the Department of Lands, the Northern Territory Development Corporation and the Tourist Commission, the Kings Canyon tourist destination will become equally as famous as Ayers Rock. I would be interested to hear from the members for MacDonnell and Stuart, who have a close relationship with the area and an understanding of it, any views they may have about the future development of the facilities there. However, there is no doubt that something has to happen and, Mr Speaker, it will.

Tempe Downs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

This question refers to his previous answer in which he referred to an area of land being offered by way of compensation to Tempe Downs Pty Ltd because of the loss of land due to the excision of the Kings Canyon area. Where is that area of land?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, for the benefit of the honourable member, I would just like to make the point that the block of land on which agreement has been reached on a lease between the Conservation Land Corporation and the lessees of Tempe Downs is not offered by way of compensation but by way of agreement. The area referred to is on the south-west corner and runs along the southern boundary flank of the canyon where the road goes. It goes out to the south west and it comes back and joins the road. It is almost triangular in shape. It is not large; it would possibly accommodate 200 head of cattle in a grazing operation. The control and supervision of the area will be agreed upon between the management of the station and the management group from the Northern Territory Conservation Commission. From discussions between the Tempe Downs people and us, it was agreed that it is an odd piece of land on the corner of the property and that it did not really fit in with the Kings Canyon park per se. Neither is it big enough to justify the separate granting of a lease for pastoral activity. We agreed that the best way of handling it was for the Conservation Commission to assume that area for use as a buffer zone adjoining the park and to lease it back to the company for grazing cattle. There is also the understanding that the agreement can continue so long as the land is not over-grazed or affected in any way that would have an impact on the park.

Rum Jungle Mine Site

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the increase of 300% in funding allocated in the federal budget for the much-needed rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine site, which I understand is being done through the Department of Transport and Works, could he advise the progress that is likely to be made on that in the next 12 months? Could he also advise whether, once that site is made safe, attention will be given by the Northern Territory government to its potential for tourism?

ANSWER

It is true that a program has been developed with the Commonwealth for the rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine site. I will be happy to provide extensive details for the honourable member. I am not aware of any proposal for tourism development in the region. Obviously, the place does lend itself to some tour operations, possibly in conjunction with the day tours out of Darwin. I will advise the honourable member further on the details of the rehabilitation program.

Safety of Women Drivers

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

He has asked the TIO to investigate reports that women drivers are safer drivers than their male counterparts. Has he had a response from the TIO regarding this and, if so, what is its conclusion?

ANSWER

I have not had any response from the TIO to my request as yet, which was actually directed from me to my colleague, the Treasurer, who has responsibility for the TIO. However, I read a month or two ago in a journal to which I attach some credence that a survey had been carried out. I forget whether it was in the USA or in Australia. It showed that, over a certain period in a certain community, women had a much safer driving record than their male counterparts and that, accordingly, they were being offered preferential treatment by insurance companies. Of course, that is fair. Insurance is like betting: you make a book and you offer odds. The odds in this case indicate obviously that women drivers are a safer bet than men; that is, on the basis that they are involved in fewer accidents. I have asked the TIO to follow this up to see if it can offer a beneficial or preferential package of comprehensive insurance. I assume it would apply to women-owner drivers. Obviously, the package could not apply to vehicles that may be driven by men.

Status of Drilling in Bonaparte Gulf

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Would he give a brief outline of what has transpired to date in regard to drilling in the Bonaparte Gulf?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the recoverable reserves which were estimated in the Puffin area, and I take it that that is the area to which the honourable member alludes, are expected to be in the order of 115 million to 230 million barrels of oil. A number of questions relate to that. One includes the current excise arrangements in relation to oil and it is indisputable that the Commonwealth has the right to impose its resources rent tax. If that is the case, it may have the effect of making that particular oil find more attractive for exploitation than the proposal of the previous government. There is also a concern in relation to further exploration and proving up of the area due to a dispute between Australia and Indonesia as to the seabed economic boundary. That is a further question which needs resolution. Vulcan 1B was completed in August 1982. In that well, no hydrocarbons were

discovered. Jabiru 1A is being drilled at present and, I understand, closer in to where oil has been found. A successful result is hoped for there. Up to August last year, 500 km of seismic data was acquired and more is planned this year. Substantial acreage will be available for application and gazettal is now being prepared for further exploration in that area. The estimated reserves of recoverable gas are estimated at 141 billion cubic metres so a very substantial find has been located in that area.

As I indicated last week, NTP28 partners, in the development of the Petrel area, are examining the possibility of an onshore gas facility for Darwin. We are all aware of the enormous cost of that. Naturally, very extensive export markets would need to be found if that were to become viable. We know that huge reserves are being brought into production on the North-west Shelf and this will make the marketing of any Northern Territory gas much more difficult. There are also huge reserves of natural gas available elsewhere throughout the world. It is one of the energy sources in more plentiful supply in the world.

Mr Speaker, I could go on for some time in relation to seismic information and so on. I do not think the honourable member seeks that sort of detail. If he does, I will be more than happy to give him the information. Some 6000 km of seismic data was acquired in 1982 and 1500 km of additional data may be acquired in 1983. That relates to gas and not oil.

Palm Valley Gas for Alice Springs

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

When will Palm Valley gas come into use in the Alice Springs power-station?

ANSWER

Last Friday, I signed the authorisation to commence gas production flow through the pipeline. I am not sure on exactly which day the test runs will be conducted. The official opening of the pipeline will occur at 11.30 am on Friday. Gas will flow officially to the powerhouse from that day, if not a day earlier.

Director of Aged and Special Services

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it true that the person appointed to the position of Director of Aged and Special Services in the Department of Health earlier this year will leave before the end of this year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the answer is yes.

Stamp Duty on First-home Purchases in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

When will first-home buyers in the rural area not have to pay stamp duty, a privilege only extended at present to people in urban areas?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the stamp duty exemption for first-home buyers in the Northern Territory applies at present to a residential lot. That is the term used in the legislation. The Commissioner of Taxes has determined that, generally speaking, lots over 2 ha are not residential lots for the purposes of that particular exemption from stamp duty. This has caused considerable concern amongst constituents and potential constituents of the honourable member for Tiwi. However, the Commissioner of Taxes is bound by the legislation and has faced the difficulty that quite a number of semi-commercial activities are conducted where people own areas of 2 ha or more. Many of those lots are used as stables, kennels, workshops and transport depots. Others are used for agricultural produce, be it mango trees or the growing of other crops. Even though, in many cases, we would all accept that there is a very low level of activity from the householder's point of view, nonetheless, if it is of a commercial nature, even for a part of the year, it is outside the present intention of the act to allow exemption from stamp duty for those first-home buyers in the Northern Territory.

I will have to leave further advice on this matter for the honourable member to pick up in the budget to be handed down in the Assembly today. I can say to her, however, that any perceived discrimination between city and rural dwellers will be removed.

Report on Rice-growing Industry in NT

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has the study undertaken by Dr Baird from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Authority into the commercial potential of the rice-growing industry in the Northern Territory been completed and, if so,was the report favourable and when will it be available?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have received an interim report on the investigations of the good doctor. I have some small problems with it but I intend to wait for the full report.

Liquor Act Review

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the operation of the Liquor Act currently under review and, if so, when does he expect to be in receipt of the findings of any such review?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Chairman of the Liquor Commission is conducting a review on the section of the Liquor Act which relates to take-away sales. I hope to provide a Cabinet submission on that review in the very near future.

Status of Salt-water Crocodile

Mr LEO to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Does the government intend to persist with attempts to have the salt-water crocodile's status under the world wildlife listing of endangered species changed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, we will be seeking to have that crocodile species shifted from schedule 1 to schedule 2. That would be much more acceptable from our point of view. With the current classification, it would be extremely difficult for any products from the commercial crocodile farm operation ever to move onto the market. We do not think that that is terribly helpful. We believe the program that is under way at the moment is geared towards conservation in the most positive sense. The farm is breeding the species as well as hoping to harvest it. Surely, that must be the best balance that nature could ever hope to achieve. I will seek from the Chairman of the Conservation Commission, Dr Letts, a paper on the exact status of our application before the United Nations conference on the matter and provide the honourable member with details at a later date.

Subsidised Taxi Services for Disabled

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What consideration has the government given to the provision of subsidised taxi services for disabled people?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that particular proposal is under consideration. The Department of Health is investigating how those services operate elsewhere in Australia. Until such time as that information is provided to me, I am unable to make a decision regarding any implementation of that kind of service in the Darwin area.

Portability of Housing Commission Mortgages

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HOUSING

What progress has been made in relation to a system to allow for the portability of Housing Commission mortgages?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the matter is still under consideration.

Sand-mining Site for Alice Springs

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

Has a decision been made on an alternative sand-mining site to the Todd River?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the short answer is no. Much more time is needed to explore the nature of sand deposits in central Australia thoroughly. I understand the anxiety that is inherent in the honourable member's question. It is not possible to continue with building and construction work without a ready supply of the correct type of sand. The only source of that in central Australia is in the creek beds. These are environmentally sensitive locations. They affect tourism as well. We cannot dig them up willy-nilly. That affects trees and has all sorts of undesirable side effects. At the moment, as far as the area of Alice Springs is concerned, the Todd River system up and down stream of the city would seem to be the only reasonable source close to the town. Naturally there are a number of other river systems within a hundred kilometres of Alice Springs which are of exactly the same type, and which have similar types of sand. Regrettably, the further one goes from the town, the greater the cost of transporting the sand to the concrete-making sites and brick manufacturing works. Of course, the consequence is obvious: the price to the consumer and home builder rises. It is not an easy one. We are still exploring the areas around Alice Springs to try to overcome this difficulty. It is not a pressing problem. Obviously, as development continues, we will have to go further afield for sand. Bearing in mind both the cost and environmental issues involved in this exercise, the government certainly is not taking the matter lightly.

Aerial Medical Services

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will the government act on the results of the inquiry into aerial medical services in the Northern Territory which demonstrated that the Royal Flying Doctor Service could provide services south of Katherine at considerably cheaper cost than the existing charter operators do?

ANSWER

The question of the Royal Flying Doctor Service operating out of the Katherine region is subject to discussions that I am having with the Department of Health. In fact, I met with the council of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Alice Springs recently and advised it that, whilst the results of the survey had indicated that there was a need for the Royal Flying Doctor Service in that area, the report also stated that people in the area were being adequately serviced by the charter operator, Tillair. The Royal Flying Doctor Service was asking if there was a possibility of its service being used right throughout the Northern Territory. I advised it that, if it did get into the Katherine region, it would not be able to operate in the Arnhem region for the next 4 or 5 years because of the agreement that we have with the Airlines of Northern Australia through ATI. I am still having a look at the report and the results of that particular survey.

At this moment, I am not disposed to change the current operation in that area because Tillair is providing an adequate service. The aircraft being used are considered to be reasonable. Of course, the honourable member has always advocated that aircraft such as the Nomad should be used. We are using the Nomad in the east Arnhem and northern regions, provided that the medical backup is there. Most of the people in remote areas adjacent

to Katherine are in radio contact with the regional health centre in Katherine, as is the case with remote areas adjacent to other Territory centres such as Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. If it really is needed to fly an aircraft to a remote locality, a doctor will be the one who makes the decision whether an aircraft goes. I would remind the honourable member for Fannie Bay that, in the old days, aircraft went out for people who had cut a finger, and that was at taxpayers' expense.

Intersection of Lee Point Road and McMillans Road

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of peak hour traffic conditions at the intersection of Lee Point Road and McMillans Road? For the safety of residents in the northern suburbs, will he initiate an investigation into the feasibility of installing traffic lights at that intersection?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to take the matter on board.

Racing Industry Inquiry

Mr LEO to TREASURER

When will the working party that is presently investigating the racing industry in the Northern Territory be required to submit its report to the minister?

ANSWER

I hope to be in a position to announce the composition of the working party on Friday or Monday. It will not have a specific time limit to submit its report to us because the terms of reference which are being finalised - and I will send a copy to the honourable member - are quite extensive. The working party will indeed have quite a formidable task. It would be unfair of us to impose a time limit at this stage. Certainly, it will be some months.

Tax on Fuel Products

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of a succession of conflicting statements by the federal Treasurer, the Minister for Aviation, the federal member in the House of Representatives, John Reeves, and the Leader of the Opposition, can he inform this Assembly of the impact on the Territory of federal taxes on fuel products as announced in the 1983-84 federal budget?

ANSWER

I thank the member for Port Darwin for his question. We would indeed be forgiven for believing that the fuel imposts on the Northern Territory have been reduced by the federal government. We have often heard pious statements from the Leader of the Opposition in relation to the issuing to the public of totally misleading statements by this side of the Assembly. Mr Speaker, I am about to demonstrate that the man is a hypocrite.

As the NT News pointed out in its editorial of 30 August, there was a press release by Mr John Reeves: 'Federal government slashes fuel oil, heating oil, power and lighting kerosene excise by 80%'. That was from the federal member for the Northern Territory. Let us look closer to home, at the Leader of the Opposition himself. On 8DN news on 30 August, the same day, what did the Leader of the Opposition say about this vital issue for the Northern Territory? He said: 'Whichever way we look at it, the federal budget for the Territory has done exceedingly well...I am pleased that the federal government has responded so quickly and decisively to the new representations that were made to it'.

Mr Speaker, let us look at the realities of this decisive action. For the Northern Territory, the truth of this so-called decisive action will be utterly disastrous. This federal budget has been a budget of pure taxation by stealth. It has taken until last night for officers of my department, working with information from the Commonwealth's own figures for the projected fuel use for this financial year and ensuing financial years, to really decipher just what this means for every member here and every citizen of the Northern Territory whom we represent. The 1983-84 Commonwealth budget

adversely affects petroleum product prices in the Territory by: increasing duty on motor spirit, distillate, avgas and avtur; the introduction of duty on kerosene, fuel oil and heating oil; indexing the above duties and movements to the consumer price index, with a first indexation increase effective on budget night, 23 August 1983; and changing the Petroleum Products Rate Subsidy Scheme so that the subsidy is payable only to the nearest retail outlet or port of loading - that is, in the case of fishing vessels. With the 26 August revision of fuel oil duty to 1.872¢ per litre, it is estimated that the direct effect of these budget measures will be to increase Territory fuel bills by about $18m in 1983-84 and in excess of $23m in 1984-85. The indirect effects of the increased fuel costs will flow on to all sectors of the Territory economy, raising the cost of living and industry cost structure.

Mr Speaker, in respect to aviation, the additional costs due to changes in duty arrangements will cost the Northern Territory's aviation industry $0.5m. In the pastoral area, in the straight additional cost due to changes in duty arrangements, it will cost the pastoral industry $0.2m. To that can be added an additional cost of $0.2m due to the changes in the Petroleum Products Freight Subsidy Scheme, making an impost of $0.4m on the pastoral industry in a financial year. The fishing industry, as a result of the increase in costs, charges and duty arrangements, will face additional costs of up to $1m. In addition, the same arrangements which are now being put in place for the Petroleum Products Freight Subsidy Scheme will cost that industry an additional $1.1m, bringing the impost grabbed by the Commonwealth government from Territory fishing operations to $2.1m.

In respect to the effects of duty arrangements on electricity generation in the Northern Territory, we have addressed ourselves only to the question of fuel oil for the Darwin power-station. Let us look at the impost to the Northern Territory. The total revenue collected by the Commonwealth as a result of these duty arrangements will be $4.1m, of which $3.6m will be in respect of the Stokes Hill power-station. Mr Speaker, I announced previously that, as a result of the revised figures, we expect the increase in levies in respect of the Stokes Hill power-station to be in the order of 6% to 7%. At that stage, we did not realise the impact of these arrangements across the whole spectrum of fuel supplies in electricity generation. Clearly, it will be more than that.

In respect of government operations involving energy use in motor vehicles, the additional cost to the NT government, in the first category - that is, duty-arrangements will be $0.4m. The mining industry is a vital industry to the Northern Territory as is tourism which seems to have been overlooked completely in respect of the exemption for diesel. Certain areas were included in that but certainly not tourism. The impost on mining will be $7.7m in a financial year. That will go by direct payment to the Commonwealth. That will simply wipe out the jobs. With respect to road transport throughout the Northern Territory, the impost will be $0.4m. The ordinary motorist in the Northern Territory has been sent a bill by the Commonwealth government, through this marvellous decisive action of slashing costs, of a mere $2.3m.

Mr Speaker, the total additional costs as a result of duty arrangements for the Northern Territory is $16.6m. The additional cost due to changes in the Petroleum Products Freight Subsidy Scheme is $1.3m, bringing the total this year to $17.9m. As I have already indicated, in a full financial year, it will be $23m.

Housing Loans

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HOUSING

I preface my question by referring him to the fact that expenditure on new loans to borrowers in 1982-83 by the Northern Territory Housing Commission was $38.996m and that this sum provided 966 loans. Is it a fact that, for the 1983-84 financial year, the appropriation is only $34.15m which will allow for only 850 new loans?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will obtain that information and provide it to the member during this sittings.

Legislation on Large-animal Pounds

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will legislation governing large-animal pounds be implemented?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Tiwi has been pressing for some time to have the stray animal problem in her electorate resolved to her satisfaction and the satisfaction of her constituents. I am happy to advise her that the new legislation will come into effect on 1 December. The department will be calling for tenders for people to be involved in the collection and holding of stray animals.

Deferred Finance Arrangements

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

My question concerns the deferred finance arrangements mentioned in yesterday's budget. Has he any evidence of the interest of prime contractors in participating in this type of financing arrangement in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The answer is yes. Advertisements will appear from today onwards in the press in the Northern Territory seeking interested people to come forward and obtain more details from the government so that negotiations can commence. I understand that 2 major parties in this field have expressed interest in obtaining details immediately. That is encouraging. The scheme was originally proposed at the National Economic Summit Conference by the Australian Federation of Construction Contractors, a very substantial organisation in Australia. Therefore, the program was not just plucked out of the air by the Northern Territory government. The concept was considered in great detail by the Australian Federation of Construction Contractors which went to a great deal of trouble to put its case together for the summit.

The Northern Territory government feels that the adoption of this innovation - probably before any other government in Australia - will prove very beneficial to the Northern Territory. It will give the government the

ability to bring forward works which are not programmed to commence for 2 or 3 years. It has particular application for times when there is a lack of work available, and a surplus capacity in the construction industry or when prices are more attractive than they will be at a later time. Additional benefits flow from having capital works projects constructed ahead of time. New jobs are created and economic activity is stimulated by increased payroll taxes, salary payments and spin-off commercial activity. It also gives the community the opportunity to benefit from projects before the original programmed completion dates. For example, the upgrading of the Pine Creek to Jabiru road will be able to be brought forward some years ahead of normal programming. That road will be of enormous benefit to the Territory. It will cost about $24m over a 4-year period and will be part of a bitumen triangle in the north of the Territory. During the wet season, people will not have to backtrack down the Stuart Highway when they go directly to Kakadu. They will be able to drive to Pine Creek, then to Kakadu, then to Darwin and back down the Stuart Highway or vice versa. The more I think about that particular road and the access that it will give to some of the very attractive areas in the southern Kakadu area, the more excited I become about the benefits to the Territory of sealing it. That is an example of the very many benefits that will come from this scheme - which will be carefully managed by the government - to bring forward capital works projects by using private finance. Obviously, the government will have to monitor the extent to which this new scheme is adopted so that it does not get out of hand. We will certainly be doing that, I believe that it will be to the benefit of us all in the long term.

Coffee Bush

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Lately, there has been a tremendous amount of work done around the city in removing, to use the minister's own words, Tom's weed - coffee bush. What follow-up work is proposed for the areas that have been cleared and are the areas where the cuttings and seeds of the coffee bush being dumped being treated to ensure establishment of the bush does not occur in these areas?

ANSWER

I must say that I was expecting the question on Tom's weed last week because he pursues the matter with great vigour. His distaste for the proliferation of this bush in Darwin is known to us all. The work of the Conservation Commission around Darwin in trying to eliminate the coffee bush is well known. There is a fair amount of activity going on at the moment in McMinn Street, the cliff area of the Esplanade, the Frances Bay area and around the cliffs near the casino. The preliminary program is to clear away the bush, put down weed killer or whatever it is that they put on coffee bush, leave it for one season and then come back and repeat the process. Hopefully, at the end of the second wet season, there will be no sign of shoots. If there are, the Conservation Commission will treat it again with the weed killer. A great deal of effort is being made to get rid of it. It is an unsightly bush which does not enhance the beauty of this city. As far as the destruction and disposal of the bushes are concerned, I cannot answer that for the honourable member but I will let him know when I find out. I would imagine it would be done in such a way that the bush could not start in a new area.

Civil Lists of Supreme Court

Ms LAWRIE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is he aware that the extended waiting time for hearing the civil lists of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory is causing a great amount of distress? If so, has he taken steps to see if we can obtain a visiting judge to help alleviate the delay?

ANSWER

While it is never a satisfying thing to say that we are better off than most, nonetheless, it is the truth. The honourable member would expect all members before all courts to be dealt with expeditiously. We all have that as an objective. The government has seen fit to appoint, for a period of a further 2 years, a fifth judge to the Supreme Court. In addition, we have 7 magistrates. That imposes a very significant impost on the Territory taxpayer. We may have to review the magisterial strength in the near future. The idea of a special or visiting judge is one that, no doubt, is well in the mind of the department and the Solicitor-General in particular. I have not received an approach to that effect from the Chief Justice. He has not communicated to me the view that that is necessary. If the Chief Justice were to do so, obviously we would consider the matter in consultation with him.

Deferred Finance Arrangements

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

With reference to the deferred finance arrangements introduced in yesterday's budget, has the government established a suitable administrative apparatus to decide the total deferred liabilities that it is prepared to incur this financial year?

ANSWER

The setting up of such arrangements would prove no trouble whatsoever to the Department of Treasury which has very extensive resources and very extensive expertise. Over the several years of my responsibility for that area of government, I have been very pleased with the level of advice and service received from the department. I could not have asked for more. My portfolios have changed over a period of time but that is one area which has not changed and it has never given me a great deal of heartburn. There are not very many ministers who could say that over a period of several years. I can assure the honourable member that, as far as setting up administrative arrangements to ensure that the government can monitor closely such things as contingent liability in the government accounting system is concerned, it is merely a matter of the right people recording the necessary transactions, liabilities and agreements. This is done all the time. Contingent liability raises its head every time the government enters into a guarantee which it does many times in encouraging investment in the Territory, particularly through the NTDC. I do not see that there could possibly be a problem.

Power Reticulation in the Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of increasing demands in the rural area for reticulated power to old subdivisions, has NTEC any plans to expedite this reticulation?

ANSWER

The honourable member would be aware of the difficulties which are being experienced in the rural reticulation scheme, not least of which is the low number of people in any given area who wish to participate. The subsidy arrangement is $2000 per potential subscriber to the electricity grid. It is necessary for people in rural areas to get together to make up their minds if they want to participate in the scheme. Clearly, there are difficulties in the administration of the present scheme. I am currently looking at proposals to take to Cabinet to undertake a re-examination of the entire scheme. I do not believe that the ordinary consumer and the taxpayer can be expected to contribute a greater subsidy to rural areas than it is currently doing. While some assistance to such areas is certainly justified, there is a limit to the extent the rest of the community should support such a scheme. Bearing that in mind, it is not an easy problem to tackle. The reticulation of electricity to these areas is extremely expensive and the utilisation is generally reasonably low. Most of these places use electricity purely for domestic purposes rather than commercial purposes. The utilisation rate on the average block is about the same as that in a northern suburbs home. Nonetheless, we are conscious of the fact that all of the people in the rural area are taxpayers and citizens of the Northern Territory and are entitled to services as soon as they can be made available to them. The matter is under review. It will not be easy.

Operational Subsidy for Bus Service

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In the budget yesterday, the operational subsidy for the bus service was reduced by $50 000. Where does he expect savings in the operation of the service to be made?

ANSWER

It is only a small reduction. I would have to go back through the papers provided by the department to give full consideration to his question.

Aboriginal Witnesses from Remote Communities

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of the plight of members of isolated Aboriginal communities in central Australia who are transported to Alice Springs for court proceedings but are not returned to their home communities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think it is probably the Attorney-General's responsibility

to return these people to their communities. Certainly, it is not the responsibility of the police. It may be the misconceived opinion of the honourable member for MacDonnell that, because police serve subpoenas on various witnesses on behalf of the court, the police should bear the reponsibility for transportation to and from the courts. Anywhere else in this country, the witnesses have to look after their own transportation. I hasten to disclaim, on behalf of the Police Force, any responsibility on its part. I think it could be a responsibility of the Attorney-General or possibly the Minister for Community Development. Elsewhere, these people would be given subpoenas and expected to find their own way there and back.

Aboriginal Witnesses from Remote Communities

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware of the plight of members of isolated Aboriginal communities in central Australia who are transported to Alice Springs for court proceedings but are not returned to their home communities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask that the matter be referred to the Attorney-General.

Aboriginal Witnesses from Remote Communities

Mr BELL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is he aware of the plight of members of isolated Aboriginal communities in central Australia who are transported to Alice Springs for court proceedings but are not returned to their home communities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is a shame that we on this side of the Assembly, unlike the other side, do not read from notes everything we say in this Assembly. If we did, I would simply ask the Chief Minister for what he said and read it out again. The taxpayer spends a tremendous amount of money on the transportation of both witnesses and people who are to be prosecuted and, indeed, prosecuted successfully, back to their home communities. I know that there are times when the sheer logistics make it virtually impossible. It is all very fine for the honourable member opposite to point out what he perceives as being the plight of these people but, as I understand it, in many cases, these people leave the precincts of the court without informing any of the court staff where they are going. They inevitably end up in the pub or in a park or visiting relatives and friends. Two days later, they come back and wonder why we have not done anything about getting them back to a very remote and distant community. The court staff cannot assist people with travel arrangements, nor can the police, and nor can officers of the Department of Community Development if people do not come to them and seek help. That is usually the scenario which gives rise to the difficulties alleged by the honourable member opposite.

Sales Tax on Tubular Steel Products

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Will he make representation to the federal government protesting about

the new 20% sales tax on tubular steel products?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as has been mentioned earlier, some of the effects of decisions made in the federal government budget are really only now coming to light as people wade through more and more detail. One which has a particular bearing on the Northern Territory is the list of products which have now become subject to sales tax. One of these is tubular steel products which are not used for drainage, water supply or sewerage services. At first glance, it may seem that there are not many other uses and such a tax would not have a widespread effect. What it has picked up is a product which is very commonly used in the construction industry in the Territory: a product called RHS or rectangular hollow section steel. Particularly in Darwin where we have to build to cyclone codes, there is a great deal more steel used in buildings than there is in most other parts of Australia. One of the very common uses of steel in house construction is RHS and SHS which is square hollow section. These items are tubular steel that are not used for drainage, water supply or sewerage and therefore they come under the 20% sales tax bracket. This will certainly have a significant effect on building in the Territory. I understand that 100 t of RHS was used in the construction of the casino. For projects like that, it will be necessary for engineers to specify alternative products.

The simple answer to the honourable member's question is yes. I will be writing to the federal Treasurer pointing out what I see as an anomaly and will demonstrate the effect of the imposition of this new sales tax on the building and other industries in the Northern Territory. It is the sort of thing which probably was not foreseen when the original documents and regulations were drawn up by the federal government. However, it is becoming clear now exactly what the federal government budget will mean to us.

Racing Industry Inquiry

Mr LEO to TREASURER

Will he consider allowing representation by owners and trainers on the working party inquiring into the NT racing industry, given their fairly obvious interest?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government believes that any further extension of the working party beyond its current composition would be undesirable. There is a whole range of people with direct financial interests in the racing industry. That is one of the arguments that the racing clubs have always put forward in presenting their case of how valuable they are to the economy of the Northern Territory. Certainly, they have a value; it is a matter of determining how extensive it is. The interests of trainers, owners, veterinarians etc will be represented by the racing clubs themselves. That is the peak of the pyramid of the racing industry in the Northern Territory. All these people can put their case to the racing clubs and, no doubt, have done so. The effect of racing is always raised at meetings between myself and the racing clubs. It is a very extensive effect. It flows right through the community. I do not see any particular point in making the committee even bigger to represent every sectional interest group because it will become so large that it will not really do any work.

It will spend all its time arguing.

Deferred Finance Arrangements

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Is it known whether the government will be required to give any guarantees or indemnities to contractors and, if so, what is the likely nature of these guarantees or indemnities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is quite clear that the government will have to guarantee that it will pay for what it gets. That is not uncommon and is not limited to these particular arrangements. Final details have yet to be worked out. We are calling for expressions of interest with a view to talking to contractors and finance organisations on arrangements suitable to them and the government. That will cover everything from the term of such arrangements, interest payments involved and securities necessary to be provided by government to ensure that the persons entering into such arrangements are suitably protected. We would hardly proceed unless that were the case. Honourable members should bear in mind that these arrangements, by and large, will be for the construction of government assets on government land. It is not the normal situation whereby the financier has the ability simply to sell the lot and recoup debts if the government does not pay. Obviously, special arrangements will have to be organised to protect the security of the parties involved for it to succeed at all. I cannot provide further details on that but I am sure that these matters will not present any problems to willing partners.

Upgrading of Alice Springs Airport

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of the statement made yesterday by the federal member, Mr Reeves, that the Northern Territory's refusal to participate in the local ownership plan for the Alice Springs airport was delaying its upgrading?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was not aware of that statement by the federal member but the member for Stuart kindly brought it to my notice by sending me a bit of paper a couple of minutes ago. It is the first notification that I have had that the Northern Territory is expected to participate in the local ownership plan for the Alice Springs airport. To the best of my knowledge, any proposals being made by the Commonwealth government in respect of local ownership of the Alice Springs airport were made to the Alice Springs Town Council. The Northern Territory government has made its attitude very clear for the past 18 months or so. During the time that the previous government attempted to foist this local ownership plan on the town of Alice Springs, and since the advent of the current government, our attitude has been that Alice Springs airport is, without doubt, an airport of national significance and consequence. There is no way that the people of Alice Springs or the taxpayers of the Northern Territory should have to bear any responsibility for it. When the present federal member was an alderman on the Alice Springs

council, he was vociferous in putting similar views. One of the 20 or so promises that he gave to Territorians as the basis on which they should elect him - and about 19 of which are now broken - was that the Alice Springs airport would be upgraded by the Commonwealth. Of course, since then, his views have been modified. He has been to Canberra and put through the indoctrination process. It is a great shame that, so often when upstanding people are elected to represent the Northern Territory and go off to Canberra, they are brain-washed by the people down there.

Ms D'Rozario: Grant Tambling was brain-washed.

Mr EVERINGHAM: At least he had more spine than Reeves.

In a very short period of time they seem to come back spouting the views of Canberra instead of representing the interests of their constituents.

The Northern Territory government - and I say it in this Assembly since I have been asked this question - adheres to its view that there should be no local ownership plans for the Alice Springs airport. It is clearly a Commonwealth responsibility. It calls on the Commonwealth to honour that responsibility. We see a hypocritical, sleight-of-hand act being perpetrated by this government, and the previous government in talking about local ownership plans for airports whereby, if you accept local ownership, all of a sudden the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow descends at the edge of your airstrip and you get money to do all sorts of things. You are also told that that money will not be available for 13 years if you do not accept local ownership.

The hypocrisy of all this is that the money is there in the federal budget. It is just kept in 2 different columns. The columm that it is kept in is the local ownership column to try to dragoon local authorities into accepting responsibilities that are properly federal. In Cairns, where the airport has been accepted by the local authority, an additional $1 or $2 must be imposed on the top of the price of every air ticket that is sold there. That affects the people in Cairns wanting to fly out rather than the visitors flying into Cairns. In effect, the locals have to pay half the cost of the new Cairns International Airport. We want the federal member to honour his commitment. We want the federal government to honour its commitment. In any case, we have not heard a proposal that the Northern Territory should be involved in local ownership of the Alice Springs airport.

Housing Commission Tenancies

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for HOUSING

In view of the fact that, when a Housing Commission home becomes available, the Housing Commission demands immediate occupancy by the prospective tenant, and considering the fact that because most landlords demand 2 weeks' rent in advance, the prospective tenant either loses his 2 weeks' advance rent or loses his Housing Commission home, would the minister examine this matter to see if some solution to this injustice can be arrived at?

ANSWER

Yes.

Palmerston Bus Service

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that the bus operating a service within Palmerston is owned by the government?

ANSWER

An arrangement was made with the Palmerston Development Authority to transfer a bus which it could use to run a bus service in Palmerston. I understand that to be the case.

Police Complement at Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Considering the halt in the development of the Jabiru township, will the police complement there still be maintained at the current high level?

ANSWER

I would hope that the township of Jabiru would become permanently and totally law abiding so that we could remove any police presence there altogether. I know of no plans to change the numbers at the Jabiru Police Station. The police have a certain basis on which they staff their stations: the population and the area involved. Certainly, the commissioner has not forewarned me of any imminent change.

Aboriginal Witnesses from Remote Communities

Mr BELL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

My question refers to his previous answer. Does the Attorney-General accept responsibility for the transportation of members of isolated Aboriginal communities to and from court appearances and, if so, can those people be reassured that, if they make appropriate representations, they will be returned to their home communities?

ANSWER

I do not accept that responsibility. It is amazing what we in the Northern Territory will do for people which other jurisdictions anywhere in the world would not do. Certainly, I will not accept that responsibility. I am not sure whether it squarely rests with me or not. I was telling the honourable member the facts of the matter when he asked the previous question. I am certainly not prepared to say that I am responsible for it.

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

How much money has been allocated in 1983-84 budget for both running costs and capital works in the East Point Reserve area?

ANSWER

The operation of the East Point Reserve at the moment is in the hands of the Conservation Commission. I will extract the exact figures from documents that were tabled recently for the benefit of the honourable member. I would point out that, recently, through the Chief Minister to the mayor, the government made a financial offer to the city council along with the proposition that the council take over East Point Reserve. The details of that are not to hand but I can obtain them. Mr Speaker, I do not know whether the city council has accepted the offer.

Deferred Finance Arrangments

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Do the cost estimates of those projects which have been selected to be constructed under this arrangement include interest payments and, if not, does the budget make provision for the payment of such interest?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am a little confused by the honourable member's question. Projects will be offered to private contractors and finance companies to construct government facilities and have payments deferred. In general, it seems that the payments will commence at the end of the construction period. In other words, the financier and contractor will carry the principal sum during the period of construction when, formerly, government would have been making progress payments. At the time of completion of the project, the government would have 2 options. This could be arranged in advance with the particular group. One option would be to pay out the entire cost of the project on the spot. The carrying of progress payments during the period of construction would incur a penalty cost. Government could either pay the entire sum at that time or pay it over a period which would be negotiated. Obviously, this also would incur an interest cost. I must indicate to the honourable member that it is thought by a number of people that the interest cost will be recouped quite satisfactorily. In some cases, it will be more than recouped through economic stimulus. Jobs will have been generated, in some cases years in advance, payroll tax paid, personal income tax paid, which would not normally be paid,and the general economic benefits of the project itself would contribute benefits to the government as well as the community. Quite clearly, interest payments will be involved. It would be quite impossible for anyone to expect finance companies to come into the act without accruing some profit for themselves.

Deferred Finance Arrangements

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Does the budget make provision for the payment of these interest payments?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, arrangements have not yet been entered into. Projects have not been decided upon to be undertaken under this particular arrangement.

We have listed projects which are being advanced from the capital works program, not necessarily the projects which will be financed under this arrangement. A project currently on the works program, such as the construction of a $14m court building in Darwin, could be financed under these arrangements. The cash in the current financial year thereby released could be used to bring many other, usually smaller,government projects into the scheme. Such projects would be brought forward from the government's forward works program which extend some years ahead. These are in the design and feasibility stage. Honourable members need to be mindful when reading the budget papers that the list of items which are seen to be capable of commencement under this scheme are not necessarily those which would be financed under this scheme. I think the $150 000 nurses quarters at Nhulunbuy, for example, was listed among those projects being advanced. There was never any intention that we would necessarily finance that. It is not necessarily a project that we would seek to have financed privately. However, funds have been made available from private finance for that particular project. There is a difference between a program and cash, Mr Speaker. I think the honourable member needs a little lesson. If she wishes, I can introduce her to Treasury officers who will explain the difference between program and budget cash provisions.

Deferred Finance Arrangements

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Given that the deferred payments plan proposes that $33m worth of work be brought forward, what is the likely impact on the economy of the failure of contractors to obtain finance under this scheme?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think the question is so hypothetical that it really cannot be answered. If it is suggested that we might have commissioned extensive feasibility studies on the impact on the Northern Territory of a contractor or financier somehow failing to perform during the course of one of these contracts, I do not think that the question has any real substance to it.

Funding of Landscaping Projects for Schools

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

From time to time in the past, government money has been made available to schools for landscaping projects. Under what conditions is money made available to existing schools for such projects?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand there are a number of ways that funds can be used by schools to upgrade their ovals and general landscaping. Ordinary capital funds are used by government when schools are built. Landscaping is quite often included in the contract. In addition, funds are provided by the department to maintain and expand such landscaping and oval developments from time to time. In addition, school councils and P and C associations are free to raise funds. Some of them raise tens of thousands of dollars to spend on their schools at their own discretion. Those school

funds can be used for landscaping and so on. Those organisations also have the ability to apply to the government for dollar-for-dollar funds. I could not say absolutely that dollar-for-dollar funds are available for landscaping because I do not have before me all the criteria for these subsidies. If school councils or principals are in some confusion as to how to go about obtaining funds from government sources for the upgrading of schoolgrounds, they should certainly take the matter up with the relevant departmental officers. This sort of query is handled daily.

Sales Tax

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER

Is he aware that the 20% sales tax will have an adverse effect on the cattle industry, particularly in regard to fencing and stockyards? Will he undertake to take that matter up with the federal government along with the use of steel in the construction industry?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was besieged in Alice Springs recently about the effect of the sales tax on tubular steel products. Apparently, tubular steel is used extensively in the pastoral industry for the construction of stockyards. It is not a matter of simply picking up secondhand tubular steel. Quite often, new tubular steel or tubular steel which has been rejected for water supply purposes is purchased for stockyards. This tax will result in an added impost on pastoralists who wish to continue to use tubular steel for the construction of stockyards. I will include that matter in my representations to the federal Treasurer.

Housing Allocation in Budget

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HOUSING

Can he confirm that, of the $58m allocated for housing in yesterday's budget, $28m was Commonwealth funds and $20m was a revote of funds from the previous financial year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is a very technical question. My information is that the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement allocation announced in the 1983-84 budget increased from $20.242m to $28.679m, an increase of $8.437m or 41.6%. The Northern Territory received an increase in the allocation for Aboriginal housing. Out of a $17.8m total increase, the Territory received $5.18m or 29% of the increase. That represents an increase of 117% on last year's allocation to the Northern Territory for Aboriginal housing. In relation to the untied grants for public housing, the total increase was $150.2m, an increase of 125% on last year's allocation. The Northern Territory's share of this increase was $3.257m or 2% of the total increase. The $3.275m represents a 40% increase on last year's allocation to the Territory. Overall, the Northern Territory's combined $8.437m increase for a total housing allocation of $28.678m represents a 41% increase in funding. This is compared with the Australia-wide increase of $168m or 50.6% increase in the allocation.

Rum Jungle Rehabilitation

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr STEELE (Transport and Works)(by leave): Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition asked a question yesterday and referred to a 300% increase in funding allocated in the federal budget for rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine site. This project is set on a time scale of 4 years and is subject to formal agreement between the federal and Northern Territory governments. It commenced last financial year with an expenditure of $800 000. For 1983-84, the federal government has allocated $5.3m, hence the honourable member's suggestion of a massive increase in funds. It is, of course, stage 2 of the federal government's commitment to a project worth $16.2m, plus provision for escalation of costs.

There are 4 major components in the work to be completed this year. The reshaping, drainage and vegetation of White's overburden heap will be carried out in the period from August to November-December 1983 at an estimated cost of $1.4m. There is also purchase and installation of a complex water treatment plant by the end of June 1984 at an estimated cost of $1.8m. The plant is due for commissioning in July 1984. The transfer of the tailings and copper heap leach pile to Dyson's open cut will commence around April 1984 and be completed in November 1984. The cost in this financial year is estimated at $1m. Engineering and management costs, including consultants for design work, equipment, use of other government resources - for example, the physicist from the Department of Health for radiation monitoring - continuous water monitoring and general minor works make up the remainder of $1.1m.

First-aid Education for Primary Schoolchildren

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr PERRON (Education)(by leave): Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Victoria River asked if consideration had been given to introducing first-aid as part of the education of primary schoolchildren. I am advised by the department that first-aid is included as part of the health and physical education of the core curriculum. Teachers following the core curriculum are required to cover first-aid in the area of health and education safety. Specific first-aid techniques are not introduced to children until Year 3. However, in Years 1 and 2, aspects of safety are presented to the children and they do discuss procedures to follow in accident situations. The initial first-aid technique given to these young children is to seek assistance from a responsible adult or organisation.

At the beginning of Year 5, first-aid procedures are further enhanced by looking at basic first-aid for both minor and serious injury and, at that level, resuscitation methods are introduced. In the secondary school, the core curriculum takes on a far more sophisticated approach, where the children are required to demonstrate first-aid procedures for a variety of common accidents. Teachers use St John Ambulance and Royal Life Saving Society officers as resources in this section of the health education program. Obviously , that is in those places in the Northern Territory where those organisations and their services are represented.

Transient Camp at Kulaluk

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of the often stated desire of the Northern Territory government for the owners of the Kulaluk area to make more effective use of that area for the purpose of transient camps, could he advise what the government's current position is on the proposed transient camp at Kulaluk?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can advise him that the government is happy to see any reasonable development on Kulaluk. One of the difficulties that the government has had over a period is that proposals that come up from the people at Kulaluk for consideration are overturned within a short period by dissident groups within the community. I do not have any particular fancy one way or the other for any development of Kulaluk. I am happy to see things progress to the satisfaction of the people but it is extremely difficult for the government to help when the people cannot agree amongst themselves. Over the last few months that I have had the responsibility for community development, I am aware that funds have been available to assist the people of Kulaluk in any development they may wish to pursue. I have had great difficulty getting a consensus on what is needed, where it is needed and how it ought to be done. I would like to say to the honourable member and those people of Kulaluk who are involved in the development of their land that, as soon as we can obtain some reasonable and stable proposition that we can pursue in a budgetary sense, the government will be happy to accommodate the community.

Flooding at Emily Gap

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he as yet give a report on the engineers' study of the flooding problems being experienced by the residents of the Emily Gap area in central Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that the member for MacDonnell is also very interested in this particular matter. There has been correspondence to us over quite a long period of time. I looked at the files this morning and it appears that the honourable member for Stuart at least commenced correspondence with us back in March 1982. Of course, a report has been prepared. It is under consideration by the government. We are waiting for the final aspects of that report to come back to the government.

Electoral Provisions under Northern Territory (Self-Government)Act

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I understand that the Northern Territory government requested the previous Commonwealth government to amend the electoral provisions under the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978. I understand that a further approach has been made to the current federal government. Can he tell the Assembly if he intends to pursue these proposed amendments with the current federal government and can he advise the Assembly of the detail of

those proposed amendments?

ANSWER

I cannot remember the detail of the proposed amendments because, to the best of my recollection, they are of a technical nature. They are part of a whole package of technical amendments to the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act. They include an amendment to deal with such exciting subjects as easements in gross. I do remember at least that part of the letter. We have had at least a couple of years of argument at officer level between federal officials and Territory officials who simply want a few minor amendments to the Self-Government Act for ease of administration.

It seems that the Leader of the Opposition is opening my mail to federal ministers. But I suppose that, when one is dealing with people without honour, then that is all that one can expect.

Mr B. Collins: Are you talking about me in that respect?

Mr EVERINGHAM: Well, anyone who would read someone else's mail could advise the Assembly what he considers his state of honour to be.

Mr B. COLLINS: A point of order, Mr Speaker! Clearly, under Standing Orders, that is improper. I have had access to no one's mail. As a matter of fact, from the tone of the question and the terms of the question, the Chief Minister would recognise the fact that these negotiations have been going on for some 2 years, to the best of my knowledge, with the previous government. That was contained in the terms of the question.

Mr SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr B. COLLINS: The personal reflection, Mr Speaker, that I am person of no honour. The Chief Minister knows full well that that is based on an assumption on his part that I have been reading his mail. I have not and I would ask the Chief Minister to withdraw the imputation.

Mr SPEAKER: Will the honourable Chief Minister withdraw the imputation?

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, if the cap fits, then obviously the honourable Leader of the Opposition will have to wear it.

Mr SPEAKER: Will the honourable Chief Minister withdraw the imputation?

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, in my defence, I believe I am entitled to say something...

Mr SPEAKER: Will the honourable Chief Minister withdraw the imputation?

Mr EVERINGHAM: The question that I would like to address then is the fact that the honourable Leader of the Opposition indicated that, under the previous government, he did not have access to my mail.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! My question is simple. Will the honourable Chief Minister withdraw the imputation?

Mr EVERINGHAM: If there is any imputation, Mr Speaker, I withdraw it. But, as I say, the honourable Leader of the Opposition can wear whatever cap fits.

Mr SPEAKER: Will the honourable Chief Minister withdraw the imputation?

Mr EVERINGHAM: If there is any imputation, Mr Speaker, I withdraw it.

Mr SPEAKER: I am afraid I cannot accept that.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, I withdraw any imputation.

As I said, these amendments are of a purely technical nature. Whilst I cannot remember them in detail, as far as I am concerned, if the honourable Leader of the Opposition has copies of my mail, he is welcome to publish those copies because I am quite happy to make the correspondence available to this Assembly. There is nothing that the Territory government has to hide in relation to the proposed amendments to the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act which are of a technical nature to the best of my recollection.

East Coast Shipping Service

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise what steps ,if any, are being taken to assist the east coast shipping service to become viable?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this question is very timely because it follows a few remarks that the member for Macdonnell made last night. Honourable members will be aware that this government successfully maintained pressure on the federal government to honour its pre-election promise of taking a social audit approach to transport problems in remote regions. We are surprised that it maintained the subsidy after all the terrorising activities about what would or would not be in the budget. We fought successfully against suggestions from the Commonwealth that the Northern Territory contribute towards the subsidy along the lines of the proposal suggested and rejected for the funding of the railway. Our approach led to a $2m subsidy for the service and, whilst this was short of the 3-year subsidy - we wanted to allow the service to be tendered out to the most suitable operator, which might have been ANL - it at least allows immediate continuation of a service.

Notwithstanding this success, I note from Mr Keating's budget statement that he says: 'The future of service now rests on the commercial judgment of ANL and on any financial assistance from the Northern Territory government'. Obviously, the subsidy is doomed. When that subsidy expires after the $2m is eaten up, probably it will disappear. Additional Commonwealth funds would only be considered in the context of the outcome of the Commonwealth's inquiry into the transport needs of the Northern Territory. I have said before that it would be economic lunacy for the Northern Territory government to contribute to a service in which it had no control or say in how the service was run. Notwithstanding that, we are taking steps to make the best of the Commonwealth's continued piecemeal approach to this particular matter.

Follow-up letters have been sent to all participants in the government's Shippers Conference asking them to use the service. The federal Minister for Transport has been asked to assist, if necessary, with the setting up of a joint Northern-Territory ANL monitoring program to keep cargo levels, revenue costs and monthly drawdowns on the subsidy under review. A letter has been sent to the chairman of ANL - he has since written to me saying that he will be up here very shortly to discuss this matter - asking for details of its marketing program for the Territory and offering all marketing assistance possible from the Port Authority. An offer has been made to ANL to assist it in setting up marketing seminars on a joint basis to promote the Territory service. The Territory government has also had confidential discussions with identified potential future users.

We do not accept the opposition's proposal that the Northern Territory should run ANL's operation. We are offering every assistance and working in closely with users and potential users. I would conclude by saying that our attempts to help ANL in the past have been frustrated by ANL's obvious lack of interest in the Territory, something which existing users of the service still bitterly complain about. It now seems that ANL are adopting a more definite approach regarding the service having sent an executive to Darwin recently for only the second time since self-government.

Grain Marketing by ADMA

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

My question refers to the recent sale of grain by ADMA on behalf of growers in the Katherine area. Is it a fact that this grain was sold by ADMA at substantially less profit than could have been obtained had it sold it in Western Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no knowledge of ADMA selling grain anywhere at a lesser price than it could have got in another part of the Australian market. For the benefit of the honourable member, I would say that that matter will be addressed in some detail within the hour.

ANL Service for Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question pertains to an answer he has just given. Has any approach been made to ANL to include Nhulunbuy as a port of call?

ANSWER

Off the top of my head, I cannot say whether an approach has been made to ANL to call at Nhulunbuy. I guess the matter has been considered as part of the logical movement of an east coast shipping service. I am not aware of a specific representation made by the department or even by myself in years gone by.

Concern about Asbestos

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of recent public concern about asbestos, what is the Department of Health doing about occupational health?

ANSWER

I think the member for Fannie Bay expressed concern about this on a recent radio program. I have obtained a full briefing from the department because I believe that members of the public are concerned about the asbestos situation in the Northern Territory. The information I have for honourable members is as follows. The Department of Health has established an occupational health branch with particular expertise in health physics, dust disease and noise and air quality monitoring. Three medical staff have special experience in occupational health. The joint concerns of health and safety require maximum cooperation between departments with responsibilities in these areas. The Department of Health maintains close liaison with these bodies. An occupational health and safety working group meets regularly. Membership consists of representatives from the Departments of Health, Primary Production and Mines and Energy. The functions of the group include the pooling of available information and co-ordination of activities. I am also advised that a tripartite occupational health and safety committee has been established by the Industrial Relations Consultancy Council. The department is represented on the occupational health committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council. I might add for honourable members that arrangements have been made for NTEC workers to have medical examinations as well.

Report on Emily Hills Subdivision

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question refers to his previous answer to the question of flood control in Emily Hills subdivision and the report that he said would be made on flooding in that area. Will he make that report available for public comment?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can give no guarantee that the report will be made available for public comment. I will examine the report when it comes before me and I will advise the honourable member of its contents.

Government Support for Youth Music Groups

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What support does the government extend to youth music groups in view of the generous government support given to youth sporting groups?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the problem of funding musical groups throughout the Northern Territory is not difficult but it is one of those areas that falls within the purview of several portfolios and, for that reason, does not get the attention that it really deserves. I have received representations on this issue from many members of the Assembly. People involved in the arts in the community see a need for community music groups to be given support. Groups within the community, particularly the small communities, often need support to be able to travel to and from eisteddfods etc. I will ask the Department of Community Development to address the issue so that the people concerned are not left in an unfavourable position. I think it is fair to say that the arts, sport and culture generally receive very substantial support from the government. While

this sector of the community is small, it is a very important one. It is one that we will attempt to give some justice to in the years to come. As soon as the policy on the matter has been determined, I will advise the honourable member.

Subsidy for Child-Care Centres

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will the subsidy for child-care centres announced in the budget also apply to family day-care schemes in the Northern Territory for the benefit of the many hundreds of children and parents who use these schemes and, if so, how will it be done?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the mechanics of who will receive it and how it will be distributed is not in my hands at the moment. I will endeavour to provide that information later today.

Crisis Accommodation Program

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

What steps are being taken to implement and supplement the crisis accommodation program being instituted by the federal government?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will provide the honourable member with information at a later date.

Sale of Ammunition

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

When will regulations governing the sale of live ammunition be amended to prevent children from buying ammunition?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this matter has been brought to my attention very recently by the honourable member for Tiwi. I do not know whether the government ought to be making regulations because of a verbal report by 1 person that 1 child bought 1 round of ammunition for a collection. Nevertheless, I will examine the matter.

Dugong

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Is he aware of concern at the local, national and international level at the decrease in dugong around the north coast, partly because of barramundi fishermen and partly because of Aboriginal people still taking dugong for protein? Are any of his officers actively investigating the life-cycle and numbers of dugong at the moment?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have the details of who is doing what in the area. However, I am conscious of the fact that there is a threat to the dugong species.

I receive mail from all over the country and I have had a couple of letters from overseas expressing concern about the declining numbers of dugong. The Conservation Commission is keeping a watchful eye on this matter. I would be happy to obtain for the honourable member a detailed briefing on the activities in this area and make it availabe to her after the sittings.

Perpetual Pastoral Leases

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS

How many applications for perpetual pastoral leases have been made and how many have been granted?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as I said to the Leader of the Opposition the other day when he asked me to give him some details about whether certain pastoral lessees were in default of their covenants or not, there are more than 400 pastoral leases in the Territory and I cannot keep all these sorts of details in my head. There have been a number of applications for perpetual leases. To the best of my recollection, there have been half a dozen but there may have been as many as a couple of dozen. One just gains impressions. This is the sort of question that the honourable member should have given me notice of yesterday or earlier this morning. I would be happy to give him a factual answer in the Assembly if I could have those few hours to get the precise details. Alternatively, he can put the question on notice or write to me.

Ciguatera in Van Dieman Gulf Area

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What efforts are being made to monitor ciguatera levels in reef fish and pelagic fish in the Van Dieman gulf area since the development of mining in the Alligator Rivers region?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in all fairness, that is a question that I could have been given an hour's notice of this morning so that I could give a responsible answer to it. There would be a fair amount of technical detail in supplying an answer to a question of that nature. It should be referred to the departments concerned so that they can provide us with a satisfactory briefing. If the honourable member is happy to do that of a morning, I will endeavour to have the information available to him at question time.

Monitoring of Turtles

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

He would be aware that, with the opening up of areas for passive recreation, such as Gunn Point, more turtle eggs are being dug up. Are any officers of his department actively monitoring turtles and, in particular, their breeding habits and their declining numbers?

ANSWER

I am conscious that the Conservation Commission takes an active interest in preserving wild eggs. I must be honest with the honourable member and say to

her that I do not know what the turtle egg watchers are doing from day to day. But I will give her a briefing on the activities of the department right around the coast so that she can be informed of the Conservation Commission's role in this area.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members should take note that, if they want information which ministers obviously cannot carry around with them, they should place their question on notice or give the minister notice beforehand so that he can satisfy their thirst for knowledge.

Commissioner of Police Disciplining Firemen

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Can the Commissioner of Police, instead of the Chief Fire Officer, continue to bring departmental disciplinary charges against firemen given the adverse industrial reactions that are likely from this procedure?

ANSWER

I am not aware who brings departmental disiplinary proceedings against firemen. Frankly, I try to remain at a distance from matters of administration of that nature. I am surprised that one would care who brought disciplinary action against one. If I was charged with an offence, I would care more about getting off. If the firemen are so sensitive about the author of the disciplinary charges against them, I will inquire into the matter and see who should legally bring the disciplinary charges against firemen. Frankly, I do not see how it could possibly matter who is the author so long as he is empowered legally to bring the charges and the charges are not frivolous or vexatious.

Payroll Tax Receipts

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Is he able to explain why, despite his estimates of growth in the Northern Territory economy, the estimate of payroll tax receipts for 1983-84 in the budget papers represents only a 5.7% increase in dollar terms over receipts last year?

ANSWER

I do not have the particular explanation before me. No doubt, such detailed explanation can be obtained and used in the forthcoming debate on the budget. However, I can indicate to the honourable member that there may be some effect from our most generous payroll tax concession system.

Road Accidents at Yulara

Mr BELL to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Is he aware that there have been 22 motor vehicle roll-overs in 10 months on the road connecting the Yulara tourist village and Ayers Rock itself and, if he is so aware, what action does the government propose?

ANSWER

I must confess to the honourable member that I have not been keeping count of the roll-overs on that road. I will endeavour to obtain information from the Conservation Commission relating to that particular set of statistics and ask it

whether there is any particular reason, other than driver error, that is causing the high number of roll-overs to which the honourable member refers. If it can be stopped by the commission, then we will investigate it immediately.

Kitchen Equipment from Big Al's

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

I understand that the kitchen fittings from the old Block 8 cafeteria, known as Big Al's, are being distributed among various sporting clubs throughout the Territory. Is my information correct and, if so, what clubs will be receiving that kitchen equipment?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the member for Port Darwin's information is partly correct. There was an advertisement placed in the NT News to distribute some of the cooking equipment located on the lower floor of the Chan Building. Former members might remember Big Al's restaurant which I tried to have reopened after the cyclone without success. From memory, equipment has been given to about 6 or 7 organisations such as Tracy Village, the Northern Territory Rugby Union, Girl Guides, the Northern Territory Amateur Swimming Association, the Waratah Sports Club, Cyprus Ladies Community and some philanthropic organisations. The member for Stuart found out about it yesterday and he was a bit agitated that some of it was not given to Alice Springs sporting organisations. Much of this equipment was large and it would have been very expensive to transport it down there. It would have been very difficult to bring people here to inspect it. Tracy Village received a very large component of cooking equipment because it has extended its facilities and is really starting from scratch. It did not have any cooking equipment apart from a very small griller. Consequently, we have allocated refrigerators and deep frying equipment to it. If members are interested in what has been allocated to whom, I will provide that information to them.

Specialist Secondary Teachers

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What administrative steps have been taken to implement the announcement in this week's budget that a pool of specialist secondary teachers would be established?

ANSWER

Approvals are being obtained through a special Cabinet committee on establishment for additional positions to be created over and above the positions currently available in schools in the Northern Territory. The Teaching Service Commissioner is preparing the necessary details of recruitment as we find specialist teachers to recruit to these additional positions. The difficulty we have had in the past is that the Teaching Service Commissioner, in his continuous recruitment drives to obtain teachers to fill the gaps in the Northern Territory teaching ranks, has occasionally come upon a specialist teacher whom he could not recruit because we did not have a position available. This pool will allow us to recruit the top people when we can find them even if we do not have an ordinary position in schools for them. They can be held pending a position becoming available. There will be a pool so that a position will be allocated to a school that loses a specialist teacher in an untimely manner. Unfortunately, not all teachers who leave the service give us the convenience of leaving over a Christmas period between school years. If a key teacher leaves us at a

critical time, it means that one has to consider even abandoning a particular matriculation course. The proposed teaching pool of 10 positions will alleviate that problem considerably.

Northern Territory Budget

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Is he able to explain why, despite his estimate of growth of the Northern Territory economy, the estimate of total Territory revenue and receipts for 1983-84 in the budget papers represents only a 5% increase in dollar terms from receipts last year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not quite understand what the honourable member is driving at. We are indicating that the Northern Territory is growing at a very rapid rate. We have a very attractive budget. We are able to allocate more funds to a whole range of functions this year than we have been able to before. The budget clearly shows the sources of all those funds. There is an inference in her question that Territory funds and taxation receipts are not growing at the rate of overall government spending. I can assure her that there are funds available for all the allocations in the $1160m budget. If she is concerned that there are insufficient funds for the budget and is proposing that the Territory government increase taxes or follow the lead given by Labor states in dredging up all the additional taxes they can possibly conceive, then I hope the public is listening to what the alternative government in the Northern Territory is supposedly offering.

Rapid Creek Crossing

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Having read the capital works program, has he under consideration any scheme to extend the bicycle track across the mouth of Rapid Creek? He will be aware that this is a rumour that surfaces about once a week in Darwin.

ANSWER

I do recall the honourable member for Nightcliff asking this same question last year. I am not aware of any specific proposal to improve the crossing of Rapid Creek by bikes or any other conveyance. If there are any such proposals in the department, none have come to my office.

Antarctic Base

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of concern in the community about the federal government's reduced funding for Australia's Antarctic bases which is forcing the closure of one of those bases? Would he undertake to register a protest to the federal government on the grounds that a reduced presence in Antarctica would weaken our territorial claim to that area, a matter which is before the World Court.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was not aware of any such problem although Senator Ted Robertson may have raised it a couple of weeks ago in the local media. I thought, 'Hello, he has come alive again'. I think Senator Robertson is the chairman of

the Senate Committee on the Australian Antarctic territories. I remember that he had come out of hibernation to make a statement on the matter of Australia's Antarctic territories and their great mineral potential. I suppose that we will need mineral potential in Antarctica because Senator Robertson's government is certainly opposed to the development of any mineral potential on the Australian mainland and, indeed, its offshore islands such as Tasmania. I have noted the honourable member for Alice Spring's question. I would suggest that he write to the Prime Minister. If he wanted to take someone who could interpret for the penguins, perhaps he could take the honourable member for Sanderson. I think I will leave the honourable member for Alice Springs to write his own correspondence on the subject of Antarctica.

Cane Toads

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TUXWORTH (Conservation)(by leave): Mr Speaker, on Tuesday, the honourable member for Port Darwin asked a question on cane toads. I asked the Conservation Commission to provide a paper on it. It is a couple of pages long but it is very interesting. It has background details that I think all members should be aware of. I would like to incorporate it in my reply this morning.

Mr Speaker, cane toads are large, unpleasing members of the toad family. They are native to tropical America and feed on almost any animal matter that they can catch, subdue and ingest. They have been introduced to a number of parts of the world on the premise that they might control insect pests. They were introduced to Queensland in 1920 and 1924 to control the grey-backed cane beetle. There is little evidence that the introduction served any useful purpose. On the other hand, they appear to be capable of significant harm. They are an unpleasant nuisance around human habitation and predate on small, native wildlife. They have poisonous glands in the skin which can cause the death of larger animals which, in their own terms, prey on toads. They compete for habitat and food resources with native frog species. The toads require water to breed but are hardy and prolific. In fact, the females may produce up to 54 000 eggs and they breed more than once a year. The toads are spread over much of the wetter areas of Queensland and northern New South Wales. Much of the top end of the NT is a suitable habitat for them and they have spread steadily westward at an average rate of 33km a year.

Cane toads entered the NT during the 1982-83 wet season. The Conservation Commission has given high priority to cane toad investigations. Its officers are currently implementing a 6-point program which is as follows. Firstly, the commission will monitor the rate of spread. Annual field surveys of the western limits of cane toad distribution have been carried out from 1980. These surveys have provided the information on the rate of spread together with other basic biological data. Secondly, the commission will gauge the impact of toads on fauna. The commission has established 11 study sites which have been surveyed for wildlife. As the sites are occupied by toads, surveys will be carried out to study the precise impact on native Northern Territory wildlife. Thirdly, it will encourage public awareness. Through a variety of means, but particularly through contact with properties, police and schools in the gulf area, the commission is seeking early warning of new occupation sites. The commission follows up many reports, mostly misidentifications, of cane toad presence and has provided a number of top end schools with information, advice and a preserved specimen. Fourthly, it will tackle introduction by human agency. Cane toads have been scheduled a prohibited entrant under the Territory wildlife regulations under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act. It is an offence to bring in, liberate orpossess a live toad except under permit. A penalty of $2000 or imprisonment for 6 months or both together with a further

penalty of $100 in respect to each animal involved may be applied. Fifthly, the commission has decided that conventional control measures would be ineffective. It is important to realise that toads occur in such numbers and live in places which make it impractical to consider conventional means of control. The use of poisons, bounties, hand collection, male sterilisation, fences or barriers are likely to be ineffective, uneconomical or counterproductinve. However, the commission is investigating all reports of artificial introductions to areas in advance of those occupied by toads as a result of natural spread. Where possible, the few animals that may be involved are collected and destroyed. Sixthly, the use of biological controls are being examined. It is the commission's assessment that broad-scale effective control can and will only be achieved by the introduction of biological control using natural parasite and disease agents. This will require a long-term investigation carried out in collaboration with, and the support of, the states and the Commonwealth. To this end, Conservation Commission officers have completed a comprehensive search and review of the scientific literature on cane toads as the basis for a strong representation to the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers for national support for a biological control investigation. The subject will be listed for discussion at the next meeting of the CONCOM standing committee and ministerial councils.

Mr Speaker, I am happy to be able to advise honourable members on this matter. It is the intention of the Northern Territory government to seek the support of Queensland and New South Wales at the next conservation ministers' meeting to have a joint study carried out by the states and the Commonwealth to see if the cane toad can be eliminated by biological means. I believe that it is probably long overdue. If we do not do something in the forseeable future, canetoads will become very well established on the mainland and will be impossible to eliminate.

Cut-rate Air Fares for NT Public Servants

Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

He will be aware that there are many big firms employing large numbers of people who obtain discount fares from both interstate airlines. Has the possibility of negotiating a similar cut-rate system for NT public servants been investigated? It could mean a significant saving to the NT government.

ANSWER

I acknowledge the merit of the honourable member for Victoria River's question. Frankly, I think that we investigated this question in 1978 or 1979. The idea was that we would have one booking agent for all government travel - the Tourist Bureau from memory. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of my answer. The thrust of it all was that, if we did that, we would probably send some other firms broke. Furthermore, public servants should have freedom of choice etc. The concept was abandoned even though it would have meant some sort of saving to the government. It would have had negative effects in that other people would have been unemployed, travel agencies would have closed down, competition would have been reduced etc. It would not have been practical, as I recall it, in that each airline has one plane up the east coast when the other airline has one plane down the Centre. Most people, or course, are travelling to Sydney, Melbourne or Canberra. Either airline would be in it in a flash because it would obtain all of the Northern Territory Public Service's business. But then one would not be able to use the other airline without paying the full fare. Of course, to get to Canberra without overnighting in Melbourne, one must fly down the east coast. There are those practical difficulties to what, at the beginning of self-government, we thought a pretty good scheme. I am quite happy

to look at it again. I am sure that we can get the discounts from the airlines but we would have the travel industry in an uproar and probably cause a few people to lose their jobs.

Rapid Creek Water Gardens

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In the last sittings, the minister undertook to place demountable toilets in the Rapid Creek Water Gardens. When will they be put in place?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thought the work would have been carried out by now. I am advised by the honourable member for Jingili that the work has indeed commenced.

Oil Drilling at Pacoota

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr ROBERTSON (Mines and Energy)(by leave): Mr Speaker, the member for Sanderson asked a question on oil drilling at the Pacoota sandstone formation. The Mereenie joint venturers presented a technical development proposal to the Department of Mines and Energy on 5 August 1983. I was aware of that as I indicated yesterday. The proposal includes an assessment for the appraisal of the drilling programs carried out since the Mereenie petroleum leases were granted in November 1981. An essential part of the proposal is the commencement of sustained commercial production from the field. My department is studying a proposal with a view to ensuring that it is consistent with good oilfield practice and maximum economic recovery from the field. Some aspects of the proposal have been referred to a petroleum engineering consultant and the report is expected to be lodged in 1 month from now. I would expect to be able to respond to the Mereenie joint venturers soon after receiving that report.

We feel quite confident within the department that we have the technical expertise to undertake an analysis of the proposal. Nonetheless, it is not unreasonable to inform the Assembly why this is being given to a consultant. Proposals relating to open hole completions, according to our engineers, are not consistent with the views held by the previous energy consultant whom the government employed at great expense. It is thought wise to seek the opinion of a third expert in the field.

Point Stuart and Carmor Plains Pastoral Leases

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister)(by leave): Point Stuart and Carmor Plains are considered to be in default of their lease covenants. However, I recently waived breaches of lease covenants by Point Stuart and directed compliance by 30 June 1984. A similar situation applied to Carmor Plains except that the lease covenant defaults there are considered to be more serious. The lessees were advised that they had certain options such as seeking a variation of onerous covenants. If action does not ensue within the 12 months or so that they have been allowed, their leases are in some danger of forfeiture action being taken against them.

Cane Toads

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What measures are being taken to ensure that cane toads are not brought into the Katherine area with mango plants for the mango plantation? I understand the plants are propagated in Queensland and transported to Katherine.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this particular matter has been raised with me by yourself and by other members. I have referred it to both the Conservation Commission and the Department of Primary Production for immediate investigation. As soon as I have information, I will advise members.

Aborigines -
education policy 218
funding of communities 236
land claims *159
witnesses from remote communities 259, 263
ADMA, grain marketing 271
Aerial medical services 251
Aged and Special Services, director 248
Air fares, cut rate for public servants 279
Alice Springs -
airport 261
Darwin railway *159, 236
recreation lake 232
Ammunition, sale of 273
Antarctic base 277
Apprentices *159
Asbestos, public concern 271
Beef export -
Halal kill and Darwin outlet 191
licence 189
Block 8 cafeteria, kitchen equipment 276
Bonaparte Gulf, drilling 247
'Boozers are Losers' campaign 171
BTB program 190
Buffalo -
and cattle eradication 206
shooting from helicopters 203
Building Code 219
Bus service -
for Palmerston 263
operational subsidy 258
to Bloodwood Caravan Park 243
Bynoe Harbour, land auction 229
Cane toads 239, 278, 281
Chan Park Nursing Home 177
Child abuse 226
Child-care centres 273
Coastal management policy 221
Coffee bush 256
Combe Mr, employment as lobbyist 200
Ciguatera, Van Dieman Gulf 274
Community health, medical officers 165
Construction Safety Act 227
Cooinda, motel at 242
Criminally insane persons 196
Crisis accommodation program 273
Crocodiles, status of salt-water species 250
Dam on Adelaide River 239
Darwin Hospital, old site 204, 206
Darwin Performing Arts Centre 210, 217
Darwin Prison, conditions 195
Deferred finance arrangements 255, 257, 261, 264, 265
Department of Housing and Construction, regional office 240
Drinking law, 2 km *160
Dugong 273
East coast shipping service 207, 270
East Point Reserve 263
Education budget 1982-83 167

Electricity -
agreement, ratification 202
charges 216
Commonwealth assistance for NT generation 201
outback communities *160
subsidy *160
Emily Gap, flooding 268
Emily Hills subdivision 272
Federal budget, net gain for NT 215
Fire officers, disciplining 275
First-aid education in schools 234, 267
Flood mitigation model 235
Freight inquiry, support staff 217
Fuel products, tax 253
Gas reticulation for Darwin 196
Giles House 229
Girraween Road, upgrading 212
Grants-in-aid scheme *160
Handicapped children, accommodation 228
Heavitree Gap -
causeway 223
improvement 208
Hermannsburg Road 199
Horses, slaughtering *162
Housing -
allocation in budget 266
for police and fire officers 237
grants 211
loans 255
Housing Commission -
allocations 178
portability of mortgages 250
tenancies 262
Hygiene regulations, breaches *162
Insurance brokers, regulation 227
Jabiru -
doctor 239
local government 219
motel at 241
police complement 263
Job opportunities for Territorians 209
Kargaru bush camp *159
Katherine -
High School 225, 242
housing needs 190
lot 384 163
Rotary Road Safety Centre 191
Terrace, upgrading 189
Kings Canyon 243, 244
Kirton and Whiting Report 164
Kulaluk, transient camp 268
Kurringal Court, sale of units 178
Land reserved for public access 198
Landscaping projects for schools 265
Lee Point Road and McMillans Road intersection 252
Levy on imported fuel 230
Liquor Act review 249
Low-cost housing, tenders in Alice Springs 193

Magneto pulse therapy 235
Meat export quota to USA 213
Mosquitoes 215
Motorcyclists, training 223
Motor vehicles, use by government departments -
    Attorney-General 174
    Chief Minister 172
    Community Development 176
    Education 176
    Health and Housing 175
    Lands, Industrial Development and Tourism 175
    Mines and Energy 176
    Primary Production and Conservation 175
    Transport and Works 177
    Treasury 175
    Youth, Sport, Recreation and Ethnic Affairs 177
Mt Wells battery *160
Music groups 272
Mutitjula community, adviser 227
National Companies and Securities Scheme *160
Nhulunbuy -
    air services 208
    ANL service 271
    job-creation scheme 234
    primary school 214
    purchase of Housing Commission houses 207
Northern Land Council, legal advisers *159
Northern Territory budget 277
Northern Territory Development Corporation, loan 192
Northern Territory Motor-cycle Association 238
Northern Territory Public Service -
    reclassification of executive officers 193
    staff wastage 222
Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act, electoral provisions 268
Overseas visitors to NT 233
Pacoota, oil drilling 280
Palm leaf beetle 226
Palm Valley gas 248
Parks in city, responsibility for 231
Postoral leases -
    breaches of covenants 171
    Nos 785 and 786 238
    perpetual 274
Payroll tax receipts 275
Pet meat operations, regulations 216
Point Stuart and Carmor Plains, pastoral leases 280
Pounds for large animals 255
Power-station, crushing mill *160
Protective custody 165
Racing and Gaming Bill 240
Racing industry, working party 244, 253, 260
Rapid Creek -
    crossing 277
    water gardens 280
Rehabilitation centres 213, 214
Rice-growing industry in NT 249
Rubbish dump 228
Rum Jungle, mine site 246, 267

Rural area, electricity 258
Rural Old Timers' Association 195
Sales tax -
    fencing materials 266
    tubular steel products 259
Sand-mining site in Alice Springs 250
School buses 211
Secondary mortgage market, report 179
Self-government celebrations, cost 221
Sewage treatment plant 177
Solar appliance rebates 197
Specialist medical services 163
Specialist secondary teachers 276
Stamp duty on first-home purchases 248
Stuart Highway through Alice Springs 238
Student performance, assessment 224
Supreme Court, civil lists 257
Taxi services, subsidy for disabled 250
Tempe Downs 246
Tennant Creek -
    High School 231
    meatworks *162
Territory Training Centre, apprentices 212
Timber Creek, land claim *159
Tindal air base 163, 224, 234
TMPU funding 217
Transcription services, contract 179
Turtles, monitoring 274
Undoolya Road, connector 223
Unemployment, remote communities 218
University, Labor proposal 204
Vanderlin Drive and McMillans Road intersection 218, 221
Vehicles, spot checks 199
Vocational Training Commission, role 193
Wharf construction, report 231
Women drivers, insurance 247
Youth, support for music groups 272
Yulara, road accidents 275

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.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 15 March 1983

Railway Electrification

817 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of his predecessor's statement in late 1982 about reticulating power from a gas-fired power station in Darwin to Daly Waters, and in view of the proposed gas-operated power station in Alice Springs, will consideration be given to electrifying the Darwin to Alice Springs railway?

Electricity - Outback Communities

820 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Accepting that consumers of electricity in major NT centres, including Aboriginal communities, are heavily subsidised, will the NT government consider extending this scheme to outback communities on cattle stations, tourist ventures and mining operations so that town rates are charged for power consumed, with a subsidy to cover the actual cost of power generation and maintenance?

From 22 March 1983

Crushing Mill - Darwin Power Station

832 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Will a crushing mill for converting lump coal into powder for use in the proposed coal-fired power station be constructed in Darwin?
2. If so, (a) where will it be constructed, and (b) what is the anticipated cost?

From 24 May 1983

National Companies and Securities Scheme - Participation

855 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Has a decision been made by the government to participate in the National Companies and Securities Scheme?

Electricity Subsidy

861 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Why do Territorians who have their electricity supplied by NTEC receive a handsome subsidy when (a) Territorians who have their electricity provided by the NT government pay nothing, and (b) Territorians living in remote areas on cattle stations, mining settlements and tourist camps pay full tote for their electricity requirements, generators, fuel and maintenance?

Mt Wells Battery - Payment

862 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What is the reason for the delay in full payment by Jingellic Minerals to the government for the Mt Wells battery and associated leases?
2. When will this be resolved?

From 31 August 1983

Breaches of Hygiene Regulations

875 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

What breaches of hygiene regulations in meat processing establishments were reported in the Territory in 1983?

Slaughtering of Horses

876 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

1. How many horses were slaughtered in the Territory in 1983?
2. In which meatworks did the slaughters take place?

From 11 October 1983

Fish River Station - Acquisition

880 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. What compensation did the government pay to owners of Fish River station for its compulsory acquisition?
2. What value was placed on the property by the Valuer-General at the time of the acquisition?
3. How long after compulsory acquisition was the owner asked to remove his cattle from the property; did the owner pay rent on the property for the period from compulsory acquisition to the date his cattle were removed; and what guarantees, if any, were given to the owner against the possible loss of income from the forced sale of cattle off the property?
4. Have all matters concerning the acquisition of Fish River station been resolved?

Employee Health

881 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How many people did each of your departments (or statutory authorities under your portfolios) employ who identified themselves as disabled at or before the time of their appointment?
2. What was the total number of sick days these employees were entitled to?
3. What was the total number of sick days actually taken by these employees?
4. Were any of these disabled employees involved in a workmen's compensation claim?
5. If so, (a) how many days were lost, and (b) were the conditions related to aggravation of existing disabling conditions noted at the time of the employee's appointment?

Employee Health

882 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. How many people did each of your departments (or statutory authorities under your portfolios) employ who identified themselves as disabled at or before the time of their appointment?
2. What was the total number of sick days these employees were entitled to?
3. What was the total number of sick days actually taken by these employees?
4. Were any of these disabled employees involved in a workmen's compensation claim?
5. If so, (a) how many days were lost, and (b) were the conditions related to aggravation of existing disabling conditions noted at the time of the employee's appointment?

Employee Health

883 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

1. How many people did each of your departments (or statutory authorities under your portfolios) employ who identified themselves as disabled at or before the time of their appointment?
2. What was the total number of sick days these employees were entitled to?
3. What was the total number of sick days actually taken by these employees?
4. Were any of these disabled employees involved in a workmen's compensation claim?
5. If so, (a) how many days were lost, and (b) were the conditions related to aggravation of existing disabling conditions noted at the time of the employee's appointment?

Employee Health

884 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many people did each of your departments (or statutory authorities under your portfolios) employ who identified themselves as disabled at or before the time of their appointment?
2. What was the total number of sick days these employees were entitled to?
3. What was the total number of sick days actually taken by these employees?
4. Were any of these disabled employees involved in a workmen's compensation claim?
5. If so, (a) how many days were lost, and (b) were the conditions related to aggravation of existing disabling conditions noted at the time of the employee's appointment?

Employee Health

885 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many people did each of your departments (or statutory authorities under your portfolios) employ who identified themselves as disabled at or before the time of their appointment?
2. What was the total number of sick days these employees were entitled to?
3. What was the total number of sick days actually taken by these employees?

4. Were any of these disabled employees involved in a workmen's compensation claim?

5. If so, (a) how many days were lost, and (b) were the conditions related to aggravation of existing disabling conditions noted at the time of the employee's appointment?

Employee Health

886 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. How many people did each of your departments (or statutory authorities under your portfolios) employ who identified themselves as disabled at or before the time of their appointment?

2. What was the total number of sick days these employees were entitled to?

3. What was the total number of sick days actually taken by these employees?

4. Were any of these disabled employees involved in a workmen's compensation claim?

5. If so, (a) how many days were lost, and (b) were the conditions related to aggravation of existing disabling conditions noted at the time of the employee's appointment?

Kargaru Bush Camp - Lease

795 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Will he grant a special purposes lease to the Kargaru bush camp, Tennant Creek, to enable the provision of adequate ablution facilities?
2. Was an application for a special purposes lease for the Kargaru bush camp lodged with his department in January 1982 and rejected by him in October 1982?
3. On what date did he inform the applicants of his decision to reject the application?

ANSWER

1. The Tennant Creek Town Council has made application for land for the purposes of a camp, and this is currently under consideration.
2. No application was made. However, discussions involving the Department of Lands, Tennant Creek Town Council and Department of Community Development were held to ascertain the need to formalize tenure over this area.
3. There was no application and, therefore, no rejection.

Apprentices

800 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware that only 5 panelbeating firms in Darwin employ apprentices?
2. Do the Territory Insurance Office and other government authorities give preference to firms employing apprentices?
3. Are corporations such as Telecom encouraged to employ and apprentice local youths in their Northern Territory operations?

ANSWER

1. I am aware that there are 9 panelbeating firms in Darwin that currently employ 16 apprentices.
2. A preferential tendering system is being considered by the government. If such a scheme is adopted, future contractors will need to employ apprentices according to predetermined ratios to be eligible to tender for government projects.
3. Yes.

Aboriginal Land Claims

810 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act (a) water is a mineral, and (b) river banks and river beds can be claimed?

ANSWER

It is a fact that Section 3 of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 defines a 'mineral' to include water. This does not mean, however, that the owners of Aboriginal land also own the water thereon, and nor does it mean that traditional land owners can control the usage and flow of water on or from their land such that the rights of other landholders are impaired. The Control of Waters Act generally applies to Aboriginal land.

In the Daly River land claim, the Aboriginal Land Commissioner (Mr Justice Toohey) held that the banks and beds of rivers were unalienated Crown land within the meaning of the Land Rights Act, and could thus be claimed. As the law now stands, his conclusion appears to be legally correct.

The short answer to both questions is therefore 'yes'.

Timber Creek - Land Claim

811 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that the township of Timber Creek is under land claim?
2. If the claim is successful, will the houses and improvements become the property of Aboriginals?

ANSWER

The township of Timber Creek is not the subject of an Aboriginal land claim, since no township can be claimed under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. There is, therefore, no question that houses and improvements within the township could become the property of Aboriginal claimants.

There is, however, a land claim with respect to areas which immediately abut the township. The claim includes certain areas of unalienated Crown land, and includes also a grazing licence.

Northern Land Council - Legal Advisers

813 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he able to say how many legal advisers are employed by the Northern Land Council?

ANSWER

The Northern Land Council presently employs 5 lawyers on its full-time staff. However, it also employs other lawyers on a casual basis to handle specific projects, such as individual land claims. The number of casual lawyers or legal advisers employed under contract varies from time to time.

2 km Drinking Law - Advertising

830 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was (a) the cost of preparation and distribution, including postage, of the 2 leaflets, (b) the cost of the recent TV advertisements, and (c) the cost of recent newspaper advertisements regarding the 2 km drinking law?

ANSWER

The total cost of the public information campaign in relation to the 2 km drinking law is as follows -

Television advertising			$ 13 562.10
Radio advertising			$ 3 601.60
Newspaper advertising			$ 14 952.00
Pamphlets and leaflets			
Printing	$ 9 256.42		
Translations	$ 672.00		
Freight and postage	$ 4 484.00	(estimated)	$ 14 412.42
			$ 46 528.12

As distribution was handled by various departments and agencies, it is not possible to accurately assess the actual amount of expenditure for freight and postage, especially as each agency accepted the cost as part of normal administrative expenses and individual records specifically related to the 2 km campaign postage were not initiated. The majority of the pamphlets were dispatched in bulk lots per departmental mail bags. The estimate is based on the assumption that approximately 85 per cent of the 105 500 pamphlets and leaflets were sent by mail. Whilst a few single copies may have been sent at $0.24 each (charge as at June 1982) most were in consignments of multiple copies and were dispatched at the cheaper parcel rate. It is estimated that $0.05 per copy should be an approximate overall average cost for freight.

Grants-in-Aid Scheme

837 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme was given to community service organisations in 1981-82?

ANSWER

A total of $4 773 969 was provided to community service organisations under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme in 1981-82. Attached is a list which details organisations assisted by the Grants-in-Aid programs administered by the Community Welfare, Community Services and Correctional Services Divisions.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - GRANTS-IN-AID 1981-82

COMMUNITY WELFARE DIVISION GRANTS-IN-AID

ANNUAL GRANTS-IN-AID

Aputula Housing Association	$ 2 330
St Vincent de Paul - Darwin	$ 7 000
St Vincent de Paul - Alice Springs	$ 15 000
Docker River Council	$ 2 290
St Vincent de Paul - Giles Street Shelter - Katherine	$ 6 000
Darwin Family Centres - "Fun Bus"	$ 18 398
Northern "Y" Women	$ 1 000
Family Planning Association	$ 5 000
Alice Springs Senior Citizens	$ 500
Playgroup Association	$ 4 000
National Council of Women	$ 475
Bindi Centre	$ 4 009
Kurringal Residents Community Centre	$ 1 300
Parents Without Partners	$ 2 142
N.T. Spastics Association	$ 15 300
Elliott Aboriginal Council	$ 400
Docker River Community Council	$ 8 240
Western Desert Council (Kintore)	$ 8 130
Borroloola Council	$ 3 470
Salvation Army	$ 4 145
Tennant Creek Council	$ 12 000
Finke River Mission	$ 6 000

COMMUNITY WELFARE WORKER SUBSIDY SCHEME

Y.W.C.A. - Darwin	$ 17 564
Catholic Parish - Alice Springs	$ 17 077
Yirrkala Dhanbul	$ 12 071
Chung Wah Society	$ 18 151
Catholic Parish - Darwin	$ 17 279

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES SCHEME PROJECTS	
Aboriginal Women's Resource Centre	$ 13 914
Salvation Army	$ 15 468
Darwin Family Centres	$ 21 348
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress	$ 61 464
Y.W.C.A.	$ 2 747
Evaluation	$ 16 000
I.Y.D.P.	
Handicapped Persons Association	$ 300
Mr and Mrs Skandaliaris	$ 1 410
Mr and Mrs Townson	$ 495
Old Timers Alice Springs	$ 9 085
John Double	$ 174
Ron Wegert	$ 740
Mr and Mrs Richards	$ 205
Deafness Association of N.T.	$ 816
Downs Syndrome	$ 2 531
Cumberland College Foundation	$ 2 000
Association Special Education	$ 713
Meredyth Pettit	$ 2 900
Pamela Brooks	$ 2 800
Stephanie Cole	$ 765
Mr and Mrs G. McShanag	$ 352
I.Y.D.P.	$ 1 000
N.T. Council on the Ageing	$ 6 809
Tennant Creek Pensioners Association	$ 316
Mr and Mrs Hourdas	$ 705
Bindi Activity Therapy Centre	$ 562
Jason Cooper	$ 205
Alice Springs Special School	$ 2 500
Darwin Toy Library	$ 2 000
Arts Council	$ 4 000
Marrara Christian School	$ 4 680
N.S.W. Institute of Technology	$ 5 134
OPERATIONAL SUBSIDIES	
Handicapped Persons Association	$ 13 000
N.T. Council on the Ageing	$ 10 000
Bindi Residential Centre	$ 36 238
Crisis Line	$ 16 950
Old Timers - Alice Springs	$ 12 500
Australian Red Cross - Old Timers - Katherine	$ 8 000
Australian Red Cross - Noble House - Tennant Creek	$ 2 000
N.T. Pensioner's Association - Tracey Lodge	$ 12 500
RESIDENTIAL CARE	
St Mary's Child and Family Welfare Services	$ 173 715
N.T. Spastics Association	$ 21 861
STATE GRANTS HOME CARE	
Alice Springs Senior Citizens	$ 60 000
Kardu Numida (for Senior Citizens Centre)	$ 4 500
N.T. Council on the Ageing	$ 17 547
Katherine Red Cross	$ 7 937
Bamyili Council	$ 2 500
Darwin Red Cross Home Help Services	$ 36 000

Alice Springs Emergency Home Help	$ 22 300
Lajamanu Council	$ 5 000
Kardu Numida Inc., Home Help	$ 10 000
Tennant Creek Home Care	$ 6 000
Yuendumu Council	$ 7 000
Dagaragu Council	$ 5 018
Ngukurr Council	$ 7 000
YOUTH SERVICES	
Y.W.C.A. for Darwin Youth Refuge	$ 91 230
I.Y.C.	
Araluen Arts and Cultural Trust	$ 7 992
Elliott Housing Association	$ 4 000
CHILDREN'S WEEK	
Darwin City Council	$ 2 500

TOTAL: $ 996 697

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS	
OPERATIONAL GRANTS	
Araluen Arts and Cultural Trust	$ 91 100
Arts Council of Australia (N.T.)	$ 99 800
Browns Mart Comm. Arts Project	$ 59 750
Crafts Council of N.T.	$ 64 920
Darwin Theatre Group	$ 47 500
National Trust of Australia (N.T.)	$ 43 951
NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS	
Australian Children's T.V. Foundation	$ 3 733
Print Council of Australia	$ 500
EQUIPMENT GRANTS	
Alice Springs Film Society	$ 518
Handspinners and Weavers Guild, Gove	$ 500
Tennant Creek Theatre Group	$ 5 000
FACILITIES	
Araluen Centre	$ 414 227
Darwin Centre	$ 188 538
Kookaburra Memorial	$ 35 000
SPECIAL PROJECTS	
Alice Springs Art Foundation	$ 3 500
Australian Association of Dance in Education	$ 5 480
Ballet Association of N.T.	$ 4 000
Boungainvillea Festival Committee	$ 22 500
Cecchetti Society of N.T.	$ 2 000
Community Arts Board	$ 1 000
Darwin Ballroom Dancing Association	$ 1 750
Darwin Community College	$ 1 500
Darwin City Council	$ 2 613
Library Association of Australia (N.T.)	$ 930
Museums and Art Galleries Board	$ 5 000

North Australian Eisteddfod Council	$ 8 000
N.T. Toastmistress Club (Alice Springs)	$ 615
N.T. Toastmistress Club (Tennant Creek)	$ 730
Sole Brothers Circus	$ 15 000
Weavers' Workshop Guild	$ 3 800

TOTAL: $ 1 133 455

HERITAGE PROJECTS

CONSERVATION WORK (TRANSPORT AND WORKS)

Audit House	$ 54 055
Old Airport - Katherine	$ 1 170
Pine Creek	$ 6 085
Old Hamilton Downs Homestead	$ 5 000
Katherine Railway Station	$ 41 000
Pine Creek Repeater Station	$ 5 000
Powell Creek Repeater Station	$ 3 945
Fannie Bay Gaol	$ 40 000

GRANTS TO HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS

Central Australian Aviation Museum	$ 2 985
Aviation Historical Society (N.T.)	$ 2 000
Araluen Cultural Trust (Gardeners Cottage)	$ 3 800
Historical Society	$ 300
National Trust, re: Fannie Bay Gaol	$ 4 033

HERITAGE SURVEYS, RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

Museums and Art Galleries Board:	
Archaeological Survey - Central Australia	$ 9 500
Archaeological Survey - Macassan sites	$ 8 000
Wartime/Military sites	$ 7 950
Register Archaeological sites	$ 20 000
Agrarian Survey	$ 8 000
N.T. Conservation Commission:	
Coburg Peninsula/Port Essington	$ 16 000
Arltunga Reserve	$ 27 650
National Trust of Australia N.T.:	
Fannie Bay Gaol	$ 1 837
Pine Creek Heritage	$ 9 500
Queensland Conservation Council:	
Wildman River Environmental Study	$ 12 000
Anthony's Lagoon and Powell Creek Police Stations (Gary Hunt and Associates)	$ 6 000
Douglas Lockwood's Cottage (Troppo Architects)	$ 400
Church of Christ the King, Tennant Creek (De Traine Agencies)	$ 1 450
Old Courthouse/Town Hall - Darwin (V.T. O'Brien)	$ 1 600
Old Airport Building - Katherine (De Traine Agencies)	$ 1 412

TOTAL: $ 300 672

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

YOUTH, SPORT AND RECREATION

Ali Curung Council	$ 4 914
Alice Springs Amateur Cycling Association	$ 9 430
Alice Springs Cricket Association	$ 2 550
Alice Springs Gliding Club	$ 1 560
Alice Springs Pistol Club	$ 10 750
Alice Springs Pony Club	$ 300

Alice Springs Tennis Association	$ 8 000
Alice Springs Town Council	$ 90 000
Alice Springs Youth Centre	$ 11 380
Arnhem Four-Wheel Drive Club	$ 510
Arnhem Gun Pistol and Rifle Club	$ 3 906
Australian Council of Health, Physical and Recreation	$ 694.32
CAT Association of N.T.	$ 956
Central Australian Sporting Car Association	$ 1 000
Citizens Radio Emergency Service Team	$ 6 755
Country Women's Association of N.T.	$ 865
Darwin Baseball Association	$ 4 083
Darwin Gun Club	$ 40 000
Darwin High Plain Speaking Comp.	$ 185
Darwin Junior Tennis Association	$ 1 438
Darwin Motorsports Council	$ 83 520
Darwin Pistol Club	$ 1 250
Darwin Police Citizens Club	$ 14 000
Darwin Rifle Club	$ 4 000
Darwin Sailing Club	$ 5 000
Darwin Sub Aqua Club	$ 6 000
Darwin Sun Club	$ 5 000
Darwin Trailer Boat Club	$ 30 000
Deutscher Club	$ 21 500
Ethnic Community Council (N.T.)	$ 465
GAP Neighbourhood Centre	$ 16 375
Girls Brigade	$ 348
Gliding Association of N.T.	$ 1 610
Gove Country Golf Club	$ 9 500
Gove Peninsula S.L.S.C.	$ 14 627
Greek Community of North Australia	$ 70 000
Hamilton Downs Youth Camp	$ 16 375
Iwupataka Housing Association	$ 3 396
Katherine Amateur Swimming Club	$ 5 922
Katherine Brownies of the Air	$ 350
Katherine Cricket Association	$ 2 238
Katherine Guides, Scouts and Brownies	$ 4 500
Katherine Junior Baseball Association	$ 3 107
Katherine Town Council	$ 4 587
Legion of Frontiersmen - Darwin	$ 3 000
Lyappa Congress	$ 4 750
Milikapiti Council	$ 18 410
Milingimbi Community Council	$ 4 911
Multilingual Broadcasting Association N.T.	$ 674
Nationwide Workers with Youth Forum	$ 1 544
Nhulunbuy Amateur Swimming Club	$ 3 200
Nhulunbuy Police Citizens Youth Club	$ 2 250
Nightcliff Football Club	$ 23 000
Noonamah Horse and Pony Club	$ 265
North Australian Gliding Association	$ 500
N.T. Aerobatic Chapter	$ 1 492.50
N.T. Amateur Athletics Association	$ 5 759
N.T. Amateur Cycling Association	$ 7 166
N.T. Amateur Gymnastics Association	$ 2 840
N.T. Amateur Judo Association	$ 10 683
N.T. Amateur Swimming Association	$ 16 870
N.T. Amateur Water Polo Association	$ 8 871
N.T. Area Scout Association	$ 36 775
N.T. Australian Football Council	$ 2 776

N.T. Baseball Association	$ 15 532
N.T. Basketball Association	$ 3 000
N.T. Cricket Association	$ 6 328
N.T. Darts Association	$ 2 425
N.T. Game Fishing Club	$ 963
N.T. Girls Marching Association	$ 4 000
N.T. Hockey Association	$ 28 557
N.T. Junior Soccer Association	$ 6 812
N.T. Little Athletics Association	$ 7 645
N.T. Netball Association	$ 8 230
N.T. Pistol Association	$ 6 488
N.T. Region Girl Guides	$ 60 655
N.T. Riders and Drivers Association	$ 638 645
N.T. Rugby Referees Association	$ 265
N.T. Rugby Union	$ 1 441
N.T. Schools and Junior Rugby Union	$ 3 214
N.T. Soccer Association	$ 4 708
N.T. Softball Association	$ 11 660
N.T. Squash Rackets Association	$ 2 209
N.T. Table Tennis Association	$ 2 174
N.T. Tennis Council	$ 2 629
N.T. Tenpin Bowling Association	$ 7 917
N.T. Touch Football	$ 5 032
N.T. Volleyball Association	$ 3 000
N.T. Water Ski Association	$ 2 939.05
N.T. Womens Soccer Association	$ 6 149
N.T. Yachting Association	$ 4 888
Polocrosse Association of N.T.	$ 5 821
Ramingining Community Council	$ 11 000
Red Centre BMX Club	$ 2 000
Resource and Settlement Centre	$ 2 000
Rural District Netball Association	$ 28 000
Somerville Community Services	$ 82 704
Sporting Shooters Association of N.T.	$ 1 058
St Mary's Football Sporting and Social Club	$ 2 651
Tennant Creek Amateur Swimming Club	$ 3 645
Tennant Creek Bowling Club	$ 200
Tennant Creek Cricket Club	$ 800
Tennant Creek Golf Club	$ 21 134
Tennant Creek Saddlehorse Club	$ 500
Tennant Creek Show Society	$ 9 500
Tennant Creek Town Council	$ 16 630
Ti Tree Progress Association	$ 10 000
Top End Aerial Sports Academy	$ 9 990
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community	$ 12 750
Y.M.C.A Amoonguna	$ 3 396
Y.M.C.A. Central Australia	$ 176 563
Y.M.C.A. Darwin	$ 248 114
Y.W.C.A. Darwin	$ 43 128
Yuendumu Council	$ 5 018
Life Be In It	$ 22 000
Vacation Care Program	$ 85 944.79

TOTAL: $ 2 330 644.66

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Association Inc. (Alice Springs)	$ 7 000
N.T. Rehabilitation Association (Darwin)	$ 5 500

TOTAL: $ 12 500

Employment Studies - Aboriginal Communities

867 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Department of Community Development carried out any studies of salaries, wages and employment on Aboriginal communities, or is it in the process of doing so?

2. If so, will he provide details of these studies?

ANSWER

The Department of Community Development has not carried out any such studies. However, the Department has been concerned for some time over the confusion which exists in a number of Aboriginal communities in relation to what awards and conditions are applicable to their council operations. In order to address these problems the department has canvassed all Aboriginal Community Councils asking if they wish to apply for membership of the NT Confederation of Industry and Commerce. The confederation, as an employer group, has the appropriate expertise to assist Aboriginal councils with these matters.

Vocational Training Commission - Staffing Review

868 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What are the reasons for a staffing review being undertaken of the Vocational Training Commission?

2. Why is it necessary to have 2 reviews of the commission within a 12-month period?

3. Did the instruction for the staffing review come from the Chief Minister and, if so, why not from the Minister for Education?

ANSWER

1. Amendments to the Industries Training Act were enacted on 4 February 1983. The current review is to ensure that the Vocational Training Commission is adequately organised and staffed to carry out its new responsibilities under the Vocational Training Commission Act.

2. Because of the amendments to the Industries Training Act it is necessary to ensure the Vocational Training Commission is properly organised and staffed.

3. The decision for the staffing review was made by the Cabinet Sub-committee on Establishment which comprises the Chief Minister and the Treasurer assisted by the Public Service Commissioner and the Under-treasurer.

NTDC Loan - Corkwood Bore Abattoir

870 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has Corkwood Bore abattoir received an NTDC loan and, if so, what was the purpose of the loan?

ANSWER

Yes. Two loans, one for a mobile abattoir in 1977 for $30 000 and a second for a chiller in 1979 for $30 000. Both have been fully repaid. A further loan of $328 000 was approved in 1982, for the reconstruction of an abattoir for domestic kill. This loan has yet to be taken up and is under consideration for withdrawal.

NTDC Loan - Edward Souery

871 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the status of the NTDC loan of $858 000 to Edward Souery's for the construction of the Tennant Creek meatworks?

2. Was (a) a second loan of some $110 000 made by NTDC to Edward Souery and, if so, (b) for what purpose was the loan made, (c) what is the security for the loan, and (d) what is the present status of the loan?

ANSWER

1. Souery's are in receivership. The abattoir has been leased to Gilbertsons. The receiver is making payments. The loan is still current.

2. (a) Yes. A second loan of $120 000 was made available at the time of construction.

   (b) The loan was for roadworks within the abattoir.

   (c) Security is a third mortgage over property.

   (d) The receiver is making payments.

NTDC Loan - Point Stuart Estate

872 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has an application been made for an NTDC loan of $500 000 by Point Stuart Estate for a buffalo domestication program and, if so, has such a loan been granted?

ANSWER

Yes. An application was made for $500 000. It has been declined.

NTDC Loan - Moudal Consultants

873 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has an application for an NTDC loan been received from a Hong Kong based company called Moudal Consultants to establish a horse meat processing operation at Tennant Creek and, if so, has the loan been granted?

2. Has land been made available to Moudal Consultants for the establishment of a horse meat processing operation at Tennant Creek and, if so, on what terms?

ANSWER

1. No. Moudal Consultants has not applied for a loan but are consultants to an applicant, Miliss Pty Ltd for such a loan. The application was rejected but a new application is under consideration.

2. A check made with the Department of Lands on or about 7 September 1983 revealed that no offer of land had been made up to that time.

Tennant Creek Meatworks - Purchase

874 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Was the Northern Territory government approached by any parties interested in the purchase of the Tennant Creek meatworks for assistance with respect to information about the operation?

2. If so, (a) who were those parties, and (b) what assistance did the government provide to them?

ANSWER

Any enquiries made to the NTDC have been referred to the receiver as he is the only person with any authority to negotiate.

Tennant Creek Meatworks

877 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the value of (a) land, (b) electricity, and (c) water supplied to the Tennant Creek meatworks to 30 August 1983?

ANSWER

I will be happy to detail the value of services provided by my department to the Tennant Creek meatworks, should the honourable member care to be a little more specific with his request.

Perpetual Pastoral Leases

878 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. How many applications for perpetual pastoral leases have been (a) received, and (b) approved?

2. In considering applications for perpetual pastoral leases, does he have the full reports prepared by field officers of the Conservation Commission on areas of special interest or does he receive summarized reports from the Conservation Commission?

ANSWER

1. As at 3 October 1983, a total of 21 applications had been received by the Department of Lands. Two applications have been approved.

2. The Conservation Commission summarizes the reports of all field officers to produce a composite report embracing all disciplines. This report is submitted to the Land Board and the minister for consideration of the application.

   The full reports may be called for if this is considered necessary.

   In addition, the lessee is advised of the recommendations of the commission prior to the hearing and to date the Conservation Commission has been represented at the sittings by the appropriate officer.

Housing Commission - Electric Hot Water Systems

879 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. How many houses and flats owned by the Housing Commission and rented to tenants have electric hot water systems?

2. How many of the tenants in such dwellings receive rent rebate?

ANSWER

1. A total of 2499 rental houses and flats owned by the commission throughout the Territory have electric hot water systems.

2. A total of 1219 tenants of the abovementioned dwellings are in receipt of rental rebates.

Shareholdings for Myilly Point Development

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

The prospective developers of Myilly Point are the Northern Territory company, Henry and Walker, and the Korean company, Life Construction. Can he advise the shareholding that the Korean company, Life Construction, will hold in the proposed development and what shareholding will be held by Henry and Walker?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the situation in relation to proposals for the development of this area are, as I understand it, that Henry and Walker, in association with an Australian consortium, is putting together a more detailed proposal for the Department of Lands, and subsequently the government, to consider. As far as I am aware, the proposed consortium between Henry and Walker and Life Construction Co of Korea is not proceeding. I understand that Henry and Walker terminated the negotiations with Life Construction some months ago. I must say that my knowledge of the negotiations is somewhat limited but, to the best of my knowledge, Henry and Walker has been negotiating to put forward a detailed proposal to government in consultation with an Australian group which, I understand, includes some South Australian interests with which Henry and Walker has been associated previously.

However, another group has also expressed interest in the site and I understand it is also preparing a feasibility study for a proposal incorporating a hotel. From memory, it is to be of not less than 600 rooms together with a commercial and residential-type development. That is an American corporation. Unfortunately, I am not aware of the details but I understand that that corporation has Australian partners although, apparently, the American corporation is taking a lead in preparing the feasibility study. I think that some details of this were announced publicly perhaps 2 months ago now at the time that the representatives of this group first visited the Northern Territory and inspected the potential for tourist development in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs and Yulara respectively. Since then, to the best of my knowledge, negotiations have been going forward between them, the Northern Territory Development Corporation and the Department of Lands with a view to preparing a feasibility study.

I am sorry that I do not have a name for the other group but it is a bit early for me to be taking a very grave interest in what is happening. At this stage, it is better left in the hands of officials. These people were introduced briefly to me when they came here some time ago but I can only remember the name of one of them and I cannot remember the name of their corporation. Both groups are preparing feasibility studies for the consideration of the government. No doubt, in the course of the next few months - and I am not sure if it will even be before Christmas - there will be something put forward to the government jointly, I would expect, by the Department of Lands and the Northern Territory Development Corporation for us to consider.

Mr Speaker, there has been considerable public speculation in relation to the Myilly Point site and the old style houses that are still located on that site. I believe that there was quite some controversy about this matter last week. Obviously, the government has been placed in a somewhat embarrassing situation because quite a number of years ago, after negotiations with the National Trust, the government set aside Audit House on Myilly Point as an example of the style of Territory architecture in the 1920s. It was agreed

between government and the National Trust that Audit House, which is of course occupied on a caretaker basis by Mr and Mrs Harry Giese, was the best example of this style of architecture. The government spent something like $60 000 to restore that house, which was in pretty good condition, to an excellent condition. It was dedicated and the title has been vested in the National Trust.

Approximately a year ago, government called for expressions of interest in the Myilly Point site. Of course, we are talking about the expressions of interest that have arisen earlier as a result of the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition. The government sought expressions of interest on the basis that various blocks of land would be available: the old hospital site and the sites of a number of these houses on Myilly Point. I understand there are a total of 4 houses: Audit House and another house owned by the Territory government and 2 houses owned by the Commonwealth government. It was my understanding that the houses owned by the Commonwealth government would be transferred to the Territory government. At present, action to transfer the Commonwealth houses to the Territory government has not occurred and the Territory government is somewhat embarrassed because of the controversy over the preservation of the houses and because, acting on undertakings given to it by the Commonwealth, it had indicated that these areas would be available. Obviously, the proposals from the developers might well have included retention of these buildings for whatever use the developers had in mind.

In any event, the situation now is that the Australian Heritage Commission has taken an interest in the area and the situation of the Territory government is somewhat embarrassing. Obviously, we will have to go back to the persons who have expressed an interest and inform them that it could be that the precincts at Myilly Point simply will not be available for their consideration. It is fair to say that the Northern Territory government has done a fair bit in terms of preservation of the Territory's heritage. The Territory government expended $1m of taxpayers' money to restore the offices presently used by His Honour the Administrator which were formerly the naval offices and, before that, the historic Darwin police station and cell block. We have been mindful of preservation of the Territory's history and heritage. The oral history awards are one example of that. There is also the fact that we have taken steps to preserve an example of pre-war Territory architecture in the Audit House site. It seems to me that, as a result of public interest and the actions of the Australian Heritage Commission, the Territory government would certainly not want at this stage to take any action to alter the present status of the houses at Myilly Point. I think that we will have to tell the persons interested in the development of the Myilly Point site that they must act on the footing that these houses will not be available to them.

The Territory government will await the result of the deliberations of the Australian Heritage Commission. I hope, of course, that the Heritage Commission will take some cognisance of the views of the Territory government in its hearings which, of recent years, apparently have been conducted behind closed doors and without any direct reference or representation to parties who may be affected. I hope that we will have the opportunity to make some representations on matters of fact to the Heritage Commission. No doubt, the government will be able to formulate its future policy in relation to these houses after the Heritage Commission has made a decision. As it stands at the moment, the Territory government has no power to do anything at all in relation to 2 of the houses which are owned by the Commonwealth. Any reports that the Territory government was planning to demolish those houses are quite incorrect. We do not own them and, therefore, we can neither restore them nor demolish them. After discussions in Cabinet yesterday, I intend to inform the parties who have expressed interest in the position and will be awaiting any decision that has been taken by the

Heritage Commission.

Shareholdings for Myilly Point Development

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

There does appear to be some division in the government. In relation to the statement just made by the honourable Chief Minister that the reports that the houses at Myilly Terrace would be demolished were incorrect, can he confirm to the Assembly that, in a press conference which he gave some 48 hours ago and which I watched on television, he did in fact state categorically that the houses would be demolished? Further to that, I imagine the Treasurer is aware that the initial development proposal submitted to the government by Henry and Walker states: 'Audit House on lot 1098 is a constraint on the orderly planning and development of the site and considerably reduces the usefulness of the site'. The developers then go on to propose that Audit House be removed and relocated. Can he advise the Assembly if he is now retracting his categorical statements of 48 hours ago that the houses would be demolished?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have any details of the submission made by Henry and Walker for the development of the old Darwin Hospital site. The matter falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Lands and Industrial Development. However, I can assure honourable members that it has never been the government's intention to do other than preserve Audit House which it has vested free of charge with the National Trust in freehold title for its preservation indefinitely. In addition, of course, the Chief Minister indicated that a very substantial sum of money was spent on the house. I have noticedthat, in publicity surrounding this matter, proponents of preserving the area as an historical precinct for Darwin have always indicated that the National Trust is protecting 1 house but that 3 others are under possible threat. What the media conveniently failed to indicate every time was that the reason that Audit House was protected and is in the hands of the National Trust for preservation is because this government undertook to hand it over to the trust in an upgraded condition. However, the new-found conscience of the Leader of the Opposition on heritage matters, which has only come to light in the last few days, has led him to represent the case without all the details.

In regard to statements by myself at a press conference a couple of days ago, Mr Speaker, certainly I indicated that the intention of government at that time was that the houses would be demolished as part of the proposal to redevelop the hospital site under what, hopefully, will be one of the biggest private developments that the Territory has ever seen. Hopefully, in due course, announcements can be made. As the Chief Minister indicated at a Cabinet meeting yesterday, the matter was extensively discussed and a decision has been taken by government that, for the time being, the houses will not be moved. The Chief Minister indicated that the Heritage Commission's findings will be considered carefully and submissions will be made. Despite what I said at a press conference, the houses are not under any immediate threat. I would say that this government is not one which cannot change direction. Indeed, we have done very well by the Northern Territory over the past 5 years by considering issues on their merits and the government has changed direction many times on many issues. I think that is commendable and I hope it will reassure the Leader of the Opposition, in his new-found interest in heritage which has been exhibited only in the last few days, that the government is flexible. I hope the opposition is too.

Moneys owed on gas pipeline construction.

Mr VALE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is he aware that certain Alice Springs companies are owed large amounts of money by the contractor who was involved in the Palm Valley to Alice Springs gas pipeline construction and, if so, can he advise what steps, if any, the government proposes to take to attempt to collect that money?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in order to answer the honourable member's question, a bit of history on the nature of the contract is necessary. The owner and operator of the pipeline at that time, under the licence, was to be TNT Bulkships. It is a very well known Australian company but clearly did not have any direct expertise in the construction of such a pipeline and it had to take on consultants and subcontractors. Its consultant and supervising organisation was Fluor Australia, a well-known international company and now an Australian company based mainly in Perth. The principle subcontractor under the contractor, TNT Bulkships, was a company called Interstate Constructions Pty Ltd which is a Queensland registered company that has left behind it a legacy of very poor performance in terms of paying bills in Alice Springs. Indeed, if these bills are not satisfied in the fairly near future, a number of long-established Alice Springs businesses will feel the pinch very badly and, in some cases, will go to the wall. A very large earthmoving company which has been operating in the Territory for many years now is owed over $0.5m by Interstate Constructions Pty Ltd. We have a smaller engineering and construction company in Alice Springs which is owed some $35 000. A plant hire equipment firm is owed $28 000 and a local distributor of petroleum products will certainly go broke if he is not paid over $100 000 owed by the company. The list goes on.

My Alice Springs office and I have been in contact with Fluor Australia. I have been in contact personally with very senior management levels of TNT to try to resolve the issue. As I have informed honourable members, there are a number of technical variations to that contract. Obviously, Interstate Constructions Pty Ltd would be going back to its principal employers, Fluor and TNT Bulkships, to have those variations examined. We have been informed that the first series of variations upon which some money would be owing to Interstate Constructions Pty Ltd numbered from 1 to 65, and also a subsequent list of variations, numbered 66 to 80, have now been filed. Hopefully, a fair percentage of that money owing will flow from those variations in due course. However, time is of the essence.

Mr Speaker, I am reliably informed that, even if each of those variations were paid - and we all know that that is never the case; all claims are never admitted - the sum total does not appear sufficient to satisfy the debts of this foreign company - it is a foreign company within the meaning of the Companies Act - which came into Alice Springs and gave all sorts of assurances of its good credit rating. It gave assurances to the Department of Mines and Energy that it had extensive asset backing. Subsequent investigations by the creditors' solicitors have found this to be nothing but a fabrication. In fact, nearly all the equipment is on lease. Indeed, one of the principal creditors in Alice Springs is the leasing company, Coates Hire Service. We may have a man of straw. I have been told by a very high level of authority in TNT that the company has an excellent reputation for its ability to get on with the job and construct but its reputation to keep a good business house is unknown, to say the least.

I am particularly concerned for Alice Springs that this has happened. I will

will not sit idly by and see Alice Springs businesses go to the wall while there is anything I can do about it as Attorney-General. Mr Speaker, honourable members would be aware that certain provisions in the Companies Act require a person who is a director of a company, when he commits that company to debt, to have regard to the ability to pay the debt. It is required by the Companies Act. This morning I referred the matter to the investigation section of the Registrar-General's Office and that investigation is currently proceeding. The reason I mention this is that I want Interstate Constructions Pty Ltd to be fully aware of my attitude and my actions and I suggest to that company that the best way it can prevent the taking of any further action which may be available to the government through the Registrar of Companies is to pay its debts forthwith.

Community Welfare and Juvenile Justice Bills

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of criticism by the ALP on the finalisation of the Community Welfare Bill and the Juvenile Justice Bill, does he propose to complete the debate on these 2 bills at this sittings?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in recent days, I have noted with interest the criticism by members of the opposition in relation to the Juvenile Justice Bill and the Community Welfare Bill. It seems to me that quite a curious situation has developed. I would like to reflect on the progress that has been made over recent years in developing this legislation and the attitude of members opposite during that period. Their current expressions of interest in the press are quite inconsistent with the attitude they have displayed over the past 5 years. Honourable members opposite joined with the government in 1978 in setting up a committee of inquiry of this Assembly to look into the social welfare and juvenile justice issues of the Northern Territory because the legislation operating in 1978 was some 20 years old and outmoded. Mr Speaker, the Assembly appointed the now Solicitor-General, Mr Brian Martin, as the head of the inquiry ...

Mr B. COLLINS: A point of order, Mr Speaker!

Mr SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr B. COLLINS: Mr Speaker, I think I have been fairly patient with the honourable minister but this is a gross misuse of question time. Standing Order 93 provides that questions cannot refer to 'debates in the current session' of this Assembly. We are discussing - and it is quite improper, Mr Speaker - a bill that is currently before the Assembly and it is completely out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr TUXWORTH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Continuing with the history of the legislation, that inquiry was set up on 15 June 1978 and proceeded for a year and 2 months. On 29 August 1979, the report was presented to this Assembly. I would just like to say that the report refers to quite a few issues that were very telling and important issues at the time. I will just name some of them: child welfare, youth, aged, migrant and ethnic groups, handicapped, family support services, juvenile aid panels, children in courts, alcoholism, drug addiction, mental health and community welfare.

Mr Speaker, in 1980, the Assembly, the minister of the day and the Department of Community Development went to a lot of trouble to hold seminars all over the

the Northern Territory to make people aware of the findings of the report and to get information that might be available to us in the compilation of the legislation. A Ms Foreman and a Mr Brewer, consultants, were engaged by the department to attend the seminars to help with the briefings to the community.

In 1980 and 1981, extensive consultations were undertaken throughout the states, with all sorts of organisations in our Northern Territory community and with the Law Reform Commission which had just published report no 18 entitled 'Child Welfare'. Further to that, a Dr Seymour, the commissioner in charge of the Australian Law Reform Commission's child welfare report, and a Dr Crawford, the commissioner in charge of the research on Aboriginal customary law, were both sought by the government to give advice on the proposed legislation. At that stage, the department ...

Mr B. COLLINS: A point of order, Mr Speaker!

Mr SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr B. COLLINS: Mr Speaker, once again I must state that this is a gross misuse of the very limited time available to us in question time. Standing Order 94 says: 'An answer shall be relevant to the question'. What we are getting now is a ministerial statement. The question was very simply: 'Is the minister going to proceed with the debate in this sittings?' That requires an answer of 'yes' or 'no'. It is totally against Standing Order 94 to make ministerial statements in response to a question that can be answered with a simple 'yes' or 'no'.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, during this period, the honourable member for Fannie Bay raised with the then Minister for Community Development her concern at the rate of progress in the formulation of the bills and encouraged the government to get on with the job of presenting them to the Assembly. This was raised by the honourable member for Fannie Bay in March 1982 in a matter of public importance debate and again in November in a question without notice to the minister. In January this year, draft bills were circulated throughout the departments and, in March, using the precedent that has been set by this government over the years in bringing forward innovative legislation, I tabled draft bills and announcements were made in the press encouraging people and other members of the Assembly to come forward and give their views so that the legislation could be proceeded with and disposed of this year.

I also make the point that, at the time of introducing the bills, I specifically asked if members would like to have committee sessions, as we have had in the past, relating to these bills to discuss all sorts of matters that are not of a political nature but are really related to providing welfare and community services to our constituents. No one in the Assembly asked for that sort of in-house committee meeting with me so they did not occur. The offer was made.

Mr Speaker, the draft bills were tabled in August and the preparation of the bills was completed and they are now before the Assembly. It is proposed that the bills be disposed of at this sittings. I would just like to say to all honourable members that it is a matter of great concern to the government, myself and all those people involved that members of this Assembly should be putting forward the view that this is hastily drafted and presented legislation and that it is being disposed of in an inadequate way. All I can say is that, with a history of presentation and formulation of legislation like that, and the

interest of the honourable member for Fannie Bay in having the matters settled as quickly as possible, I think it is not unreasonable that the bills come forward tomorrow and, during the rest of the sittings, honourable members can have their say. If they have valid points that they would like incorporated in the legislation, they can be taken on board. But there is no reason in my view why the legislation should be put back for another sittings.

Admiralty House

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

Mr Speaker, the loudest noise you can hear from outside is from the listeners to 8 TOP FM. Has the Northern Territory Planning Authority recommended against the rezoning of the Admiralty House site?

ANSWER

There has been some controversy generated in the media recently regarding the Admiralty House site and also in relation to the acquisition of certain land from Sir Frederick Sutton by the government. I think that this complex matter would be best dealt with if I made a short statement to the Assembly after the conclusion of question time this morning although I am happy, if the honourable Leader of the Opposition requests it, to dilate at some length on this matter during question time. I am sure that I can go at least 20 minutes on it, Mr Speaker. However, I think that a short statement would be more in order. I only finished writing this statement this morning. It was typed at about 9.45 am and I handed copies of it to your assistants as I arrived. With the leave of the Assembly, I would propose to make a short statement in relation to the Sutton acquisition, the Douglas-Daly Research Station and the Admiralty House site at the conclusion of question time.

Oolloo Pastoral Lease Valuation

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

Was an independent valuation made of Oolloo pastoral lease as well as that undertaken by the Valuer-General? What were the results of these valuations and, in round terms, what was the government's last offer to the holders of the Oolloo lease?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the current negotiations regarding the Oolloo lease. In fact, I believe that negotiations were not continuing. I will be touching on this matter in my statement but I will be more than happy to give a short history of the Oolloo acquisition now. Mr Speaker, you would recall that you and I together had some part in attempting to establish negotiations with Mr and Mrs Rixon. At the time when the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority determined that it would require to acquire Oolloo in order to expand the project farms in the Douglas-Daly area, a number of senior government officials attempted to set up negotiations with Mr and Mrs Rixon. These were unsuccessful. Following on that, a personal visit was paid to Mr and Mrs Rixon at Oolloo by the then Minister for Primary Production, Roger Steele, and subsequent to his lack of success in getting negotiations going with Mr and Mrs Rixon, who declined to negotiate and indicated that they wanted to fight the matter all the way through the courts, you and I travelled to Oolloo, Mr Speaker. I think you will recall the event. Unfortunately, Mr and Mrs Rixon showed us the door also and indicated that they would be taking this matter to the highest

court in the land, as I recall their statement to us as we left. Off the top of my head, I think the Valuer-General's original valuation of Oolloo was $200 000. I do not know whether an independent valuation has been obtained. I would assume that, unless Mr and Mrs Rixon have entered into some negotiations with us, they would be the parties seeking the independent valuation.

Mr Speaker, I can find out more about this. All I want to say at this stage is that I know that there have been court proceedings. I think court proceedings are still current and pending but, despite that, the government would like to try to resolve the matter with Mr and Mrs Rixon. You may recall, Mr Speaker, that we had a dispute with the owners of Douglas Station over the acquisition of the initial area to establish the ADMA farms and we settled that. I have made the same offer to Mr and Mrs Rixon and I am happy to repeat it. The offer made to the owners of Douglas Station was that, if they did not like the Valuer-General's valuation - and they did not - then we would nominate 2 private valuers - the fact that they are independent is just assumed in the case of valuers because they are sworn valuers - and the owners would nominate 2 valuers. We would select 1 of their valuers and they would select 1 of the 2 we nominated. Those 2 valuers would then carry out separate valuations and the government would pay the average of the 2 valuations by way of compensation to Mr and Mrs Rixon as was paid to the owners of Douglas Station, together with all fees and expenses. Really, I do not think that there is a fairer way to go about trying to settle compensation with anyone.

As you know, Mr Speaker, during our visit to Mr and Mrs Rixon, to try to get discussions going, I asked them to name their price and they would not even do that. We are happy to negotiate with Mr and Mrs Rixon or any person from whom the government has to acquire land at any time. If Mr and Mrs Rixon would like to discontinue their court actions, or not even discontinue them, and sit down and talk about compensation, we are happy to do so. As I understand it, their court proceedings are on the footing that they want to set the acquisition aside in its entirety. I would not want to comment on the likely decision of the court but I would not think that one would make a book on the likely result.

Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the government considering changes to the Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act in view of the representations that have been made by a number of plumbers who have been affected by changes to the licensing requirements?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has received many representations on the implementation of the act. I note that, in recent days, the opposition has also made some remarks about the impact of the act on people who are operating as plumbers and drainers. The government has reconsidered its position in the light of these representations and, in view of the hardships being experienced, will introduce an amendment to the act at this sittings which will pay due regard to competency gained through experience.

Possible Government Acquisition of Pastoral Leases

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

Is it the intention of the government to acquire Humbert River Station, Bullita Station, a portion of Victoria River Downs Station, a portion of Fitzroy

Station, a portion of Delamere Station and a portion of Auvergne Station? If so, has the government undertaken a valuation of the above areas and will it move to acquire them compulsorily?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker,I am a busy boy acquiring all those stations. For a long time, the government has been nurturing the prospect of establishing quite an extensive national park in the Victoria River district. The government would like to establish more national parks in other areas of the Northern Territory. We would like to establish a park in the Roper-McArthur area and, of course, a MacDonnell Ranges national park is an aim that we have in mind. As far as possible, we are trying to go about this without recourse to compulsory acquisition. Whilst I cannot say that the government is proposing to acquire, through purchase or compulsion, the whole or any part of those stations referred to by the honourable Leader of the Opposition, a proposal for consideration by Cabinet is being formulated to buy rather than acquire parts of various stations - certainly Humbert River is one of them. From recollection, we are looking at the purchase of Humbert River in its entirety. I know that part of Victoria River Downs is also under consideration. I think the Leader of the Opposition mentioned Delamere and I am not sure about that one. Bullita is under consideration. As far as I am aware, it is only parts of these properties that are being considered, other than Humbert River.

The submission for the purchase of these properties, which I understand has been in preparation for quite some time and has resulted from negotiations with the owners of the properties over quite a long period, should be coming before Cabinet in the near future. It is proposed that, once these properties are purchased, the major slice of them - if not their entirety - will be designated for national park purposes. However, in view of the fact that it is coming to Cabinet, and I do not know the full details yet, I cannot say that it will be accepted. But, it is a proposal that Cabinet had discussed informally on a number of occasions over the last couple of years. Certainly, it has found much sympathy and support in Cabinet and I would expect it to be a proposal that Cabinet would endorse but I cannot say that with certainty.

Firearms Licences for Private Security Guards

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the current position for registration of firearms regarding the setting of standards for the issue of C-class firearms licences, namely pistols, to private security guards?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, certain criteria have been laid down by the Commissioner of Police, who is also, by virtue of his office, Registrar of Firearms, in relation to the setting of standards for private security guards. Commencing on 2 September this year, shooter's licences or temporary permits for C-class firearms - that is, pistols - are now being issued to security personnel subject to an applicant being of good character and his producing acceptable written certification, firstly, that he has undergone firearm training in the past 12 months and is proficient in the use of the pistol required and, secondly, that he has been properly briefed by legal counsel, who is to be named in the certificate, concerning his legal responsibilities and when the use of force may be justified. Licences and permits issued are endorsed in the following manner:

... authorised to carry on the person one only registered C-class firearm whilst physically present during the transferring of money or other valuable items in the course of duty as a security guard, whilst present for practice on a recognised range or whilst performing actual security guard duties during hours of darkness. The pistol must be carried in a holster which is secure and the firearm not exposed to public view.

Mr Speaker, this policy seems to have been accepted and, since it has been implemented, no complaints have been received from the public nor, I understand, from security firms or guards.

Purchase of Cattle Stations

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

This follows on from the previous answer that he gave. In the light of that answer, can he confirm whether or not the government is intending to purchase, and not acquire, the whole of the following cattle stations: Nathan River, Billengarrah, Bauhinia, Balbirini and Tanumbirini?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any proposal to purchase those properties. The names all ring to me of the Barkly Tablelands and MacArthur River areas from memory. Tanumbirini, Billengarrah and some of those properties would probably be in the area the government would hope to establish a national park. Whether those are the properties, I am not sure. To the best of my recollection, as Minister for Lands, I have certainly not authorised any action for the purchase of those particular properties.

Funding of Sports Stadiums in Alice Springs

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

Is it the government's intention to fund 2 sports stadiums in Alice Springs now that the YMCA and the Alice Springs Town Council cannot agree on a joint proposal? If so, has the joint viability of the 2 stadiums been considered along with the possible detrimental affects upon existing youth facilities?

ANSWER

Recently, I have had discussions in Alice Springs with both the YMCA and the Alice Springs Town Council. By way of background, in 1978-79, the Northern Territory government gave a commitment to the Alice Springs Town Council to upgrade Traeger Park. The first part of that upgrading was the baseball diamond so that it could be used for future national championships. In fact, it has been used for junior championships. In 1986, it is hoped that the Claxton Shield will be held in Alice Springs.

Part of that development was to upgrade the Centralian Football League area. That has been done. Hopefully, this financial year, it will be completed. Financial assistance has also been given to the tennis club in that area and it has upgraded its facilities for the purposes of its members. Also my colleague, the Minister for Community Development, has given the Alice Springs council an undertaking to provide financial assistance to upgrade the hockey surface in that area.

Part of the development proposal for Traeger Park was that a basketball stadium be constructed. Consequently, I have been able to advise the Alice Springs council and the basketball association that the Northern Territory government will be proceeding with construction of that facility this financial year.

Several months ago, we received a submission from the YMCA. The YMCA's proposal was to build a multi-purpose stadium within that area. In fact, the site it chose was adjacent to the swimming pool in Telegraph Terrace. At the same time, the council had wished to use that land for further expansion of the swimming pool. So there was some discussion between the Alice Springs council and the YMCA for that site. Several weeks ago, the Chief Minister and I met with the people concerned. A decision was made to allocate a portion of land in the Sadadeen area for the development of the YMCA proposal.

There are 2 different types of proposal. One is purely for basketball and associated sports and the YMCA's proposal is a multi-purpose one to provide a whole range of facilities for people in that area. The only difference of opinion between both organisations was the site. Fortunately, we were able to resolve that and arrangements are now being made to allocate a portion of land in Sadadeen for the YMCA to proceed. There is one proviso: funds will not be made available to the YMCA until the latter part of the 1983-84 financial year.

The honourable member for Alice Springs asked whether it would be detrimental to existing organisations. I do not think it would be because the Alice Springs Youth Centre is operating quite successfully within the region and has done so over a number of years. I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to that organisation which has provided a facility for the youth of Alice Springs. The Alice Springs population is growing and it will take some time before the YMCA facility and the basketball stadium are completed. These 2 new facilities will hopefully provide for that population growth. All members of this Assembly would remember that, in 1978, on the advent of self-government, we inherited a dearth of reasonable sporting and community facilities. This year, some $1.3m will be made available to the Alice Springs region for facility development. An additional facility will be the construction of a velodrome to national standards. This will allow that sport to develop further.

Mr Speaker, I do not believe that the addition of these 2 new facilities will be detrimental to the operation of the existing ones. I would assure the honourable member that we do look carefully at all applications for assistance in that area. At the moment, there is a proposal by the Alice Springs Memorial Club to provide further extensions to its facilities. We are looking at that. In some respects, we are not in support of a particular proposal of the Alice Springs Memorial Club to provide additional squash facilities. Officers of the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation are discussing additional proposals.

In conclusion, I advise the honourable member for Alice Springs that the Northern Territory government, through its grants-in-aid program, does provide the opportunity for organisations to obtain government assistance for the construction of youth-related facilities.

The 3-to-1 funding has been taken up only by 2 organisations in the Northern Territory so far this year: the Girl Guides and the Boy Scouts. A third will be the YMCA. I would add, Mr Speaker, that we will go beyond a level of 3 to 1 provided that the YMCA does proceed with its Sadadeen development.

Stockpiling of Sulphur

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he assure me that steps have been taken to alleviate problems being experienced as a result of sulphur being stockpiled by Ranger Uranium Mines in the Darwin rural area?

ANSWER

Ranger Uranium Mines established a sulphur stockpile in September 1980 in the region of Bees Creek. During the first years of operation, some sulphur left the site and was deposited in the bed of Bees Creek. During November 1982, during early rains, the pH level of the creek water dropped to a level of 3 and persisted until heavy rains in early March 1983. Shell grit was added in an attempt to neutralise the flow and weirs were constructed to trap sulphur before it reached the creek. As the creek dried out, monitoring revealed that salts were forming in the sediment. These salts, formed by bacterial action on the sulphur within the sediments, are highly soluble and cause a drop in the pH level when flow commences.

The Controller of Water Resources has written to Ranger expressing his concern at the pollution of Bees Creek and insisting on remedial action. Ranger was directed to supply details of its proposed action to meet specified minimum water quality in the outlet drain from the stockpile site. Ranger has undertaken, or is proposing, the following action: at the stockpile site, removal of all sulphur to the mine site; clean up of the bunded area by grading and sweeping of all surface material - this has been removed and taken to the Ranger tailings dam; further cleaning of the area will be undertaken by hosing down as necessary; a neutralising agent such as lime will be applied over the whole stockpile area; no further sulphur will be placed on site between October and April; the drainage system is being widened and weirs modified to improve settling conditions; contaminated material is being removed from the drain; an automatic instrument to monitor the pH discharged from the site has been installed; in the creek bed, the company has undertaken the removal of contaminated sediments from the area; at the same time, keeping disturbance of any vegetation to a minimum and placing earth-filled cylinders in the bed containing shell grit as a neutralising agent, Ranger has undertaken to rehabilitate the affected creek bed; consideration is being given to the method of operation and effectiveness of neutralising and removing salts already in the creek bed; and examination of the effectiveness of monitoring and reporting and the use of automatic controls for the longer term. Based on submissions already received, it is clearly the intention of Ranger, subject to the approval of the Controller of Water Resources, to carry out several measures in addition to the above. It is believed there is a serious recognition of the problem and a commitment from Ranger to rectify it.

NTDC Loan to Terri Hatcheries and Fish Farms Pty Ltd

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can the Chief Minister advise the Assembly if the company, Terri Hatcheries and Fish Farms Pty Ltd, the principals of which are Mr Rex Jettner and Mr Sam Calder, is in receipt of NTDC loans of some $400 000? Given that this company is facing severe financial difficulties, can he advise the Assembly as to what action the government is taking to ensure that its investment is secure?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition should have asked this question because I understand that the NTDC will be considering this week its first annual report which will be tabled in this Assembly subsequent to the new procedures - that I outlined in a statement to the Assembly earlier this year - whereby all defaulting debtors of the NTDC will be disclosed in the corporation's annual report. A wait of a few days would have avoided the question and no doubt would have stopped the hares running. If what the Leader of the Opposition says is true - that the company is experiencing financial difficulties - he has now helped to precipitate its downfall. No doubt, this matter will gain publicity through the media and persons who are owed money by the company will panic and rush to press their claims immediately. That, of course, has brought down many a company which could have traded through its difficulties when it was at a delicate point in its financial history.

The situation is that there has been, as far as I am aware, a substantial loan for about $300 000 to a company called Terri Hatcheries and Fish Farms Pty Ltd which has 3 principal shareholders. Two of them are Mr Rex Jettner and Mr Sam Calder. As I understand the position, that loan is secured by a mortgage over a station property - I think it is Finniss River Station. At the present time, my understanding is that the company is not in default of any arrangement that it has with the Northern Territory Development Corporation. I will undertake to check that out and report back to the Assembly as soon as possible. To the best of my knowledge, there is no default on its arrangements with the Northern Territory Development Corporation by that company.

NTDC Loan to Terri Hatcheries and Fish Farms Pty Ltd

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I wish to ask a supplementary question of the honourable Chief Minister in the light of the answer that he just gave and his mention of a mortgage. Is the Finniss River Station in breach of its covenants? If so, what action is being taken by the government to rectify this situation? Has the Northern Territory government received proposals from Terri Hatcheries for subdivision of Finniss River Station?

ANSWER

There is a whole raft of questions there. The honourable Leader of the Opposition has asked, firstly, whether Finniss River Station is in default under its covenants, whether the government has taken action in relation to any default and whether the company has applied to the government to subdivide the station. Unfortunately, I am not aware of any of the answers to those questions. The best that I can do is seek the information. If any application to subdivide the station has been made, it certainly has not been made to me but then that would not be unusual because a lot of these things are handled directly between the lessees and the department. I will find out as soon as I reasonably can and inform the Assembly.

Chief Minister's Future Intentions

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer the Chief Minister to an article in the Woman's Day magazine of 10 October where he is quoted as saying: 'If I am re-elected next year, I won't be serving out my full term of office for, at some time during that period, I will have been the Chief Minister for 10 years. That is long enough'. This puts the Northern Territory electorate in the position of supporting an unknown leader for the Northern Territory in the event of an election of the CLP government. The Chief Minister has since categorically denied making that statement.

Is the Chief Minister aware that, on ABC Radio this morning, the editor of Woman's Day not only refuted the substance of the Chief Minister's denial but also his account of how the interview was conducted? Is the Chief Minister aware that the editor of Woman's Day has stated that not only is there a tape recording of the actual interview and statements of the Chief Minister but he personally has listened to it. In the view of these statements of the editor of Woman's Day and the serious reflection they cast on both the Chief Minister's veracity and his likely term of office, in the interests of the public of the Northern Territory, I would ask him to request the Woman's Day magazine to make that tape recording immediately available to the Northern Territory media so that it may be broadcast in the Northern Territory and the electorate of the Northern Territory can make up its own mind as to who is telling the truth.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is very pleasing and interesting to see that the Leader of the Opposition has such concern for my political future. One is gratified that the Leader of the Opposition is so keen to see the situation about my political future clarified. I have already spoken to Territory media about this matter on Monday. I have spoken to both television channels, both radio stations, to the Northern Territory News and any other print media that has cared to speak to me. As far as I am concerned, Woman's Day, if it has a tape-recording, can do what it likes with the tape-recording. As far as I am concerned, I have no property in it. I have made it quite clear that I will be standing for re-election to this Assembly in 1984. I have made it quite clear to the Northern Territory electorate, as I have all along, that, if I am re-elected to this Assembly in 1984 and subsequently re-elected by my party to the position of leader of the parliamentary CLP, and if that party has a majority in this Assembly, which I confidently expect, then I will be serving out the full term as Chief Minister of the Northern Territory. That is unless the Northern Territory moves to statehood during that time which I suppose is a possibility because it is rumoured that the federal government will talk to us about statehood before 1988.

In any event, to clear up any doubt whatsoever, I make the categorical statement that, in my view, the reporter from the Woman's Day was somewhat confused. We were talking about 10 years in politics and 10 years as Chief Minister. Frankly, I believe that the reporter became somewhat confused. Mr Speaker, I think that I have made the situation particularly clear: if re-elected to this Assembly next term and if re-elected as leader of the parliamentary CLP, I will be serving out the full term.

Tourist Vehicles

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I understand that concern has been expressed by some tour operators who have

encountered difficulties in having 4-wheel-drive vehicles registered as tourist vehicles. Can he advise what the present policy is in relation to these vehicles?

ANSWER

The requirements for 4-wheel-drive vehicles used to transport fare-paying passengers is under close review by the Department of Transport and Works in consultation with the Tourist Commission and the tourist industry. The requirements have been set out in a motor omnibus code of practice distributed to all licensed omnibus operators and to vehicle dealers in February 1982. The standards identified in that publication include those for small omnibuses as endorsed nationally by the Australian Transport Advisory Council. The standards are somewhat higher than required for similar vehicles not carrying passengers for hire and reward. This is based on the view that, where governments approved particular vehicles to operate commercially, the paying public is entitled to reasonable expectations as to safety and comfort which may be higher than for private passengers who are travelling by private arrangements.

The tightening up of standards has shown up some limitations in vehicles currently on the market. It may be that nationally-endorsed standards are too high for the type of operations that 4-wheel-drive vehicles are used for. In recognition of the absence of fully-suitable vehicles, I have endorsed some interim modifications to the standards of comfort required for new registrations to allow the industry to upgrade on the basis of what is currently available. I have asked for the Department of Transport and Works, the Tourist Commission, operators and vehicle suppliers to sit down together to consider what the desirable longer-term standards should be and over what timescale they should be introduced. There is no intention of retrospectively applying higher comfort standards to vehicles already registered although the seating number approved for some may need to be reviewed because of some safety concerns. Details will be made known to the industry on a vehicle-type basis on what the interim arrangements will be for new registrations.

Ayers Rock Tragedy

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In relation to the recent disaster at Ayers Rock, will the minister confirm that it took over 2 hours from receipt of a call by St John Ambulance for an aerial medical plane to take off? Is it further correct that this delay resulted from the Department of Health being inadequately prepared for an emergency in that supplies had to be packed in the early hours of the morning before the planes could leave?

ANSWER

I am unable to give the honourable member precise details in relation to that particular question. As I understand it, the people involved with providing medical services in the region at the time of the accident did an excellent job in providing back-up facilities. The sister-in-charge reached the scene pretty quickly. However, in relation to her specific questions, I will provide information later during this sittings.

Chairmanship of Northern Land Council

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the present situation regarding the chairmanship of the Northern Land Council?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would have thought that the position of Chairman of the Northern Land Council was of some interest in this Assembly since the Northern Land Council controls approximately 14% of the surface area of the Northern Territory. The reason why the Leader of the Opposition is not so keen to talk about who is chairman of the land council is that his colleague, Mr Clyde Holding, the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, has carried out a bloodless coup d'etat out at Berrimah at the offices of the Northern Land Council. The NLC had 53 elected members which formed an executive of 13, out of which came the chairman. The 3-year term of the council members and executive, including the chairman, would have expired on 29 August 1983 and the land council was geared up for elections on 27 September. On Friday 12 August, a meeting in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs office in Darwin was attended by the person whom, one would assume, would rightly be the chairman, Mr Gerry Blitner, and Mr Bill Gray from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and several land council members and observers. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Holding, said that he was extending the term of the council by 3 months to allow for greater representation by Aboriginal people. Observers at the meeting were given to understand by the minister that he had extended the term of the Northern Land Council members, the Executive and the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman. The 3 months' extension of term, so the minister said, was to allow for another 27 members to be elected to the NLC in the interests of greater representation. According to Minister Holding, the new council will have 80 members. Of course, we are criticised in this Assembly if we increase the representation of the whole Northern Territory from 19 members to 25 but the NLC's representation has been increased from 57 or so to 80.

The land council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 13 October. On Monday 10 October, Mr Blitner was informed that he was no longer the chairman as the minister had no power to extend his term, although he apparently has power under the act to extend the terms of members. Aboriginal communities have been nominating members for the council over the past month and, apparently, Mr Silas Malarangura has taken over as interim chairman until the election on Thursday. In the meantime, Mr Blitner, I am told, has been denied access to NLC facilities, including telex machines. Mr Holding, as all honourable members know, is an anti-uranium activist and has clashed verbally and in the press with Mr Blitner, both as minister and whilst Mr Holding was an opposition back-bencher. Mr Holding's law firm represented the Alderson family in its last ditch attempt to block the Koongarra mining agreement. Mr Holding was vocal at the Lake Bennett meeting where the National Aboriginal Conference also had much say and attempts were made for an inquiry into the operations of the Northern Land Council. Earlier this year, the Northern Land Council's media organ 'Land Rights News' carried a story from Gerry Blitner hitting back at southern critics, including Mr Holding, of the Koongarra agreement and saying that the NLC was pro-uranium but it was pro-Aboriginal and the traditional owners wanted uranium mining. At the Aboriginal Affairs Ministers Conference in Melbourne, Mr Holding openly advocated the National Aboriginal Conference as the supreme Aboriginal body in Australia. He did the same at the Lake Bennett meeting. His expansion of the NLC numbers, coupled with the extension of existing members' termsand the sacking

of the chairman, shows the federal minister is taking an unhealthy interest in the internal affairs of the NLC, particularly at its election time.

Mr Speaker, now that Mr Wesley Lanhupuy has been endorsed by the Australian Labor Party federal executive as its candidate for Arnhem, a possible deal is that Mr Wesley Lanhupuy goes to the Assembly and Gerry Blitner goes on the scrap heap. So much for self-determination when an Aboriginal gets in the way of personal views and policies of the federal Labor Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. If there is a disgrace, it is a disgrace on the part of Mr Holding for interfering in this election in this blatant way.

Chairmanship of Northern Land Coucnil

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Speaker, I will give the Chief Minister an opportunity to carry on with this nonsense. Is he aware that the decision to appoint an interim chairman for the Northern Land Council was in fact taken on legal advice sought by the legal department of the bureau of the Northern Land Council? Is he aware that the decision to appoint Mr Silas Malarangura as interim chairman until the elections - which will be held tomorrow - was taken on receipt of legal advice that the federal minister only had the power to extend the terms of members and not of the chairman and that that decision was taken by the fully Aboriginal executive of the Northern Land Council itself and not by the minister?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would certainly be pleased to respond to that. I am informed that Mr Gerry Blitner has legal advice to the contrary. Obviously, there are 2 disputing legal views. All I can say is that the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has set up Mr Gerry Blitner nicely. The only way that Mr Blitner can hold his position as Chairman of the Northern Land Council, which he is legally entitled to hold until the election, is by taking legal action. He has no funds and he has no resources to do so. That is the position. This deposition of Mr Blitner should never have occurred and would not have occurred without the interference of Mr Holding extending the time of the election.

Ministerial Officer in Katherine

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he presently considering the establishment of a ministerial officer in Katherine and, if so, on what terms as this would appear to be somewhat unique in the annals of Northern Territory Cabinet history?

ANSWER

I have no information for the honourable member.

Pine Creek Water Supply

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise what steps are being taken to alleviate problems with the supply of water to Pine Creek?

ANSWER

The supply of water to Pine Creek has been a problem for some time. New bores have been drilled but there have been some delays in equipping of the bores and the construction of the rising mains. The problem has been exacerbated by the discovery of unacceptable levels of arsenic in one of the bores causing it to be withdrawn from service. At present, all bores pump directly into the reticulation as it is not possible to pump directly to storage tanks. In addition, all the bores are in danger of forking and, where possible, production rates have been reduced to avoid this.

It is expected that 3 of the 4 new bores will be equipped by the end of November and, with the construction of a rising main, the first bore should be on line by the beginning of December. The other 2 bores will come on line in January. A public meeting was held in Pine Creek on Tuesday 4 October with the Katherine Area Manager and a public works engineer present. Some 22 people attended the meeting. The department's representative explained the position, the consumption patterns required and the consequences of ignoring restrictions. Various leaks, including 4 leaking fire hydrants, were brought to the attention of the department and maintenance crews have been dispatched to rectify the situation. A departmental representative has gone to Pine Creek to call upon larger consumers individually in an attempt to obtain their cooperation. The situation will be monitored daily and the department hopes that action now being taken will be successful in alleviating the situation.

Ministerial Officer in Katherine

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he appointed a ministerial officer and staff to Katherine and does he have an office in which to locate this officer in Katherine?

ANSWER

The complement of my personal staff is presently down by one. My proposal to fill that position is to appoint a research officer based in Darwin.

Teacher Positions in NT

Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

There has been public comment recently about anticipated teacher shortages for next year. Can he advise the Assembly whether applications for teacher positions in the Northern Territory are down on previous years and whether there is a demonstrable lack of interest in teacher positions in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

There has indeed been some public comment and concern expressed about the teacher situation in the Northern Territory. There has been an expectation that supply and demand of teachers in Australia may put us in the position of finding it particularly difficult to recruit teachers to the Territory in future years. I am pleased to advise that, on the advice of the Northern Territory Teaching Service Commissioner, applications now being received are reaching an all time high. This was at a time when it could have been expected that they would reach an all time low. The latest figures indicate that 687 applications have been received from interstate and applications are continuing to come in to the Teaching Service Commissioner's office at a rate of approximately 50 per day.

We believe the reason for the influx of applications is that, approximately 4 to 6 weeks ago, an intensive advertising campaign was mounted in southern states. It included advertising in national and state newspapers and teachers' union publications. In addition, a poster and publicity campaign was conducted in all colleges of advanced education. These efforts now seem to be bearing fruit. Teaching and life generally in the Territory is beginning to have more appeal to residents of southern states. The Territory is seen by Australians generally as a progressive place to be in. It appears that promotional opportunities are declining in some southern states and, generally, that there is a lack of opportunity and challenge. In some states, particularly South Australia, there is still an excess of graduates over teaching vacancies. Interestingly though, other states which do not have that problem have generated many applications; for example, we have received some 90 applications from Western Australia. It is also interesting and very encouraging to note that a considerably-increased proportion of applications are from mature teachers of several years experience. Honourable members will be aware that one of the difficulties faced in the past in the Territory was that many teacher recruits were straight out of teachers college.

Interview rounds will commence towards the end of this month. In view of the number of applicants, they may have to continue right to January. Selection will be rigorous to ensure that we obtain the most suitable teachers in terms of qualifications and experience for the Territory. We are hopeful of obtaining many more mature and experienced teachers for the Teaching Service. In common with the rest of Australia, we envisage there may still be difficulties in recruiting suitable teachers in the science and technical studies areas, as there is a national shortage. However, the picture is very encouraging over all. I understand that teacher retention rates in the Northern Territory are also improving. Together with nearly 700 applications we have received for teaching positions in the Northern Territory, it certainly places us in a very encouraging position as far as the future is concerned.

Ayers Rock Tragedy

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he confirm that a request was made to Ansett Airlines in Alice Springs to provide an F28 aircraft to evacuate victims of the accident at Ayers Rock? Is it a fact that the aircraft could have evacuated all the victims to Alice Springs within 1½ hours? Was the request originally agreed to and, if so, why was it subsequently withdrawn?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide the honourable member with information now. However, I will provide an answer to her.

Subsidies for Freighting Liquor to NT

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

The Darwin Hotel manager has recently suggested to the freight inquiry that there is a scheme afoot in the Northern Territory whereby liquor wholesalers can obtain a subsidy for the cost of freighting liquor into the Northern Territory. Is such a scheme operating in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

There is no specific subsidy available for freighting liquor into the Territory. It is understood that the person who made the submission to the Northern Territory inquiry was referring to the scheme whereby the Northern Territory government refunds sales tax paid on freight for many items brought to the Territory by wholesalers. If I recall correctly, during the last election campaign, the federal ALP undertook to abolish sales tax on freight. Perhaps we could inquire whether that is another item in the long list of broken promises.

The Territory government scheme was introduced in 1980 to assist Territory-based wholesalers who were disadvantaged in relation to wholesalers in the states. The purpose was to enable Northern Territory wholesalers to keep a greater range of stocks for sale. It was cheaper for people to buy goods from southern ports, pay the sales tax there and freight the goods to a Northern Territory retailer rather than deal through a local wholesaler.

The scheme has been working successfully and Territory residents have benefited through a slackening of expected price increases. It has now attracted interest from some 46 companies in the Territory. At present, $250 000 has been allocated in the Territory budget to cover subsidies. A relatively simple administrative system enables claims to be processed quickly once the percentage of sales tax attributed to freight and handling charges is calculated on the particular goods. That percentage is then applied to the actual amount of sales tax paid and forms the basis of the wholesalers' subsidies. From time to time, I receive information from Treasury seeking approval for payments to wholesalers under this particular scheme.

The Northern Territory government introduced the scheme to try to counter some of the costs of living in the Northern Territory, in this case a cost which results from an inequity whereby Territory people and other people in remote areas of Australia have to pay sales tax on the freight component of goods. This is an anomaly in the Australian taxation system that we have brought to the attention of successive federal governments for many years without a great deal of success. It appears that the latest federal government has added it to its list of broken promises.

Public Holiday for Australia II's Victory

Ms LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I understand that South Australia had a public holiday on Monday to celebrate Australia II's victory in the America's Cup. Is it the intention to declare a public holiday for the Northern Territory and, if so, has he considered 1 November which is Melbourne Cup Day?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I said that the Northern Territory would monitor the situation in the other states. In fact, I did ask my department to do this and, to date, no advice has been received that any other state is planning a public holiday to commemorate the victory of Australia II in the America's Cup. I will again inquire of my department as to the plans for public holidays elsewhere but, to the best of my knowledge, even Western Australia, which one would imagine would have the greatest amount to crow about, has not yet planned to have a public holiday to celebrate the arrival home of the crew of Australia II.

One other matter of interest which has been taken up by the Northern Territory Tourist Commission is the spin-off benefit to Australian tourism which will hopefully occur as a result of the yacht races that will have to be held if there are challenges to the Royal Perth Yacht Club for the custody of the America's Cup. I know the Western Australians hope that it will result in a very great influx of visitors and money to Western Australia. The Territory Tourist Commission is making plans to attempt to ensure that as many of those people as possible will be attracted to the Northern Territory during their stay in Australia and that as many as possible will be brought into Australia through the Northern Territory. This latter prospect is limited because of the lack of direct flights from our national airline, Qantas. Mr Speaker, I believe that the Tourist Commission is showing great foresight in doing this. We have an office established in Perth, but I am sure that the America's Cup will prove an extremely valuable tourist asset to the state of Western Australia.

As to the matter of the public holiday, the government certainly does not want to be a dog in the manger about this. We propose to follow the lead of other states and we have been waiting to hear what they propose to do.

Ayers Rock Tragedy

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In the light of genuine and serious concern that is being expressed in Alice Springs about the evacuation of patients from the Ayers Rock disaster, will he establish an inquiry into the management of the disaster to ensure that delays do not occur during any future emergency in central Australia?

ANSWER

I will not give an assurance that I will hold an inquiry. The honourable member opposite asked me previously if I was aware that it took 2 hours for an aerial medical aircraft to get off the ground. I am not quite sure that that information is correct. I did not give the honourable member a precise answer because I wanted to check my facts first. I offered to provide that information at a later hour. My understanding is that the accident happened at about 1 o'clock in the morning and the people involved were treated very quickly. St John Ambulance people and professional staff in that region were on the scene very quickly. In fact, I received a minute from the Secretary of the Department of Health advising me that, as far as he was aware, the particular situation had been handled with the utmost efficiency. Accidents like this can happen anywhere in the Northern Territory and the Department of Health is able to provide the necessary equipment and personnel as soon as it receives the information. Yesterday, in the budget speech, it was mentioned that St John Ambulance would receive a grant of over $2m from the Northern Territory government to provide these services not only in the main centres of Darwin but also in some of the other areas.

My understanding of the situation is that the people involved in the unfortunate accident at Ayers Rock were evacuated as quickly as possible not only to the Alice Springs Hospital but also to a hospital in Adelaide. The victims received the most efficient service possible considering the circumstances. I will obtain the information that the honourable member asked for in relation to the F28 being on the ground and why it was not used. There may have been a mechanical problem. There are several reasons why it may not have been brought into service. As I said earlier, I will provide the honourable member opposite with the information she requires at a later date.

Security in Territory Prisons

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of the recent prison officers' strike and the resultant publicity focussing on the question of security in Territory prisons, can he inform the Assembly what action has been taken?

ANSWER

The matter to which the honourable member refers was dealt with during my absence by the Chief Minister. It really relates to the industrial relations portfolio. I would ask the honourable member to redirect the question to the honourable Chief Minister because he would have everything at his fingertips as he was involved in the discussions at the time.

Security in Territory Prisons

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the recent prison officers' strike and the resultant publicity focussing on the question of security in Territory prisons, can he inform the Assembly what action has been taken?

ANSWER

It is true that, at the time of the dispute, the honourable Minister for Community Development was in Tennant Creek. As minister responsible for industrial relations, I became involved in the matter. I was approached by the Secretary of the Department of Community Development, the Director of Correctional Services and the Public Service Commissioner. The dispute centred over the feeling that the prison officers had that they would be made scapegoats for the escape of these prisoners being conveyed from Gunn Point Prison Farm to Darwin Prison.

As a result of discussions with representatives of the Prison Officers Association and the Miscellaneous Workers Union, it was decided to have an inquiry into the escape. I will read into the record the terms of reference, which also relate to security at the prison. The inquiry is to be carried out by the Police Commissioner, the former Director of Correctional Services, Mr Terry Fegan and Mr Hunter Harrison of the Prison Officers Association. Their terms of reference are as follows:

Firstly, to consider representations made by the Prison Officers Association and the Senior Prison Officers Association on matters relating to the security of the prisoners at Darwin Prison, Alice Springs Gaol and Gunn Point Prison Farm, including the escape of 4 prisoners from custody on 18 September 1983, and rosters and manning.

Secondly, to seek advice as necessary from the Director of Correctional Services and the Secretary of the Department of Community Development on these matters.

Thirdly, to submit conclusions and recommendations to the Chief Minister and to the Minister for Community Development on the understanding that they will be discussed with management and representatives of the Senior Prison Officers Association and the Prison Officers Association before submission to the ministers.

It was also agreed between the parties that immediate steps would be taken, beginning on Monday 26 September 1983, to check the security of all vehicles used for the transport of prisoners and to remedy defects. As I understand it, the various vehicles were in fact being progressively fitted with the necessary security equipment. B block will be closed earlier each day to release 3 officers plus one miscellaneous duty officer for enhancing the manning of G, K, H and L blocks. This arrangement will be for a trial period of 1 month from Monday 26 September 1983 subject to review by the end of that time by management. If, after that month, the committee of inquiry has not reached a conclusion on manning levels, management can extend the arrangement for a period necessary to enable the committee to reach a conclusion or it can end the arrangement. It was agreed, however, that the committee of inquiry would make the manning levels and rosters for G, K, H and L blocks its first consideration and provide an interim report on this matter if necessary.

The roster arrangements for Gunn Point Prison Farm will be looked at urgently, beginning on Monday 26 September 1983, by representatives of the Department of Community Development, Public Service Commissioner's Office and the Prison Officers Association to settle the matter in which the problem of single officer manning at night could be solved. As an interim arrangement, the officer on night shift would be redeployed to the afternoon shift leaving no cover on the night shift and officers would commence at 6 am for the day shift.

Mr Speaker, I asked for the inquiry to commence as quickly as possible. I understand it is doing so. Naturally, the unions are agreeable to it all and have stated so publicly. I hope to have a report fairly soon. As a result of that, I hope that these problems can be resolved.

Ngaringman Aboriginal Lease Application

Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the government's intention to purchase Humbert River Station in its entirety, as mentioned by the Chief Minister during question time yesterday, will consideration be given to the Ngaringman Aboriginal application for a lease at Lingarra, which is located on this property, and where they have been living for a number of years, in order for the government to demonstrate its firm interest in establishing a settled community there and obtaining a lease over an appropriate area of land for the community needs? I would add that Lingarra is not a proposed community; it is an established community and they have been living on site for some years.

ANSWER

I have not followed this matter up since yesterday. I indicated in my answer yesterday that I was not precisely sure of what stations or parts of stations the government was proposing to purchase. I do believe that Humbert River is included. I will certainly inquire into the situation as stated by the honourable member for Victoria River. At this stage, I could not give any such undertaking.

Replacement of Asbestos Insulation in NT Powerhouses

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he advise that a program is continuing to replace asbestos insulation in the Territory's powerhouses and, if so, is that program being carried out within the guidelines of established worker, job and safety codes?

ANSWER

The short answer to both of those questions is yes. The arrangements as far as industrial safety goes are being coordinated by the Department of Mines and Energy Industrial Safety Division in conjunction with advice that came from the Department of Health and the concerned unions. I share the unions' concern. There is no question that asbestos, particularly blue asbestos, is an extremely dangerous substance. In fact, it is one of the most dangerous of all of the insulating materials available. Having regard to those concerns of the unions and government, that material is being removed from the Stokes Hill power-station in particular, and, I would hope, anywhere else where the public has access. It is a material which is no longer required. It was installed in power-stations for the purposes of very effective insulation at a time when its hazard to health was unknown.

The process of removal will continue, and with a great deal of care and consideration to workers in close proximity to this dangerous material while it is being removed. I would expect it would take some time to complete this project due to the very difficult nature of the removal of the substance itself. Blue asbestos, of course, becomes more dangerous with time. It disintegrates; it becomes powdered. When you attempt to remove it after a period of time, particularly if it has been used as a boiler wrap or a hot-water or steam-pipe wrap, it becomes even more unstable. It is the inhalation of blue asbestos, or any asbestos, which is highly undesirable. Blue asbestos, being the more dangerous of the 2, is the one that the department and the Northern Territory Electricity Commission will be most concerned to remove very carefully indeed.

Interstate Constructions Pty Ltd

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What investigations were undertaken by the Department of Mines and Energy to check the bona fides of Interstate Constructions Pty Ltd when it was selected as a subcontractor on the Mereenie oil field pipeline?

ANSWER

Let me make it very clear at the outset that this company was not selected at all by the Northern Territory. Indeed, as honourable members ought to be aware, the pipeline is not owned by the Northern Territory. It is owned by private enterprise. The role of the Northern Territory government is to ensure the engineering standards of that pipeline are within the meaning and terms of the Pipeline Licensing Act. That is the sole role of the Northern Territory government in this matter.

I can understand the way people in Alice Springs are feeling in that many of them think that the government ought to have had a role in it. But that would mean that, every time a private enterprise company employs a subcontracting private enterprise company, the government ought to investigate its bona fides. Nonetheless, I think it is fair to say that, during the process of the pipeline application to the Department of Mines and Energy, and particularly myself, the minister responsible for the issuing of the pipeline licence, Interstate gave information to TNT which subsequently proved to be less than truthful. I understand from the information that I have been given that it listed assets such as earthmoving equipment, wrapping equipment and the like. It subsequently turned out that all of that was either encumbered such as to make it unavailable to creditors or, worse still, just on lease.

Yesterday, I mentioned that one of the major creditors is a small business in Alice Springs which is itself an equipment hire company. Without naming the actual company, it works through Coates Hire. Quite clearly, if one looks down the list of creditors, such as the major earthmoving components of the debts, it is apparent that Interstate, rather than being an actual operator of equipment, in fact sub-subcontracted most of the contract to other people. It is its lack of payment to those local construction companies and hiring firms which is causing me a great deal of personal concern. My interest in this, apart from my obvious role to see that the correct things were done within the meaning, terms and spirit of the Companies Act, is more as a local member coming from Alice Springs. People in my constituency, and in those of the honourable member for Alice Springs and Stuart of course, have been badly hurt and are facing potential ruin as a result, in some cases anyway, of the activities of this company and its apparent inability to pay its debts.

I can only repeat what I said yesterday. I urge that company to pay its debts forthwith or I will continue with my examination of whatever mechanisms may or may not be available under the Northern Territory Companies Act.

Government Policy on High-rise Building in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the controversy in Alice Springs concerning the proposed high-rise building, can he advise what is the government's policy in this respect?

ANSWER

I presume that the honourable member for Stuart has raised this matter because of the recent controversy in Alice Springs over a town planning decision to reject a building proposal by the Aboriginal Development Commission for a 6 or 7-storey building on land between Hartley and Bath Streets. It is amazing how different points of view seem to arise in different circumstances. I think it could be properly said that, in respect of buildings that could interrupt the view anywhere between Anzac Hill and Heavitree Gap, it has been a long-established policy that there should be buildings of not more than 3 storeys. Unfortunately, the Aboriginal Development Commission apparently wants to maximise the use of the particular land which, I understand, it has purchased from the Uniting Church. It has a number of historic buildings on it that were erected back in the 1920s and 1930s when the Presbyterian Church first established its mission in central Australia.

In any event, I discussed the policy after the Town Planning Appeal Board's decision which rejected the application for review by the Aboriginal Development Commission. I discussed the policy with the Alice Springs Town Council because I believe that, as Minister for Lands, I should take the views of the council into consideration. As far as I could judge from my discussions with the council, it seems that it wants the existing policy of low rise in that area to continue. The council had no objection to an area being set aside for high rise or multi-storey development in Alice Springs. Its view and my view was that this area would probably need to be in one of the side valleys where it would not interfere with the amenity of the aspect which is the hallmark of Alice Springs on which its international reputation is built.

The Alice Springs town plan, Mr Speaker, restricts the erection or use of a building which contains more than 2 storeys except with the consent of the Northern Territory Planning Authority. The authority's policy is to restrict

building height in the central business district of Alice Springs to 3 storeys. The authority has now exhibited for public comment an amendment to the town plan to incorporate the 3-storey limit into the town plan and I will receive a report from the authority when it has considered submissions.

That is the position. I understand the Aboriginal Development Commission has taken its appeal to the Supreme Court, apparently by way of prerogative writ claiming some breach of natural justice, one assumes. I discussed the matter with its architects after the decision when they requested to see me. I suggested that the quickest solution would be to redesign the building to spread it over more of the land. The government's policy is that there should not be any buildings in that area above 3 storeys.

Interstate Constructions Pty Ltd

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Yesterday, he stated that Interstate Constructions Pty Ltd had given assurances to the Department of Mines and Energy that it did have extensive asset backing. Why didn't the department check this information? Secondly, why wasn't the department aware until after it had been pointed out by creditors of the company that the machinery was actually on lease and not owned by the company?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, for the life of me, I cannot remember having said any such thing. I do not have Hansard in front of me to check it. If I said such a thing, then it was not my intention. As I indicated this morning, the sole role of the Department of Mines and Energy was to ensure the technical standards involved in the construction of the pipeline and, of course, to ensure its successful completion. In both regards, the government's assessment of all of the companies involved in that has been completely justified and accurate. The relationship between the owner of the pipeline, TNT Bulkships, and any subcontractor that that company wished to employ was a matter of normal commercial practice and not a matter for government. The government's function was to ensure technical standards and to ensure its completion. There is a separate contract between NTEC and the Palm Valley joint venturers for the purchase of gas at the wellhead. Given that, we must have contractual assurances to ensure the maintenance of the pipeline so that the gas ultimately arrives at the power-station. However, the government has not had, and nor should it have had, any role in the vetting of the financial worth or otherwise of private companies which are not contracted to the Northern Territory government.

Ammaroo School

Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise when it is proposed to open a new school at Ammaroo in central Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am advised by the department that a school is planned to be opened in January 1984 although completion will be effected later this year. A janitor will be on site as soon as the school is completed this year. The complex consists of 2 classrooms, 2 residences, 2 toilet ablution blocks, shade

areas, an electrical-generating plant and an upgraded water supply.

Housing Commission Interest Rates on Loans

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR HOUSING

In view of recent falls in interest rates since the latest Commonwealth bond tender, is there any intention to reduce the maximum interest rate currently applicable on housing loans offered by the Housing Commission to the general public?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Housing Commission interest rates are still well below the Australian average. For the time being, there is no intention by the government to reduce interest rates.

Timber Creek School

Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise when it is proposed to open the new school at Timber Creek?

ANSWER

Honourable members will appreciate that we have many schools in the Northern Territory. I think there are 150 of them. A question about any one of them could come at any time. I am advised that the proposed Timber Creek school will open early in 1984. It will be a mobile complex comprising a classroom, a residence and a toilet ablution block. A 0.8 ha site on police land close to the existing community services is currently being negotiated for with the Northern Territory Police Force. Problems have been encountered in finding an adequate water supply for the school. Currently, the Department of Transport and Works is investigating a possible means to achieve this water supply.

Fish River Pastoral Lease Acquisition

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Yesterday, he failed to address let alone answer a number of significant questions in respect of the Fish River pastoral lease acquisition and Sir Fred Sutton. Will interest be payable to the former leasholder in respect of compensation paid for the acquisition of the Oolloo pastoral lease and, if so, from when will the government be liable to make such interest payments?

ANSWER

I am sorry that I did not give sufficient attention to the Oolloo acquisition when making my statement about the Fish River acquisition. Next time I am making a statement about something else, I will remember to include everything in my portfolio in the statement.

Mr B. Collins: It is not related to it at all.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Well, now we are told that it is not related. I wonder what sort of question I am being asked, Mr Speaker. I have already given considerable information in relation to the Oolloo acquisition but I will read a short briefing that I have now received from the Department of Lands regarding

the Oolloo pastoral lease determination of compensation.

Pastoral Lease 748 was compulsorily acquired from Mr Robert Rixon on 24 March 1982. An offer of $200 000, which was the Valuer-General's assessed market value at that time, was forwarded to the solicitors representing Mr Rixon on 28 April 1982. A otice of ispute rejecting this offer was received. You will recall that attempts at negotiations had been made by the ministers prior to the time of acquisition. Mr Rixon had told us that he intended to fight the matter through the court. Nonetheless, the offer of $200 000, the Valuer-General's assessment, was conveyed to Mr Rixon. It was rejected and a notice of dispute was received by the government.

In an effort to settle the matter quickly though, a second offer at an amount of $350 000 was forwarded on 2 July 1982. This offer, which included interest, was subject to acceptance within 28 days. The offer was not accepted nor rejected. I heard as an aside the word 'fascinating'. Mr Speaker, the government receives the Valuer-General's valuation and one normally expects that the government should as far as possible adhere to the Valuer-General's valuation. As I said yesterday, valuation is not an exact science. It is rendered extremely difficult in these circumstances, where the only yardstick for valuation purposes at all for pastoral land that is intended to be used as agricultural land is another acquisition, namely, the Douglas acquisition. There are no sales of comparable agricultural land to which the valuers can refer. However, the Valuer-General does his best. We indicated to everyone whose property is being acquired in that part of the world that, if they want to nominate 2 valuers, we will nominate 2 valuers. They can then pick 1 of the 2 we nominate, and we will pick 1 of the 2 they nominate and we will average what the valuers come up with and pay them that as compensation. That offer has been made to everyone because of the difficulty in establishing what could be called a scientific valuation because of the lack of the sort of data that valuers need to work on.

The offer of $350 000 was forwarded on 2 July 1982. It included interest and was subject to acceptance within 28 days. It was not accepted nor rejected. In accordance with the Lands Acquisition Act, a 90% part payment has been made based on the original offer of $200 000. Mr Rixon received $78 138 after the payment had been made to mortgagees who had the first prior right. On 5 May 1983, the then Chairman of the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority, Mr Baden Cameron, requested that action be commenced to have compensation determined by the Lands Acquisition Tribunal. The minister approved this course of action and a preliminary hearing of the Lands Acquisition Tribunal before the Chairman, Mr P.D. James, was scheduled for 10.30 am on 15 September this year. That was last month. The purpose of the preliminary hearing was to coordinate a later hearing by the tribunal to determine the level of compensation payable to the former owners. The solicitors representing Mr Rixon failed to appear as the solicitor concerned was unexpectedly delayed by a matter in the courts. The preliminary hearing as a result did not proceed. The solicitor later met with the Chairman of the Lands Acquisition Tribunal and tentative arrangements for a hearing in mid-November have been set. The Registrar of the Lands Acquisition Tribunal is waiting for advice from solicitors for Mr Rixon as to the availability of their valuer and whether the valuation will be completed by mid-November. Their valuer is Mr J.R. Wake from Townsville who completed one of the 2 valuations used in determining compensation for the area required for ADMA from Douglas Station. Both parties have agreed that the tribunal will consist of the chairman, Mr P.D. James, and valuers Messrs John Patterson and G.C. Fenwick. The matter is obviously progressing.

Investments in Trustee Executor and Agency Company

Mr D.W. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

In light of the uncertainty suffered by Territorians who have invested in the Trustee Executor and Agency Company, which failed this year, can he indicate what moves the Territory government is taking to protect the investors' interests?

ANSWER

Honourable members would be aware that the government immediately acted upon the collapse of that company in May this year to protect the interests of many charitable organisations and community-based groups by ensuring that grant funds that they had invested in that organisation would be made available prior to the commencement of this financial year. So the government has already acted to protect Territorians against this unfortunate company's collapse. The actual position in relation to the company is that, as a trustee, it holds some 160 Northern Territory wills - and controls the administration thereof - and in the order of $3.5m in deposits. In addition to that, it has some $2m worth of short-term property loans within the Northern Territory. Territorians obviously were affected considerably by the collapse of the company. What has now happened is that, in order to protect unsecured creditors - that is, people who are without security in terms of mortgage and so on - of that company, the receiver offered that side of the trustee company's business for sale nationally. The upshot was that that very sound and well-known Australian banking group, the ANZ group, has offered $6m for the trustee side of the company's operations.

What is now necessary is complementary legislation to be enacted by the Australian states, the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory to facilitate the smooth transfer of the operations of the Trustee Executor and Agency Company to a new company to be called ANZ Executors and Trustee Company.

I propose during the course of this sittings, hopefully tomorrow, to announce the Northern Territory government's intention to introduce complementary legislation. It has already been before the Victorian parliament. I would assume it is going to be done around Australia. That will be by way of an amendment to the Companies Trustees and Personal Representatives Act. I would hope to be in a position to give notice tomorrow and hopefully introduce that bill next Tuesday.

Fish River Pastoral Lease Acquisition

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

My question follows on my previous question about Oolloo. Will interest be payable in respect to the compensation paid for the acquisition of the Fish River pastoral lease? If so, what rate of interest and from what date will the government be liable to make such interest payments?

ANSWER

Quite frankly, I am not aware of whether the amount of interest is included in the proposed settlement figure. I can certainly find that out and then inform the Assembly.

Rolls for New Electorates

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he advise the Assembly when the new rolls will be printed and available showing the new 25 electorates?

ANSWER

I will have to take that question on notice and advise the honourable member at a later time.

NTEC Funds

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Why were funds which were raised by Treasury through the semi-government borrowing program for use by the Northern Territory Electricity Commission not drawn on by NTEC during the financial year 1982-83?

ANSWER

I too have noticed the comments of the Auditor-General in this regard. There is a briefing available from Treasury which I have not yet seen. I am certainly happy to make the information available to honourable members. Indeed, as that report is before the Assembly, I will make a point of that coming on for debate and will address the question at that time. I believe there is information coming from Treasury at this stage.

Assistance to Small Businesses

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

What steps are being taken to increase the level of assistance given to small businesses since the announcement of increased funding in the budget speech?

ANSWER

The Small Business Advisory Service has done considerable work in identifying as it sees it the best use for the additional $1m. I understand that its proposal will have to be approved by the board of the Northern Territory Development Corporation. I expect to receive firm recommendations from the NTDC in the very near future, although I understand that the Small Business Advisory Service is looking to expand its operations in a number of ways. It is proposing to expand its advisory and information services, and its educational services in conjunction with the community college and other educational institutions. It proposes to provide on-the-job consultancy services. It proposes to assist in the promotion and development of markets and also to provide for special loans in certain circumstances.

As was said in this Assembly yesterday afternoon, one of the major causes of failure by small business around Australia has been the lack of training of people in small business in management techniques. I certainly believe that it is in that area that the Small Business Advisory Service could very usefully expend a considerable portion of the additional $1m of funding made available to it by the Territory government in this year's budget. Artificial supports for

any small business which is not viable or not being managed properly will only draw out its existence rather than make it flourish. The best way that the government can assist small businesses is by ensuring that the Northern Territory economy is flourishing as best it possibly can. To that end, the budget this year has expended significantly greater amounts of funds in the capital works areas. That has spin-offs for the service industries and to small business generally.

I am sure that, when the Small Business Advisory Service announces in detail its plans as to how it intends to use those funds, they will be to maximise the benefits to small businesses in the Territory generally.

Teaching Positions in NT Schools

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer him to his previous answer in relation to applications for teaching positions in the Territory for 1984. Does he have at hand specific information about how many applications there are for positions in general primary schools, Aboriginal schools and secondary schools? Particularly in relation to secondary schools, does he have information available about applications for teachers of foreign languages?

ANSWER

I do not have that specific breakdown. Whilst I think that the applications could be broken down into primary and secondary teaching, I am not sure that they could be broken down any further until such time as a complete assessment of the applications has been made. He may be asking for information a little in advance of our capacity to provide it. However, I will seek the information that he asks and, if it is available, provide it during the course of this sittings.

Darwin Port Authority Bill

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it his intention to proceed with the Darwin Port Authority Bill (Serial 328) at this sittings and would he undertake to circulate as soon as possible any proposed amendments to save unnecessary duplication.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is the government's wish to proceed with the legislation at this sittings. Recently, quite a bit of consultation has taken place with various interested parties and amendments are being prepared at present. I will undertake to circulate the amendments prior to the second-reading debate.

Terri Hatcheries and Fish Farms Pty Ltd

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister) (by leave): I would like to provide additional information in response to a question asked yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition in relation to funds provided by the NTDC to a company known as Terri Hatcheries and Fish Farms Pty Ltd. An amount of $350 000 was approved on 1 October 1981. Terri Hatcheries is in business apparently as a fish farm.

$290 000 has been drawn down. The account is not in arrears or default. The security is a second mortgage over pastoral lease 689, Finniss River Station, and personal guarantees from the directors. The corporation understands that the company is looking at the prospects of subdivision of Finniss River Station.

I have a report on Finniss River Station because I was asked the status of the pastoral lease there. On 13 September 1983, an inspection of the Finniss River pastoral lease was carried out for the purposes of determining compliance with the lease covenants and reappraisement of lease rental. The lease was found to be in breach of lease conditions requiring 81 ha of improved or artificial pasture and in breach of the condition requiring maintenance of all improvements. Whilst the pasture breach is considered to be minor, the maintenance of improvements is poor. A notice under section 24A of the Crown Lands Act is to be issued for non-compliance with lease conditions. An application to subdivide the lease for agricultural purposes was received by the department on 3 October 1983. Further information is to be sought from the lessees concerning use of the residential area.

Myilly Point Development

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has any agreement been reached between the Territory government and Henry and Walker with respect to the Myilly Point development or the actual site on which the development is to take place? Have any contracts been signed between the government and that company?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, at this stage, no contracts have been signed with anyone, let alone Henry and Walker, in relation to the Myilly Point site. As I advised the Assembly on Tuesday, there are negotiations going on with 2 parties. At this stage, as I understand it, both parties are furthering their feasibility studies of the proposals that they have for the particular site.

NT Government Lottery

Mr VALE to TREASURER

Following the success and popularity of the first Northern Territory government sponsored lottery in July, can the Treasurer advise what plans the government has for future lotteries?

ANSWER

There has been indeed a great deal of interest in the Northern Territory government lottery following the very substantial success of the first one for which virtually all sales were completed within the first 3 or 4 weeks of the program. We had expected to sell them over 3 months. As a result, Cabinet has decided that a second lottery will be launched shortly and will be drawn just before Christmas. One of the advantages of this is that the tickets will remain at the very large A4 size - the largest lottery tickets in the world. The tickets' very high standard will be maintained. The tickets in future will include an aspect of the Northern Territory scenery. They have been expertly prepared and will make excellent gifts as well as being very attractive to tourists.

First prize will still be $100 000. There will be some adjustments to the minor prizes compared to the first government lottery. The next government lottery should go on sale about 3 November. Indications are that it will be as successful as the first lottery because of the interest that has been expressed and the continuous inquiries to the Racing and Gaming Commission about advance orders. I am pleased to announce that the government will be allocating the proceeds of this lottery - in the vicinity of $50 000 - to charities in the Northern Territory. Advertisements will appear shortly asking for charities in the Northern Territory to apply for some of those funds.

Electricity Charges

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

If the Northern Territory is successful in getting a remission of the additional excise on fuel oil, how will that affect our electricity prices given that we are tied to north Queensland which may not get the same attention?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in recent times, the direct tie to north Queensland rates have been removed. There is no such fixed arrangement any longer. One would assume that, if we were to try to maintain a reasonable balance of electricity charges, we would certainly have regard to north Queensland rates. In so far as the excise imposed by the Commonwealth in its last budget is concerned, quite clearly that is outside of any consideration which would be relevant to north Queensland. It uses coal and we use imported oil. It would not be the intention of this government to increase electricity charges of the order which has been advised as being necessary - that is, 6.3% - as a result of the Commonwealth's impost on the Northern Territory. If that impost were removed, that 6.3% would not apply. It is not the government's intention at the moment to increase electricity charges in any event other than would otherwise be caused by this impost. Whether or not there is an increase in electricity charges in the 12-month span is totally dependent on the attitude of the Commonwealth and not on anything under the control of the Northern Territory.

Community Employment Program

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

In May this year, the federal Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations set in train machinery to establish a community employment program. Is he able to indicate to the Assembly what stage that program has reached in the Northern Territory? In particular, have any guidelines been set for the program?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as the member for Port Darwin said in his preamble, on 19 May this year, the federal Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations introduced into the House of Representatives a bill to appropriate $300m for a community employment program over a period of 3 years. The intention of the legislation is to implement a major job-creation program throughout Australia to create jobs for the unemployed through the funding of projects to provide worthwhile community facilities and services, principally at the local level. States and Territories were invited to join with the Commonwealth in the community employment program scheme and the Northern Territory government has accepted the opportunity to participate in the program.

Funding allocations to states and territories was determined on a population basis, with the Northern Territory unfortunately receiving a total allocation of only $2.822m of the $300m. Within this allocation,specific money has been identified as follows: funds for local roads - $1.306m; funds for water supply projects - $169 000; and funds for Northern Territory government or local government and community organisations projects - $1.347m. In addition to this amount, successful project sponsors should wherever possible contribute 30% of total project costs, thus further increasing employment-generating opportunities. Agreed guidelines for the program have been finalised and particular emphasis will be placed on providing jobs for longer-term unemployed people and those disadvantaged in the labour market.

The guidelines propose that a joint Commonwealth-Northern Territory secretariat be formed to encourage submissions from a wide cross-section of the community. I understand that already a number of submissions have been lodged. The secretariat will also serve as a consultative committee which will consider project applications and will make recommendations to the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments jointly for approval.

The joint secretariat has been formed and commenced operations at suite G7, first floor, Centrepoint Building, Smith Street, the Mall, Darwin. Nominations for the consultative committee have been determined and these names have been sent to the federal minister for acceptance. At this time, a total of 267 expressions of interest have been recorded by the secretariat and a total of 15 sponsor applications have been processed for consultative committee consideration. It is expected that the first approvals will be considered before the end of this month.

Asbestos for Sanderson High School Pipes

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the known hazards to health presented by asbestos, which have been acknowledged in this Assembly earlier by the honourable Minister for Mines and Energy, why do the specifications for Sanderson High School construction projects specify the use of asbestos pipes for the school's water reticulation system?

ANSWER

The government has undertaken to seek further information on the question of asbestos in water pipes. The health hazard associated with asbestos is the inhalation of minute fibres which have been found to cause cancer. Asbestos is not now used as a fibre product in the building industry and has not been for several years. However, it was previously commonly used for thermal lagging and is therefore most likely to be found in powerhouses.

The product is still used extensively in the form of asbestos cement which is commonly used in buildings and pipes. This product contains approximately 15% asbestos and the fibres are locked in by the cement with which it is combined. The fibres can only be released by cutting the material and in this event there is far more cement dust produced than asbestos dust. Asbestos cement is an extremely long-lasting material and ideal for use in water pipes where the water provides a continuous curing process for the cement content, thus extending its already long life. There have been extensive scientific tests carried out on this type of pipework. A team of environmental consultants in the UK tested water samples from asbestos cement water pipes in use throughout the world. In no instance was the concentration of asbestos in the sample more than one-tenth of the limit prescribed by the world health organisation. It has been suggested that pipework could break down or disintegrate over the years, thus polluting the water. The test previously referred to, it should be noted, was carried out on pipes in use and which had been in use for varying lengths of time and had never indicated any such deterioration. There are more asbestos fibres released from brake-linings in everyday driving than are produced by the construction industry.

Accommodation at Berrimah Police Complex

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he provide brief details of accommodation being planned at the new police headquarters at Berrimah for police and fire brigade personnel and what use will be made of present accommodation in the various places in Darwin?

ANSWER

The Berrimah police complex, currently under construction, is due for completion about mid-1984, although it is presently running ahead of schedule. I do not have any precise timing. It will house all police operational units and the Fire Services headquarters component. Police offices will be retained in the Darwin city area, at Casuarina, Palmerston and Fred's Pass. The existing traffic complex on Coonawarra Road, Winnellie, known as the Traffic Centre, will be retained to house the police supply and stores section, the police air wing and the combined police fire and emergency services' garage and workshop. The existing police headquarters in the Darwin Police Station has been declared surplus to the needs of the Police department and is intended for occupation by another government department. When the new police complex at Berrimah is occupied, leases on the Vogliotti Building, Mitchell Chambers and Roussos Building will be relinquished.

Cane Toads

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

In view of the serious threat that the cane toad would impose on the environment if it did reach the wetlands in the Top End, has consideration been given to setting up an inspection point on the Barkly Highway to inspect vehicles coming from Queensland to make sure that those vehicles are not carrying unwelcome passengers in the form of cane toads?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, despite the few jokes we are able to raise about the issue from time to time, the possibility of the cane toad coming into the Territory is indeed a very serious matter and one that will require the surveillance of the whole community. I recently circulated to all members a briefing paper on the cane toad. That information suggested that the cane toad is moving west out of Queensland at the rate of about 30 km per year. While there have not been any sightings in the Northern Territory at this stage, there is no reason to believe that they are not here or that they will not come. In fact, the challenge to the Conservation Commission and other people involved in the eradication of this pest is to educate the community to the problems that the cane toad will represent for us and to have the community on guard constantly looking for the arrival of this species and for ways of making sure that its movement west is as slow as possible.

Added to this is the risk confronting the Northern Territory with importing products from Queensland. I refer particularly to the possibility of cane toads being brought into the Northern Territory by the farmers who are importing 60 000 or 70 000 trees over the border to plant a mango plantation at Katherine on the Bernard farm. The possibility of cane toads coming in in a shipment of trees of this nature is not to be discounted at all. The Conservation Commission is working with the Bernard principals in this matter to ensure that every precaution is taken.

The member for Port Darwin raises the suggestion about the suitability of putting a road block on the Barkly Highway. While that is something we may treat with some mirth in the first instance, the issue of quarantine between ourselves and Queensland is one that we can no longer regard in a jocular fashion. It is something that we will have to be very mindful of as our agricultural and horticultural industry increases in size and as the traffic in primary produce between the 2 areas increases. Honourable members would be

aware that there is a horticultural inspector at most airports to ensure that people are not unwittingly carting unwanted bugs and pests into particular states. We may have to look at some method of protecting the Northern Territory from some of the bugs that haunt the agriculturalists of this country. I will endeavour to report back to the Assembly in the November sittings on the progress that is being made and the measures which the Conservation Commission and the Department of Primary Industry believe are necessary to ensure that unwanted bugs do not threaten our agricultural, horticultural and primary industry potential.

Disabled Persons

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister given an undertaking to groups representing disabled people that he will introduce an equal opportunity bill into the Assembly to ensure equality of opportunity to disabled persons in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I cannot recall giving any such undertaking. If the member for MacDonnell could be more specific about what group he is referring to and when, I would be happy to search my files to see if that is the case. I do not recall giving any such undertaking recently. It may have been some other minister.

School Buildings

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Why is Tennant Creek, which has a student population of some 704 students, to get priority for a third school while Nhulunbuy, which has a student population of 1114, will only receive some upgraded demountables and possible extensions to the high school?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have all the details before me even though I have of late taken considerable interest in the education system at Nhulunbuy as far as school facilities are concerned. I think it is wrong for school communities in the Northern Territory to make judgments based on a town 900 km away, and say that, because it has *x* number of schools for a similar population, it should have the same. The situation is quite different in the 2 areas. Without going into much detail, I can say that both towns started off with area schools. Honourable members will be aware what an area school is. The Tennant Creek area school was on quite a small block of land. As the population there grew, it was necessary for additional educational facilities to be built on another site. The area school simply could not be expanded. In Nhulunbuy, the situation was quite different. Also in Tennant Creek, there was serviced land available for these additional facilities. In Nhulunbuy, the situation for potential population growth must be assessed from time to time because the town has the solitary purpose of mining. It is unique in Australia in not having road access. Its future can be determined more accurately than a place like Tennant Creek which has a number of industries.

In Nhulunbuy, the area school is situated on a very large area of land. That large area of land was even larger in a real sense because it was adjacent to a couple of hectares of public open space as well. There was considerable room in Nhulunbuy for expansion on the present site. At that time, there were

no additional sites available. Today there are no additional sites available should the government decide that it should build another primary school in Nhulunbuy, which some people in Nhulunbuy would like to see because it has a very large primary school. That is some explanation as to why there is a difference in the educational layout of facilities between Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy. Whilst I am happy to address and provide information and experts from the Department of Education to school communities to discuss their situation, where we should go in the future and so on, I think it is wrong to make comparisons between distant towns which have so many differences. In that situation, student numbers, town populations and the number of schools are really quite irrelevant.

Seminar on the Criminal Code

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Has the ABC agreed to televise the seminar on the Criminal Code on Saturday?

ANSWER

I understand that the Chief Minister received a letter from the ABC this morning indicating that it felt that it was unable to televise either in whole or in part the seminar which the government has set up for the purposes of explaining the legal realities of the Criminal Code rather than its philosophy. I would have thought that the ABC, having telecast so many other matters of significant public interest around Australia, would have seen fit to have devoted at least some time apart from normal news service to this particular very important matter. The short answer is no. Because of financial and equipment reasons, the ABC has been unable to see its way clear to do so. We are somewhat disappointed.

Collection of Payroll Tax

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

The government currently is undertaking a campaign to ensure that every cent of payroll tax that is due and payable is collected. When did the campaign commence and does the Treasurer expect that the campaign will significantly alter the government's estimated increase in payroll tax revenue given in this year's revenue statement?

ANSWER

The government has tax inspectors whose role it is to make routine checks on all areas of company activities which impinge upon the lawful payment of taxes to the Northern Territory government. I am sure that the whole community would agree that everyone should meet his responsibility as a taxpayer. There was not so much a campaign commenced to inspect books and have tax inspectors travel from place to place. We have been doing that all along. The number of tax inspectors was increased some time ago. In fact, this has been an activity of the taxation office ever since the office was established. The improvement has been in the provision of resources for field trips, checking returns and so on.

As far as the second part of the honourable member's question about the impact on revenue estimates is concerned, obviously, the Treasury and the taxation office have made the best estimate that they can for the 1983-84 financial year. I would expect that the activities of the tax inspectors should not make a great deal of difference unless they come upon unexpected examples of

tax evasion or tax avoidance which can result in additional funds flowing to the government.

Control of Mosquito-borne Diseases

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the government accepted the offer of $30 000 on a dollar-for-dollar basis from the federal government under a national program for the control of mosquito-borne diseases such as encephalitis and dengue fever.

ANSWER

The short answer is yes.

Casuarina Development Site

Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS

What is the current situation concerning the Casuarina development site which is bound by Trower Road and Bradshaw Terrace.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, applications to purchase and develop this site were advertised both locally and nationally and 3 development proposals were received. A local group, Casuarina City Centre Development Pty Ltd, provided the best combinations of price and development proposals. This group is headed by Mr Dominic Scaturchio and was given a 120-day option to finalise details both in terms of end-users and the financial aspects. This has largely been done and I am pleased to advise the Assembly that an offer of tenure for the land has been made to this local group. Development covenants on the land include provision for a $35m complex and the development includes a hotel, motel, restaurants, service stations, cinema, indoor recreation and retail and discount outlets. It is pleasing to see local businessmen combining to take this opportunity for investment and development in the Territory and I certainly wish them well in their venture.

Electricity Charges

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

This follows on an answer he gave a short time ago about electricity charges or lack of them. There was a note in the explanatory notes to the budget on NTEC, which I though was very intriguing, that there had been little or no maintenance work carried out in the 1982-83 financial year due to 'lack of resources' and also an indication that there would be a rapidly expanded maintenance program this financial year to make up for that. Can he explain what caused the lack of resources so that the maintenance was not carried out and whether this rapidly expanded maintenance program this year will result in an increase in electricity charges?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that is rather a complex question. I think the best way to go about it is to answer the last part of the question first. Under no circumstances will electricity tariffs be used for the purpose of providing accelerated maintenance programs. Electricity tariffs are based on the operational function

of NTEC and not on its capital side. If any government in the Northern Territory were to attempt to amortise in any way the asset value and the improvement to asset value, we would be paying $10 per unit. It is quite impossible to do it that way.

Mr Speaker, as to the question relating to maintenance, I would need to seek further information on that. As a minister, one must take a very close interest in the activities of one's departments because one is directly accountable in here for every decision taken by those departments, whether or not one knew about them at the time. NTEC is, nonetheless, quite a different identity. Its whole charter is set up as business; it runs as a business enterprise. It is answerable to government and therefore answerable to the people through this Assembly for its activities. No doubt, there would be very good business reasons why it chose to expend funds on capital matters during the last financial year and not on maintenance matters. It may be now varying those priorities after having achieved whatever capital initiatives it wanted.

I must say that the wording is odd. No member of the commission ever brought, to my attention at least, any suggestion of 'lack of resources' in that area. I think that the most accurate answer would be that it has channelled its resources in a manner in which it has seen fit as an operational business enterprise and it is clearly now adjusting its priorities. Nonetheless, I do not think that answer I have given will be satisfactory to honourable members. I will certainly seek further information and make it available.

Humpty Doo High School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he tell me when stage 2 of the construction of the Humpty Doo High School will be completed and when will the proposed school farm be developed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have the information for the honourable member before me. I have lots of other information about schools which I guess she would not find interesting. I will certainly seek the information for the honourable member and provide a detailed explanation during these sittings.

Subdivisions in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

Will he undertake to ensure that backyards in future subdivisions in Alice Springs will not face onto roadways as is the case with blocks in Sadadeen stage 1 and Araluen?

ANSWER

There appears to be a divergence of views from Alice Springs on this matter. While I can assure the honourable member that there will be no blocks in the new Mt John subdivision backing onto the main road, I cannot give him the total assurance that he has asked for. From planning and road safety viewpoints, it is not desirable to provide direct access to urban residential blocks from major roads. It is therefore inevitable that, in providing access from minor roads, some blocks in future subdivisions will back onto major roads. Nevertheless, I can assure the honourable member that every effort is made in designing these subdivisions to minimise the number of blocks adjoining major roads.

While I am on my feet, I will just refer to the residential land situation in Alice Springs generally. I seem to recall it being raised in question time earlier in the week. The development of Sadadeen stages 2 and 3 subdivisions is proceeding rapidly and it is expected to transfer 70 lots to the Housing Commission later this month with 34 lots on the private market by the end of November. The balance of the development, 125 allotments, should be on the market by March 1984. Larapinta Estates currently has applications before the Planning Authority to subdivide 18 lots which could be available in March 1984 and to rezone another area which has the potential to yield 60 lots in October 1985. The timetable cannot be guaranteed at this stage as this is private land but there are no headworks constraints and development will be directed by demand. While land in Larapinta and Desert Springs is up market, people moving in to those subdivisions release housing in other areas onto the market. A rezoning proposal for 0.4 ha lots in the farm area is currently on exhibition and, if accepted, will provide a new choice in residential lifestyle not previously available in Alice Springs. The Emily Hills estate has the potential to yield up to 250 lots of this type. Again, movement to rural subdivisions makes housing available in other areas.

Funding for headworks to the Mt John residential subdivision has been advanced to 1983-84. This will enable stage one of around 230 lots to be completed by the end of 1984. This area has the potential to yield an additional 700 allotments. The provision of headworks and drainage to the valley are major obstacles and expensive to overcome. Limited clearance on the aspect of Aboriginal sacred sites has only just become available. The Department of Lands is investigating the potential of various pockets of land for in-fill development. One area is the Dixon Valley road. Depending on the removal of rockfill dumped there several years ago, 70 to 100 allotments can be produced. It is planned to release this land to a developer in December 1983 and turn off could occur by June 1985.

Land is not unlimited in Alice Springs. Future expansion will require acquisition from surrounding pastoral properties. Some areas have significant constraints imposed by the existence of sacred sites. Current planned development should be capable of catering for a population in the town of 26 000 people.

Passenger Service on Townsville Trader

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the Northern Territory government undertaken any studies or encouraged ANL to undertake studies on what demand there would be for a passenger service on the Townsville Trader?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware that we have encouraged ANL or carried out independent studies ourselves as to the suitability of or requirements for passengers on ANL routes. I understand that all matters of ANL activity are currently under very close scrutiny. I was proposing to make a full statement about ANL and the east coast shipping service next week.

Criminal Code Seminar

Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Again, this follows on a statement made earlier this morning about the failure of the ABC to cover the Criminal Code seminar. Was the Attorney-General

invited to debate the Criminal Code on ABC television? Did he decline this invitation and, if so, why? If it was because of the person offered to debate against him, I would be quite happy to make myself available for such a debate on ABC television should the Attorney-General decide to reconsider his decision.

ANSWER

I could not care less who is offered to debate with me on this issue. I will take on any comer on the thing. It is not that at all. A program like Territory Tracks and the time available to do justice without distortion to a matter as complex and as involved as the Northern Territory Criminal Code would cause nothing more than confusion in the public mind. That is not only my view but it is the view contained in every piece of advice I have received. The Leader of the Opposition is perfectly correct. I have declined to accept the ABC's offer because I believe it would be harmful. If anyone around here, particularly the Leader of the Opposition, thinks it is because I am afraid to debate the issue, then I would simply point out that I am setting aside 2 whole days to do just that, both in Darwin and Alice Springs. I will debate the matter with anyone. But I will not have it distorted by journalists or a certain journalist who has clearly demonstrated a certain view. More importantly, the time available for that sort of debate would be totally counterproductive and would confuse the public more than it is confused already.

Criminal Code Seminar

Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I have more faith in the public, Mr Speaker.

Mr Robertson: Because you want to confuse people; you don't want honesty to come out. That's the reason.

Mr B. COLLINS: It would be a great debate.

My question again is, if the ABC is prepared to allow extended time for such a debate, since according to the answer just given time is the problem, would the Attorney-General be prepared to reconsider his decision to debate with me on television on the Criminal Code? The Chief Minister debated with me on the railway with some alacrity.

ANSWER

The honourable gentleman mentions the railway. All there was involved in the railway was a broken solemn promise by the present Labor government that it would build it. Now that is not complicated, is it?

Mr B. Collins: Answer the question.

Mr ROBERTSON: You raised it my friend. It was a straight, broken promise. That is all there was to debate and the Chief Minister, naturally, because it was so simple, won it hands down. Now, as to the other part of the question, what a nonsensical proposition for the Leader of the Opposition to put to us. On the one hand, the ABC says it cannot spare the time to film for the public benefit ...

Mr B. Collins: All day!

Mr ROBERTSON: I said: 'in whole or in part'. He cannot listen either.

Mr B. Collins: Which part?

Mr ROBERTSON: It spent a whole week on the summit yet it could not devote half a day, which is about all that would be required, for the purposes of the Criminal Code. What a nonsensical proposition. We already have a letter from the ABC saying it cannot spare the time to film a factual presentation, not by a politician but by a lawyer...

Mr B. Collins interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, order!

Mr ROBERTSON: He asks a question and then babbles and prevents me from answering, Mr Speaker.

Mr B. Collins: How much time do you want?

Mr SPEAKER: Order, order! The honourable Attorney-General will be heard in silence.

Mr ROBERTSON: He cannot remain silent, Mr Speaker.

Mr B. Collins: Hardly.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Attorney-General will be heard in silence.

Mr ROBERTSON: Mr Speaker, the plain fact is that the ABC has indicated that it is not prepared to devote the time necessary to properly get across the meaning and realities of the Criminal Code. What a nonsensical proposition it is for the Leader of the Opposition to now propose that that period of time would be set aside for the purposes of his sounding off. It is a preposterous proposition.

Howard Springs Reserve

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Is he aware of concern being expressed by some people about certain service works being carried out at the Howard Springs Reserve?

ANSWER

I am aware of recent press reports suggesting that the work being done at Howard Springs is damaging the flora on the reserve. I have sought an explanation from the Conservation Commission and I would like to read it to honourable members.

The particular project involved at Howard Springs involves the upgrading of sewerage facilities at the park in order to overcome problems caused by increased visitor usage of the area. The problem was that effluent from facilities on the western side of the park had to be pumped to the treatment ponds on the eastern side. Four alternatives were put to the consultants and the Conservation Commission decided to adopt the route through the rain forest as this provides the least threat to park values. Everybody is probably aware, Mr Speaker - and it is still evident - that Cyclone Tracy seriously damaged the canopy of the rain forest. With this in mind, it was considered reasonable to sacrifice part of the degraded forest least likely to be of concern to visitors

because the alternatives, although less damaging in toto, passed across the areas of highest public use. The opportunity could be taken also to build walkways through the clearing and then rehabilitate the forest so that, eventually, there will still be an area of undamaged new forest accessible by use of the walkways. The Conservation Commission admits that its officers agonised over this problem. They acknowledged and understand the concern that has been expressed in the community. The solution is unsightly at the moment but they believe that positive change should be seen shortly after the wet.

Lyons Cottage Tenants

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

For the benefit of the ABC, I think the answer to my previous question was no. Has the minister officially advised the tenants of Lyons Cottage that, according to the Chief Minister's statements made in here on Tuesday, they are to be removed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have sent a copy of my statement to the Secretary of the Department of Lands. In passing, Mr Speaker, since the Leader of the Opposition has advised the ABC that the answer is no, it seems to me from everything that the Leader of the Opposition has said this morning that the ABC is taking its directions from him. Apparently, he can give undertakings that the ABC will make extra time available for debates between himself and the Attorney-General. The federal Labor government can demand a week of ABC television time.

Ms D'ROZARIO: A point of order, Mr Speaker!

Mr SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Ms D'ROZARIO: Mr Speaker, Standing Orders clearly state that the answer to a question shall be relevant to the question. The matter of the ABC's transmission has nothing to do with the tenants of Lyons Cottage.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, I would not have raised the topic had there not been a deliberately provocative remark by the Leader of the Opposition in his preamble about the Attorney-General and the ABC. The situation is - and I think that we ought to be placing it on the record - that the ABC seems to be able to do anything for the federal government. It can provide a week of television time to film the entire proceedings of the National Economic Summit yet, for a community such as the Northern Territory, considering a most important piece of legislation which has had a very strong media attack on it, the ABC cannot suspend its normal programs for one Saturday of the year and find the necessary resources.

Ms D'ROZARIO: A point of order, Mr Speaker! The Chief Minister is making an adjournment speech. He can bring this up later in the afternoon if he wishes to pursue it.

Mr SPEAKER: Will the honourable Chief Minister answer the question please.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, the situation in relation to Lyons Cottage ...

Opposition members: Hurray!

Mr SPEAKER: Will honourable members allow the Chief Minister to answer the question.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, it would be nice too if the honourable member for MacDonnell would keep his laughing for when he goes home to his looney bin.

The story with Lyons Cottage is that I have discussed this matter with a working party which I set up a couple of weeks ago to consider the future use of Admiralty House and Lyons Cottage. As a consequence of making the statement to the Assembly on Monday - which I note was not noted or debated - I have sent a copy of the statement to the Secretary of the Department of Lands and asked him to initiate the necessary action. I indicated in the statement that the tenants would have a few months, at the very least, to relocate to satisfactory premises. I must say, Mr Speaker, that it has always been a criterion of mine that, if we are to save buildings which are regarded as being historic or having some significance to the public, as far as possible, they should be open to and accessible to the public. Certainly, I intervened in the case of Audit House to ensure that there would be public access to Audit House on a certain specified number of occasions each and every year. Had I my time over again, although I was not involved in the decision at the time, private organisations would not have been given tenancies of Lyons Cottage. In my view it should always have been in its pre-eminent use because, of its very nature, it would have been a small museum in relation to the history of the British Australian Telegraph Company and the Overland Telegraph Line. I do not want to cause these organisations any inconvenience; we will give them whatever time is reasonably needed to relocate. Their requirements are pretty small anyway, because Lyons Cottage is not that big. Action has certainly not been instituted to kick them out. Negotiations will be civilised and they will have at least a few months.

Door-to-Door Salesman

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware of the activities of a door-to-door salesman, travelling from town to town, offering to take family portraits and the finished product is often far from that which was originally promised and far from satisfactory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware that there is a firm of portrait photographers who are selling door-to-door in Tennant Creek and Darwin. Their activities have been such that many complaints have been received by the consumer affairs people. I do not think it is unreasonable that this be highlighted in the Assembly and that the people of Darwin and Tennant Creek become aware of the activities. The firm's name is New Image Photographics and Art. It operates door-to-door and undertakes to have photographic portraits delivered at a specific time after the payment of a deposit. It turns out that considerable delays are being experienced in delivery and, in some cases, the product is unsatisfactory and difficulties arise in the cost of returning the portraits to Queensland for satisfaction. In some instances, consumers have found, to their dismay, that they are being expected to pay the COD cost on top of the original agreement to purchase the portrait. I bring this to the attention of the Assembly because there are many people in the Northern Territory who do business with door-to-door salesmen and do it on very satisfactory terms. Every now and then, there is a group that comes into the Territory that does not exhibit a high level of business ethics and Territorians are taken for a ride. Rather than portray everybody in the door-to-door sales business as a villain, it is important that we highlight the less satisfactory ones on occasion so that people can be made aware. If honourable

members are aware of any of their constituents suffering some disadvantage by the activities of door-to-door salesmen, whether they are Territory-based or interstate-based, I would be grateful if they would bring it to the attention of myself, my office or the Consumer Affairs Council.

Rum Jungle Rehabilitation

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much funding was allocated for the upgrading of accommodation being used for the workforce engaged in the Rum Jungle restoration scheme? How much was spent and is it a fact that these buildings are to be demolished on completion of the 2-year contract with James Hardy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have a figure for accommodation in this vital project. This year, some $53m has been allocated by the Commonwealth through the Northern Territory for the rehabilitation program. I will seek further information and pass it on to the honourable member this week.

Electoral Rolls

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise if and when the new electoral rolls showing the names and addresses of all people, including the new Territorians, in the 25 new electorates will be printed and available?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this question was asked yesterday but I was unable to answer it. In the meantime, I have obtained the necessary information. Had the member for Stuart not asked the question, I would have provided the information towards the end of question time. Administrative arrangements for the printing of the new rolls are in hand. It is expected that they will be available to the public, through the Northern Territory Electoral Office, by the end of this week or early next week. Maps showing the new electoral divisions will also be available through the Electoral Office. The Electoral Office has also notified each elector by post as to the division in which he or she is now enrolled as a result of the redistribution. Quite a number of us would have already received those fawn-coloured slips. I hardly need to ask the media to highlight the fact that an election in the Northern Territory must take place before August next year. The point it could highlight is that people who are not enrolled should be enrolling. That would be a considerable assistance to the Electoral Office and would fulfil a real public duty.

Sale of Food from Vehicles

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that a number of food vendors are operating out of ordinary motor vehicles in the Winnellie area and, if so, can he advise what action is being taken to ensure that they comply with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act?

ANSWER

Two other ministers are also involved in this: the Chief Minister and the Minister for Community Development. The only advice that I can give is that Department of Health surveyors have been keeping an eye on the take-away food vendors to ensure health standards are met. There are some problems because I received complaints from some of the local food store operators who were paying rent. They were a bit concerned that they were employing staff, paying payroll tax, rent and insurance and had several other overheads and some of these operators are able to take some trade away from them. I understand that, after consultation between the 3 ministers involved, the matter will be resolved in the near future.

Statement by Senior Public Servant

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that a senior public servant stated to the National Trust that, if it continued its opposition to the removal of Admiralty House, it would not receive Northern Territory government funding and was that statement made with his authority?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no knowledge of any such statement. It certainly was not made with my authority.

Timorese People

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the government been able to extend help to Timorese people in the Northern Territory having regard to their place in the wider community?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the activities of the Timorese society in the Northern Territory community are really very extensive. I had the opportunity the other day to receive a delegation from the Timorese community to explain their activities and seek government support. For the benefit of members, I would like to say that the Timorese community is establishing its own cultural centre, for want of a better term, in the northern suburbs and it has been assisted by the government by the provision of demountable buildings that will enable the community to get off to a good start. The activities of the community vary from child care to teaching traditional dance and music. The community, I understand, has a very strong soccer contingent in local soccer competitions. At this stage, it is organising to send a delegation of Darwin Timorese back to Timor in the next year or 2 to establish stronger links between the Darwin and the Timorese communities.

The amount of money that has been made available by the government is not extensive, but the provision of the buildings that the government no longer had a use for will provide a very useful centre for the community. I would just like to commend the community for the work that it is doing to help itself in such a worthwhile way and I assure the Timorese community in the Northern Territory that it has the full support not just of the government but, I believe, of all politicians in the Northern Territory.

User-pays Principle for Aboriginal Associations

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer him to his determination to introduce the user-pays principle for the use of electricity and water on special purpose leases held by Aboriginal associations in the Alice Springs area. Is the Northern Territory government in receipt of Commonwealth funds for this purpose?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth government handed to the Northern Territory some short time ago the responsibility of administering remote area communities and outstations and some town camp areas that had previously been looked after by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. One of the criteria under which the transfers were made to the Northern Territory was that the Northern Territory government would, over a period of time, introduce a system of user-pays for facilities that are provided. There was never any intention that the scale of charges that are made in the major towns in the Territory were to be extended immediately to all communities in the Northern Territory. The transition was to be a gradual one that would enable people to adjust and to cope with the concept of paying for community services that they use.

Mr Speaker, in some parts of the Territory, that was a matter of administrative arrangement. The honourable member and I have had discussions and correspondence on the issue of charging for town camps in Alice Springs. That is an administrative arrangement for the government. In some other areas in the Territory, the application of the user-pays system is not possible because of impediments caused by the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act. That is more of a legal matter than one of philosophy. The government is making a submission now to Mr Justice Toohey who is looking at the impact that the act has on the Northern Territory because we believe it is an issue that needs to be defined.

On top of this is the problem of what constitutes a community in the Northern Territory. We have a system whereby the Commonwealth government holds unto itself the ability to create outstations with a small amount of money - for instance, $100 000 or $200 000 - and the Northern Territory government picks up the continuing operational costs of those outstations. I am of the view, and I think most people share it, that the outstation movement, as we understand it, is probably a very good one. It is timely. We need to have some rationalisation in the way that outstation development occurs because it is not a reasonable proposition for the Commonwealth to say to a group, 'Yes, you can be an outstation; here is $100 000 or $200 000 to kick off', and then to have the operational funding for that met by the Territory government. In one circumstance in central Australia, a very large community has developed that places upon the government the responsibility for schools, airstrips, water, power supply, roads, health facilities, community development representation and a wide range of government services that are well and truly outside the concept of an outstation settlement. I do not think the problem is insoluble at all. It is just a matter of coming to some common ground with the Commonwealth on how we do it.

I would not discourage the outstation concept at all because I think in some communities it is most beneficial. I would cite Papunya. The honourable member knows more about Papunya than I ever will but I would cite that as a community that I believe would benefit from the outstation movement because it will reduce some of the tension from within the Papunya community. That is good in the social sense. But in moving say 100 or 200 people from Papunya to Kintore,

which you can do with an outstation grant, that will cause the Northern Territory government an incredible expenditure in the years to come without reducing any expenditure at all at Papunya to compensate for it. Again, it is not an insurmountable problem. It is just one that needs working through so that, whatever we do in the way of funding communities, developing outstations, and providing services and community facilities to people in remote areas, is done rationally.

I would cite another circumstance where an outstation was set up. At the time, it was set up quite logically and with everybody's agreement. It was found later that the nearest good water supply was some 70 km away. That caused an enormous cost. Maybe we should have sat down with the Commonwealth, the community and whoever else was involved and said to the Aboriginals: 'Is there a difficulty with moving closer to what we believe is an available, potable, long-term water supply because, if you are not prepared to do that, then these are the ramifications?'. Again, I do not see that the problems are that difficult that we cannot solve them. I do think that we need a fair amount of consultation and goodwill between the parties to understand each other's difficulties. I think that the Commonwealth too has an important role in giving some ground on this issue because the present situation is not reasonable and fair, given the system of funding that we have for remote areas.

Land Acquisitions in Relation to National Parks

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister)(by leave): Mr Speaker, I was asked questions by the honourable Leader of the Opposition regarding possible land acquisition proposals in relation to national parks. I have been provided with information from the Conservation Commission, which is why I did not know a great deal about all this. The Conservation Commission is actually handling the matter.

In the Humbert River area, a proposal is being formulated to purchase both Humbert River and Bullita Stations to form the core of a major national park. The proposal is pending resolution of potential conflicts with mining and pastoral interests. The proposal at the present time requires the following matters to be resolved: the alienation of a small piece of vacant Crown land adjacent to Humbert River; funding for the development of what is apparently proposed to be called the Gregory National Park; approval to negotiate with the Yarralin Aboriginal people to provide them with suitable land for their living requirements from within the areas acquired; rationalisation of boundaries with adjoining pastoral properties to be investigated and negotiated to take account of the proposed subdivision of VRD Station; maximising the benefits to adjoining pastoral properties by exchanging land of good production potential within the acquired core area with added scenic recreation potential; and approval to negotiate with the Department of Primary Production over the future of the Victoria River Research Station at Kidman Springs. The matter should be presented to Cabinet for consideration shortly. To date there has been no suggestion of compulsory acquisition and it is expected that, should this proposal proceed, the realistic market price as negotiated will be paid.

The commission is also investigating the possibility of forming a major national park in the gulf district. The stations initially considered to form the basis of such a park - and I would not think by any means all of these stations would be under a consideration for purchase, probably 2 or 3 of them - include Broadmere, Bauhinia, Nathan River, Tanumbirini, St Vidgeon, which the government already owns, and possibly Billengarrah and Lorella. It is certainly true that the government is looking to provide recreational and other facilities

at St Vidgeon. It was for that reason that we purchased it. It is also thought apparently to have some agricultural or horticultural potential. Various Aboriginal groups have expressed interest in getting bits of it.

Beyond alerting Conservation Commission staff to the need to gather resource data and prepare a report on the proposal, little further action has occurred in the investigation at this stage. It is planned that the minister, in the company of the Director of Conservation, and Mr Harry Butler, a member of the Conservation Commission. will go over the area in November to gain a first-hand appreciation of its value.

Department of Mines and Energy Staff and Litchfield Corporation Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I refer to the minister's statement on 2 June in this Assembly that he would ask the Public Service Commissioner to investigate the relationship between certain employees of the Department of Mines and Energy and a company called Litchfield Corporation Ltd. Did the Public Service Commissioner instruct employees of the Department of Mines and Energy, who are Directors of Litchfield Corporation Ltd, to dispose of their shareholdings and directorships in that company and, if so, has he satisfied himself that the officers concerned have complied with the instruction of the Public Service Commissioner?

ANSWER

This question ought really to go to the Chief Minister who is responsible for the public service. I referred the matter, as minister in the first instance, to the Public Service Commissioner. It then became a matter for the Chief Minister. My understanding of the matter is that the Public Service Commissioner never so much instructed those officers that they were to surrender their interests in the Litchfield company but rather advised them that, in all of the circumstances, that would be the wisest and most sensible thing to do. I understand that all of those officers accepted that advice of the Public Service Commissioner and have proceeded from that time to shed their interests in that company. To the best of my knowledge, it was not mandatory but, in wisdom and in hindsight, it was seen by all parties to be highly desirable that they do so because of the possibility of conflict which may arise in the future. My understanding was that there was no direct conflict at that time nor, to my knowledge, to this stage. But, to guard against possible future conflict, those officers, for whom I have the highest regard, mutually decided to shed their interest in the company. Remember that their wives also had money involved. Thus, as far as it can conceivably be done, those shares are being shed or already have been shed. As to the actual status of that exercise, I am quite happy to inform the honourable member privately.

Federal Funds for Aborigines

Mr VALE to TREASURER

The federal member for the Northern Territory recently claimed that the Territory government was not spending funds provided by the federal government for Aborigines on Aborigines. Does the Treasurer acknowledge this to be correct?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, certainly, I do not accept allegations that the federal member for the Northern Territory is reported to have made to the federal parliament. The member is reported to have said that the Northern Territory government has not been spending on Aborigines specific purpose funds which were received from federal government. In addition, he made other comments. He claimed that the accounting system in the Northern Territory was inefficient and impossible to decipher and that the Grants Commission had reported that the Territory provided below-standard services to some Aboriginal communities within the Territory.

On the face of press reports of what the federal member was alleged to have said, it would seem that things were grim in the Territory. The facts are that he was wrong on the 2 counts of the Territory government not spending specific purpose funds for the reasons for which they were provided and he certainly

misinterpreted the Grants Commission's wording on the allegation that the Territory government is deliberately providing below-standard services to some Aboriginal communities. Federal specific purpose payments provided for Aboriginal services in the Territory are used entirely and solely for that purpose. Not only has the Territory used the Commonwealth's specific purpose payments for the purposes for which they were provided, the Territory has added its own funds to augment the total level of funding for Aborigines. In the 1983-84 Territory budget, no less than $20m has been provided for community government, town management and public utilities in Aboriginal communities, in addition to other expenditure in areas under the budget specifically directed to Aborigines. An additional $6.7m has been programmed for new capital works in Aboriginal communities. All of this will be provided by the Territory government.

As for the federal member's comments about the Territory government's accounting system, clearly he is ignorant of the facts. The present accounting system, which is based on a system designed by and currently operating in the Commonwealth Department of Finance, is effective in controlling public moneys and keeping track on levels of expenditure under particular cost headings. It is far ahead of the accounting systems operating in some of the states. To say that it makes it impossible to find out how Commonwealth moneys are spent is the height of ignorance. The Territory must know and does know exactly how these moneys are spent and, under arrangements with the Commonwealth, must comply with stringent reporting requirements. If the federal member knew what he was talking about, he would realise that his comments were an implied criticism of the Commonwealth government for allowing Commonwealth money to be spent, as he believes, without adequate controls. One would expect that the Commonwealth Auditor-General would also take an interest in the matter if that were the case.

As to the comments by the Grants Commission in its recent report on special assistance for the Territory, the references to below-standard services were not to the Territory government doing too little for Aboriginal communities but to the fact that the Territory government needed extra funding for this particular purpose. In these and other areas, the commission in fact concluded that the Territory needed a special grant of $16.9m and it recommended accordingly.

The federal member, whom we must forgive to some extent because he is fairly new in his job, quite clearly does not comprehend the role of the Grants Commission in making assessments in the Northern Territory. We have argued to the Grants Commission that the Territory is in many areas providing a level of governmental services below that provided in the states. Indeed, that is the very basis for submissions to the Grants Commission. For him to turn the question around and say that the Territory government is providing below-standard services demonstrates that he has missed the very principle on which we go to the Grants Commission. The fact that the Grants Commission has chosen to give us additional funds demonstrates that it has accepted our argument that many of these services have to be upgraded further. It cannot be done in a single financial year. Below-standard services in many areas of government activity require persistent input year after year before they are brought up to a satisfactory level. I would have thought that Territorians could have expected a much better performance from the only member that we have in the House of Representatives.

Department of Mines and Energy Staff and Litchfield Corporation Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I refer the minister to an answer that he gave me a few minutes ago. Is he aware that the records of the Companies Office indicate that, as of 17 October

1983, the following persons are listed as being directors of the company called Litchfield Corporation Ltd: Joseph Maxwell Smith, Christopher Hall Smith, Brian Ross Farrow, William Lewis Thompson and Ian Edward Lewis? Would he also confirm that all of these people named are also currently employees of the Department of Mines and Energy?

ANSWER

They certainly were and I know a number of them still are. As I said, they are officers in whom I have every confidence. They are officers of complete integrity. I very much value their advice and their dedication to their duty to the Northern Territory public. My answer need not be altered in any way from what I gave previously. It is obvious that the honourable member has had someone check with the Companies Office and that is perfectly legitimate and reasonable. It is then clear from what she said that these men are still directors and shareholders. It follows from that they have been unable to shed the shares. Personally, I would not ask them to completely abandon them though I must say I would have hoped to have seen some progress in the matter since then.

Mr Speaker, there is a considerable amount of money involved. I think that the officers went into the company with the most honourable intentions, not realising the potential consequences. I would not expect them to lose considerable savings while there is no conflict in existence, which is the case at the moment.

Mr Speaker, through the Chief Minister, I will be happy - if that is what the honourable member is implying I should do - to take the matter up again with the Public Service Commissioner in order that a review be carried out of the progress being made by these members of the public service to shed their shares in this public company. It is common knowledge that it is not just an ordinary company. It is in fact a merchant banking company and therein lies the potential conflict as the Public Service Commissioner sees it, as I certainly saw it from the first day and, indeed, as the officers have been persuaded. I will once again have the matter reviewed. It is not my practice, once an agreement has been reached, to pursue things in the manner of a witch-hunt. An amicable agreement was reached between the Public Service Commissioner and highly-respected and valued officers of my department. I would expect that, in due course, those gentlemen will carry out the undertakings they have given. Clearly, it has proven more difficult than they and even perhaps the Public Service Commissioner envisaged at that time. Nonetheless, I will once again examine the matter.

Crop Contract Scheme

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Will the government be continuing the crop contract scheme for the 1983-84 growing season and is the scheme proving successful?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to confirm that the crop contract scheme will operate in 1983-84 through the NTDC and the Department of Primary Production who are presently calling for applications under the scheme. The scheme has helped 8 private farmers in 1981-82 and 6 private farmers in 1982-83 to grow grain crops. This scheme provides support for farmers to enter crop growing and provides a basis of financial and technical backing for these farmers to become commercially viable producers. The scheme resulted in the production of 1448 t of grain in

1981-82 and a further 1715 t of grain in 1982-83. Honourable members would have to concede that that sort of production and the assistance that is made available are very beneficial to the Northern Territory.

Cost of Verification of Electricity Meters

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it a fact that, as reported in last night's NT News, to have an electricity meter verified costs $33 in the Northern Territory compared to $2 in Queensland for the same service and, if so, can he explain how this difference in charges occurs?

ANSWER

Needless to say, it is very costly to carry out this exercise. These charges are designed basically to recover for the public purse the money that the public pays out to have such examinations carried out on behalf of individual people. All of the community should know that, where the meter is found to be subsequently at fault in favour of the person who has made the application, then the charge should not apply because the meter is in error. As for the actual figures that the honourable member for Victoria River gave, I am unaware of the precise relativity in charges between the Northern Territory and Queensland. Indeed, because of the huge range of charges which are levied by government agencies, including NTEC, for various services, I am not able to recall the precise amount which relates to the inspection of the meter. I remember 14 years ago that the charge was $4. If one was to index inflation and rising costs, it would be a considerable amount of money now.

Nonetheless, I would have to check the accuracy of the honourable member's assertions. If it is found accurate, then I will certainly look into why such a disparity exists. The methods of charging for government services are quite distinct from methods of charging for the delivery of electricity. That is the case right across all government agencies throughout this country. Basically it is designed to recover the cost and the cost only to the public of providing the service.

Upper Daly River Land Claim

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise the current position in relation to the Upper Daly River Land Claim and whether the Northern Territory government has attempted to negotiate a settlement of that claim bearing in mind the potential of the area for long-term agricultural development.

ANSWER

The honourable member for Port Darwin has asked a question which may be of interest to some honourable members and is undoubtedly of interest to a number of people in the community. If I may, I will read extracts from a memorandum from the Secretary of the Department of Primary Production to myself, dated 6 October:

> *Following your approval to enter into discussions with representatives of the Northern Land Council relating to the Upper Daly River Land Claim, I advise that Mr A.D.L. Hooper and myself met with Mr R.W. Blowes senior legal adviser, and Mr R. Ledgar of the NLC on 30 September 1983.*

This was an informal meeting not involving representatives of the Department of Law. Prior to the meeting, I took advice from the Aboriginal Liaison Unit of the Chief Ministers' Department as to the strategy I should adopt. From the report of the meeting, you will note that the following proposal was put on behalf of the Northern Territory government. The Department of Primary Production proposed that, if the claimants would withdraw their claim on those areas of land identified as being suitable for agricultural development, then the western half of Fish River pastoral lease would be offered as compensation. The area of land offered is greater in area than that sought from the claimants. Mr Blowes, on behalf of the Northern Land Council, advised that he would raise the matter with claimants but, as the area of land on the Fish River pastoral lease was covered by a linguistic group separate from that covering the land identified as suitable for agricultural development, it was unlikely that an exchange of lands could be achieved.

There, Mr Speaker, the matter rests.

Teacher-Pupil Ratios in Schools

Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is class size related to the number of pupils in each class or simply the number of teachers and staff divided into the student enrolment?

ANSWER

I did have some forewarning of this question and it caused a little confusion in interpretation. The term 'class size' usually relates to the number of students in a particular classroom. The term 'pupil-teacher ratio' is used when talking about the numbers of teachers that a school may be entitled to have in regard to the population of the school itself. As honourable members know, from 1984 onwards, the Territory government will be working on the basis of the school population divided by 21 to give the actual numbers of teaching staff which will be provided to any school. To use the words 'class size' is a little inappropriate if one is talking about the numbers of teachers that a school is entitled to because schools, under the new formula system, will be given a great deal of flexibility in structuring teaching. Indeed, there may be certain subject areas where quite large numbers of children are gathered together for particular instruction. It could be up to 40 or even more in some areas. This of course would allow teachers to take classes with quite small numbers of children, be it 10, 15 or whatever. That would depend entirely on how the principal and the school administration seeks to operate their particular school within the resources that are provided under the 1:21 ratio. I have a table with me which indicates the numbers of band 1, band 2, band 3 and band 4 teachers who could be allocated under the system in 1984 under the various headings of school population - up to 800. If honourable members want to know the numbers of teachers under the new formula for any particular school in their electorates, I would be happy to provide that information to them.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Censure of Minister for Mines and Energy

Ms D'ROZARIO (Sanderson): Mr Speaker, I seek leave of the Assembly to give notice of a motion relating to the censure of the Minister for Mines and Energy for his failure to prevent senior officers of the department from using their position in the Department of Mines and Energy for private gain to the detriment

of the mining industry and the people of the Territory.

Leave denied.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS
Censure of Minister for Mines and Energy

Mr B. COLLINS (Opposition Leader): Mr Speaker, I move that so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the honourable member for Sanderson from giving her notice of motion.

Mr Speaker, the evidence that we have to lay before the Assembly in regard to the matter of the Litchfield banking corporation and the Department of Mines and Energy is serious indeed.

I might add that this motion is entirely predicated on the answers that were given this morning to questions in this Assembly to the honourable Minister for Mines and Energy. If he wants to involve the Chief Minister in this, he can do so. Clearly, he has not been as assiduous in the pursuit of this matter as is required by the evidence that is available.

The directors of the Litchfield bank were 5 current employees of the Department of Mines and Energy plus Dr Nicholas Blake. Dr Blake said that any investigation into the affairs of the bank was 'hysterical nonsense'. Of course, that was shortly before Dr Blake took off at high speed for regions unknown in the south. Dr Blake was as much a doctor as I am. Indeed, the remaining directors of the Litchfield Bank are now entirely comprised of senior employees in a policy area of the Department of Mines and Energy. Of course, you do not have to be too smart to work out that one of the most lucrative areas for a Territory merchant bank to be operating in is investment in the mining industry.

There is another thing that we view with considerable misgivings. At the last sittings, the Minister for Mines and Energy himself was clearly embarrassed and disturbed by this incident. He said that one of these directors had resigned from the Department of Mines and Energy. Indeed, that person did resign but what the honourable minister has not advised us is that he has since taken up his employment again with the Department of Mines and Energy. The minister says by way of interjection that he does not know. We are suggesting that this is a serious and continual conflict of interest for senior employees of the Department of Mines and Energy. I point out to the honourable minister, and I am sure he is well aware of it, that administrative instruction 833 of the Northern Territory Public Service says quite clearly that employees of the public service must 'regulate their private financial interests so they do not conflict or appear to conflict with their public duty'. Mr Speaker, if there is ever a clear conflict of interest ...

Mr ROBERTSON (Mines and Energy): Mr Speaker, I would like to seek your direction. It is quite apparent that the sole purpose of the opposition in bringing this on at the moment is because they know that 8 Top FM is broadcasting.

Mr B. Collins: Oh, rubbish!

Mr ROBERTSON: Mr Speaker, I merely seek your direction as to when question time will cease for the purposes of a motion like this. Obviously, the Leader of the Opposition intends to canvass each and every issue involved in this as part of his motion for the suspension of Standing Orders. He will then continue later with the actual debate on the motion which, incidentally, I have no intention whatsoever of denying.

Mr SPEAKER: The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Mr ROBERTSON: Mr Speaker, I ask that any further questions be placed on notice.

Reconstruction of Stuart Highway in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

This question follows a question I asked during the last sittings. Can he advise when MacMahon Constructions, which has a contract for reconstruction of Stuart Highway through the township of Alice Springs, will actually start work on that highway?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that MacMahon Constructions has started work. Surveys are under way and the installation of box culverts on the Bloomfield connector road has started. Telecom relocations have started and relocation of electricity lines is scheduled to begin in a week's time. With the exception of minor clean-up operations, the demolition contract is complete. I understand there is a dispute with the Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemen about the alternative accommodation during the realignment and negotiations are still being processed.

Department of Mines and Energy Staff and Litchfield Corporation Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the advice given by the Public Service Commissioner to the Chief Minister, who relayed it to the Assembly yesterday, that Litchfield Corporation Ltd is expected to be wound-up this week, and in view further of the fact that searches of the Supreme Court revealed that no such petition for the winding-up of this company has been lodged there, will he confirm the correctness of the advice given to him by the Public Service Commissioner on this matter? If the advice of the Public Service Commissioner is thought to be correct, can the Chief Minister inform me of the date when the petition for the winding-up of Litchfield Corporation Ltd was lodged?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, certainly, I confirm the advice that the Public Service Commissioner gave me yesterday morning, namely, that Litchfield Corporation Ltd would be wound-up during the course of this week. I do not know whether a petition for its winding-up has been lodged or not. I assume that the documentation will go to the Supreme Court. However, I understand that Litchfield Corporation itself issued a statement yesterday which indicated that the delay in this whole procedure has been one which reflects some credit on it in an otherwise sordid affair. The Leader of the Opposition made much play of this yesterday so perhaps he would like to pin his ears back for once and stop his mouth from flapping.

The Leader of the Opposition complained at considerable length yesterday about the sordid way that Aboriginal communities are treated by their white employees. Whilst I would admit that, in my experience of the Northern Territory, there are quite a number of white employees of Aboriginal communities whose service to those communities has done them less than credit, nonetheless, it was a very broad-brush approach adopted by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday. In fact, there are innumerable people who have done great service for the Aboriginal people working, at most times, in less than congenial conditions. It appears that the people who are concerned with the Litchfield Corporation are attempting at least to rectify the situation with regard to the Kunwinjku Association because it seems that the delay in winding-up the affairs of the

Litchfield Corporation has been due to the desire of the officers of that corporation to purchase from the association its shares in the corporation before winding-up the affairs of the corporation. I saw the statement after I had made my contribution to the debate otherwise I would have incorporated it in my statement. According to the statement, negotiations with the Kunwinjku Association for purchase of the shares are expected to be completed shortly and the corporation will then go into liquidation. It could be that the Public Service Commissioner, in his advice to me, passed on something that he had been told and it may be that formal steps have not yet been commenced but there is every evidence that the corporation will be wound-up in the very near future. As I said yesterday, I invite the Leader of the Opposition, and any other member of the opposition, to place all material which they have in their possession in relation to this matter in the hands of the Public Service Commissioner so that appropriate action can be taken in all the circumstances.

Public Service Commissioner

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it true that the Public Service Commissioner is in fact about to terminate his employment in the Northern Territory? Is it further true that his position is to be taken by Dr Keith Fleming? Is it further true that Dr Fleming's position as Secretary to the Department of Health is to be taken over by Dr Ella Stack?

ANSWER

The rumour mills are really operating 24 hours a day at the moment. These are the sorts of things about which the honourable Leader of the Opposition - if he is really concerned with the governance of the Northern Territory and the provision of a sound administration with morale at a high level - would pick up his office telephone, ring me and say, 'Look, Paul, I am concerned that you are going to undermine the morale of the public service by getting rid of the Public Service Commissioner and putting Keith Fleming in there'. I am just saying hypothetically what the Leader of the Opposition might well do if he had the good administration or the good morale of the Northern Territory Public Service in mind. Instead, we have a question in this Assembly which is sure only to prompt a great deal of speculation. I do not know if the Public Service Commissioner is leaving because he has not told me and I have not asked him to. I do not know if Dr Fleming is shifting because he has not told me and I have not asked him to. Certainly, I have not spoken to Dr Ella Stack about any shift in her position. I would suggest that the honourable Leader of the Opposition might do the public service, in at least 2 of its connotations, a great deal of service himself if he perhaps went straight to the horse's mouth privately on topics such as this first. He can always ask the question later in the Assembly if he wants to.

Gravel for Mainoru Road

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise whether or not it is a fact that his Department of Transport and Works is having difficulty in obtaining gravel in the Katherine region for the Mainoru road?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Department of Transport and Works first applied to the

Northern Land Council for approval to extract gravel from the Beswick lease in March of this year. I understand there have been some communication difficulties and those negotiations are still under way. I called into Beswick on about 26 September and discussed these various problems with Sam Ashley, the President of the Beswick Council. I assured him that we would do our best to expedite a solution to this difficulty.

Admiralty House and Lyons Cottage

Ms LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

The reason that I have not rung him up and asked him is that it is extraordinarily difficult to get through to him at times. This concerns a statement that he made earlier in this sittings that the government proposes to offer Admiralty House and Lyons Cottage, jointly or separately, for expressions of interest. Which department will assess the replies to the expressions of interest and forward a submission to Cabinet?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, to spar back a little, the honourable member for Nightcliff has only tried to phone me twice in the last 4 years so, obviously, I do not hold out any great attraction to her as a subject of telephonic conversations. Mr Speaker, I recall the 2 occasions that the honourable member for Nightcliff has phoned me, because they are like oases in the desert, they are so far apart. They are like green palms and cool waters amidst sear sand.

Mr SPEAKER: Will the honourable Chief Minister answer the question?

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, some weeks ago, when it came to my notice that the Planning Authority had said that it thought the zoning of this particular land at Admiralty House should remain unchanged, I convened a working party consisting of the Acting Deputy Director-General of the Chief Minister's Department, a representative of the Department of Community Development - I think it was Bill Coburn - the Director of Museums and Art Galleries, Colin Jack-Hinton, and a representative of the Department of Lands. That working party is charged with the implementation of the proposals that the government has in relation to the future of Admiralty House and Lyons Cottage. The Department of Lands is the executive department in that it will post the advertisements etc but the assessments, I imagine, will be carried out by the working party.

Department of Mines and Energy Staff and Litchfield Corporation Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Did the directors of Litchfield Corporation Ltd, who are also employees of the Department of Mines and Energy, lodge with the secretary of that department statements of their pecuniary interests as required by section 4 of the public service General Orders? Did the secretary subsequently declare this information to the minister as is also required by that general order? If so, what were the approximate dates upon which these declarations were made and, if not, has the minister any explanation as to why the requirements of this general order were not complied with?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, quite clearly, it cannot be expected that such details would be

readily available to me. I will certainly attempt to find the information so that I can give a complete and accurate answer to the honourable member. I do not have information that includes dates. Certainly, I do recall that it was because of the requirements of the Public Service Act that the matter first came to my attention. It was because of that that I took the immediate action which I took at that time. As to whether it was filed under that provision of the Public Service Act, I have no direct knowledge. But it was certainly through the disclosure of information to the department, and subsequently to the Public Service Commissioner - which was consistent with the spirit of the quite proper provisions of the Public Service Act and its general orders and regulations - that this matter first came to my notice. Immediate action was taken by me as a result of that information.

Qualified Teachers for the Blind

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Some concern has been expressed recently over the lack of qualified teachers for the blind and visually impaired. Can the minister advise what efforts are being made to overcome this problem?

ANSWER

Certainly, I am aware of the concern in the community. I have had meetings with people on the subject of specialists in the area of teaching the visually impaired. It is one of those areas for which the Territory has had difficulty in recruiting sufficient experts. However, there has been some progress. I am pleased to report that the situation has recently improved in that 2 teachers with appropriate specialist qualifications have been recruited. One teacher has been deployed at Dripstone High School and the other commenced last week at Ludmilla Special Unit. The Ludmilla teacher will be transferred to the Tiwi unit for the 1984 school year. Efforts will be continued to recruit a further teacher for the visually impaired to bring the complement in the Territory up to 3 positions. In addition, an existing teacher, who is not qualified in teaching the blind, will be undertaking a course of full-time study for teachers of the visually impaired next year and will receive a scholarship from the Northern Territory Teaching Service for this purpose. Members will appreciate that there is an Australia-wide shortage of specialist teachers for the disabled and the handicapped. However, we have been making special efforts through a recent very successful recruitment drive to seek people with special qualifications. Also, we will continue to look at people within the Northern Territory Teaching Service who wish to upgrade their qualifications whilst they are in our employ. That way, we will have staff to teach all manner of disabled persons in the Northern Territory.

Funding for NT Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In the Programs North Newsletter, Volume 5, No 12 which went out to schools this week, it is stated that funding available under the $1-for-$1 scheme has been 'modified'. For example, one school which normally receives a maximum of $5000 has now been told it will receive only $3000. Can he please explain this reduction in funding? The same newsletter goes on to increase and expand those areas of funding that are exempted or are removed from the $1-for-$1 scheme, including such things as donations by parents or other people to the school. Can he also explain this because it is causing considerable confusion with a number of school councils as to how they will budget for this coming year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I received some additional last minute briefings on this subject this morning. Unfortunately, I have not had time to peruse the material. I would prefer to do that and give a detailed answer tomorrow morning or in the adjournment debate. As I explained yesterday in this Assembly, if I recall rightly, last financial year, the $1-for-$1 funds were in the vicinity of $500 000. They have been topped up to the tune of something like $57 000 and, at the same time, the system has been extended to include $1-for-$1 grants and $2-for-$1 grants. That should answer the honourable member's question. More money is available to the Northern Territory school system under the new schemes, not less money. Guidelines will be drawn up and I will report to the Assembly on exactly what schools will be asked for by way of bids in a first round to determine which schools wish to take up the full portion of a standard allocation across the Territory. Following that, we will be able to see whether there are outstanding funds available for those schools which seek to obtain a greater portion of government funds under the $1-for-$1 and $2-for-$1 schemes than can be offered in the first round. As honourable members will appreciate, it is not possible to ask every school in the Territory to state just how much it wants and that the government will match it. As honourable members will appreciate, the schemes are very popular throughout the Northern Territory and that includes what I would normally consider to be disadvantaged schools. Some honourable members have criticised this scheme on the grounds that some schools feel that it is a terrible scheme because they miss out. It has been a very popular scheme even amongst schools normally considered to be disadvantaged. They take every opportunity to benefit from it. I will obtain a prepared statement which answers the honourable member's questions and give it to him during the course of this sittings.

Housing Commission Flats

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HOUSING

Some time ago, a number of Housing Commission flats were set aside for strata titling. What response has there been to this Northern Territory government initiative and are further Housing Commission flats being set aside for strata titling in the future?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, so far some 71 of the 127 units offered by the Housing Commission have been sold. At the moment, I understand that another 49 units are in the progress of being sold. Members would remember that the Housing Commission issued a directive to offer for sale 50% of their stock of flats. It is the policy of the government to encourage those people who are living in small accommodation units to purchase them. In some instances, some flat units that were constructed several years ago are not suitable for strata titling and they cannot be included in the particular scheme. However, the Housing Commission is taking strata titling into consideration in its future designs. Consequently, any new construction that takes place in the following years would be able to be used for strata titling. The important thing is that the scheme is working. A total of some 71 flats have been sold and 49 are going through the stages of sale.

Horticulture in Central Australia

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Will he outline the plan the department has for horticultural development in

central Australia, particularly in the Deep Well, Woodgreen and Ti Tree areas?

ANSWER

The results of the last few years with horticultural production in central Australia have been extremely encouraging. Honourable members would be aware that the grape production at Ti Tree, which comes onto the market earlier than any other grapes in Australia, gives the producers in the Ti Tree area an advantage over their southern competitors. In fact, it enables the people of Ti Tree to do very well with their initial production of grapes. In the Alice Springs area, it is well known to members that farms have done quite well over the years. It is very interesting to note that the production of flowers in the Alice Springs area has turned out to be quite a success in recent days. There is no doubt that there is a horticultural opportunity for us in central Australia. The thing to determine is what particular products we are likely to do well in and why. I think the great strength that the Northern Territory has with its horticultural production is not particularly that we can do things better than anybody else but that we can turn produce off at times when other markets in Australia cannot. Therein is our strength.

Mr Speaker, with this in the back of our minds, the Department of Primary Production, in consultation with the Conservation Commission Water Resources Division, has been looking at those areas in the Ti Tree-Woodgreen area that might be suitable for horticultural production in the future. The initial surveys involve the assessment of soils, the availability of water and the quality of the water. I make the point that the quality is absolutely important because difficulties have been encountered at the Ti Tree farms because of the high level of salt in the water there. These assessments will continue for some time. While they are continuing, I have asked the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority to have a look at market prospects that may be available to us for the products that we are likely to do well in. I think we must be realistic and not embark on a program of enormous production only to find that, for some reason or other, the markets have evaporated before our eyes.

I can assure the honourable member that there is a great amount of work being done behind the scenes by officers in the various departments involved. The situation is very encouraging indeed. As information becomes available, I will be only too happy to make it available to the honourable member or anybody else who has an interest in this particular area of Northern Territory production.

Department of Mines and Energy Staff and Litchfield Corporation Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

As he was Minister for Mines and Energy in June last year and the Litchfield Corporation Ltd was incorporated on 4 June last year, I ask him if the Secretary of the Department of Mines and Energy declared to him any information relating to the pecuniary interests of 3 of the directors of Litchfield Corporation Ltd who were then also employees of the Department of Mines and Energy, as is required by public service General Order section 4, and, if so, what action, if any, did the minister take as a result of that information?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can say with all honesty that I had no knowledge of departmental involvement in the Litchfield Corporation until the honourable Minister for Mines and Energy raised it in this Assembly. Any activity that went on within the department in that regard during the period of

my ministry occurred without any knowledge on my part.

Water Supply Agreements with Rural Residents

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Have agreements concerning supply of water in the Darwin rural area been sent to all rural landholders or has this exercise been confined to residents of the Bees Creek area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I took note of the honourable member's remarks in the adjournment debate last night in respect of this matter. I have no information for him today, but I propose to have the matter considered and will advise him of the situation.

Rural Adjustment Scheme

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Will the recent announcement that additional funding for the Rural Adjustment Scheme is to be provided in 1983-84 be of any benefit to primary producers in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Territory's rural producers will share in the increased funding being made available. The Territory's approval level will increase from $0.7m in 1982-83 to $1.2m in this financial year. Unfortunately, the scheme is still very small in relation to Territory rural producers' total financial needs but the increase will enable assistance to be extended to more producers. For the benefit of honourable members who may be interested, the Northern Territory Development Corporation, which administers the scheme, will be writing to all Territory rural producers providing details of the scheme and seeking interest from producers who might require assistance under it.

Electricity Tariffs for Nhulunbuy

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he advise whether, as a result of additional excise charges levied on diesel fuel by the federal government, additional electricity tariffs will apply in Nhulunbuy and at what level?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, whilst I have received no direct communication on this matter, I understand that, as a result of the federal government's excise levy on the fuel on which that town relies, the Nabalco Corporation will increase electricity charges across the board by 10%. I understand that was to take effect from 1 October. Of course, that date has already passed. That increase will only compensate the corporation at the expense of the people so that the federal government can pick up this additional levy. That only goes to the question of domestic electricity; it does not go to the broader question of the production costs of the mine and the impact on jobs. As a result of this excise brought down by the benevolent Hawke government, this impost placed upon people of the Northern Territory, shortly there will be fewer consumers to pay for electricity in Nhulunbuy.

Darwin Performing Arts Centre

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he confirm that the construction of the Darwin centre has been delayed for up to 6 months? Is it further true that a dispute as to the responsibility for this delay exists between the builder and the developer, Burgundy Royale? Is the Northern Territory government represented at these negotiations to ensure that the interests of the Northern Territory taxpayers are protected?

ANSWER

I understand that that contract is behind considerably but not by 6 months. I think it is closer to 60 days. I would have to check on that in the interests of providing a detailed response. I will be happy to do that. But I prefer not to bandy around figures that are not correct. The government has made representations to Jennings over the delays on several of its contracts in the Darwin area. I understand that the management has not been up to the standard that we would expect of that company. As I indicated, we have made representations to that company.

I have not been advised, at this stage, of any dispute between Burgundy Royale and the Jennings company in respect of the Darwin performing arts centre. As far as I am aware, we are represented at all times on all discussions on the joint site.

Rigging and Scaffolding Safety Procedures at Nabalco

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he tell me if those provisions of the Construction and Safety Act which relate to the safety procedures for rigging and scaffolding yet apply to the Nabalco production site?

ANSWER

To the best of my knowledge, no. I do note the honourable member's concern in this matter. There must be very good reasons in his mind why he genuinely believes that the Construction Safety Act ought to apply to those sorts of operations in Nhulunbuy. I do wish that, instead of asking questions like this, he would take the opportunity to discuss it with either myself or officers as to what those reasons would be. I am quite sure that they are well-founded and it is worth talking to the honourable member about them. I take it that his question probably arises from the very unfortunate accident recently in which a contractor's employee was rather badly injured in a most unfortunate accident at Nhulunbuy. That was an accident involving a crane, from memory. There were 3 people operating the crane, the usual 2 doing the actual job on the scaffolding and a dogman giving directions. The driver of that crane, from recollection, held an unrestricted certificate and licence in the state of New South Wales but I do believe that he did not hold a licence in the Northern Territory. He held an unrestricted licence for all types of cranes in the state of New South Wales. We know the scope of crane operations in NSW - they go up some 50 and 60 floors. One must assume that he was qualified to do the work that he was doing. As I understand it, due to circumstances unknown to me at this stage - there is an investigation still continuing which will consider also any possibilities as to breaches of the law - the crane was put into free-fall. I understand that the injury was caused when the crane mechanism, while in free-fall, struck a rail. Some extensive spinal injuries were received by the worker.

Mr Speaker, the relevant provisions in relation to crane operators in Nhulunbuy are covered by the Inspection of Machinery Act. The relevant provision in the Inspection of Machinery Act is identical to the provisions in the Construction Safety Act. In fact, Northern Territory regulations were in place at the time of the accident. So the matter is covered. There is no question about that. Nonetheless, the honourable member keeps raising in the Assembly his apparent concern that the Construction Safety Act should apply as well. If he can provide further argument as to that, it will be looked at. But while there is one piece of legislation successfully covering an area of endeavour, there seems to be little reason to substitute it for another which does exactly the same thing.

Federal Member's Assertions as to Overfunding in NT

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER

Is he aware of very damaging reports that our federal representative, John Reeves, has suggested quite strongly in the federal parliament that the Northern Territory is being overfunded?

ANSWER

I am certainly aware of the damage being done by the federal member for the Northern Territory by his persistent references to the Territory being overfunded. I was disappointed to read an extract from federal Hansard yesterday which caused me some concern. Unfortunately, the Northern Territory has only one member in the Federal House of Representatives and so no balance of view can be put on behalf of Territorians. After reading this particular section of Hansard, one would really wonder for whom this particular person was working. The condemnation of the Territory governmental system was very damaging to the Northern Territory. I really wonder whether this person will do more harm to the Northern Territory in his term of office than benefit.

It certainly is not in the interest of Northern Territorians that he carries on the way he does at the present time. He is giving the view to southern politicians that the Northern Territory is run in a most appalling fashion by a bunch of country hicks and that all federal funds to the NT are being misdirected, misappropriated and not properly accounted for. I think that it was a sad day when this man went to Canberra to represent the Northern Territory because he is doing a disgraceful job.

Nursing Sisters for High Schools

Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Following his statement in the budget that nursing sisters would be stationed at high schools during 1984, can he advise which high schools will get these nursing sisters during that year?

ANSWER

There are 10 high schools in the Northern Territory which will receive full-time sisters as from 1984, provided of course that suitable people can be recruited. I would hope that that would be the case. The schools are: Darwin High, Casuarina High, Nightcliff High, Dripstone High, Taminmin High, Katherine High, Alice Springs High, Sadadeen High and Nhulunbuy High. At Tennant Creek, I understand a sister will be made available when the new high school is completed. It is about the only centre in the Territory at the present

time that does not have a separate high school where we can place a sister. I am sure that we can negotiate in this complex situation to find a suitable arrangement whereby a sister can be available to students in that area. As I mentioned in the budget speech, we felt that the trial program of having nursing sisters in 2 high schools in the Northern Territory - I think they were Nightcliff High and Sadadeen or Alice Springs High - under a schools commission program was so successful that the Territory government felt it should be extended to all high schools in the Northern Territory. That will be done as from the beginning of school year 1984 in those schools that I have just mentioned.

Transfer of ADMA Stocks of Maize

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

If he has any problems handling the question, he should just imagine that I am ringing him up.

Mr SPEAKER: Will the honourable member ask the question?

Mr B. COLLINS: Mr Speaker, can he confirm that ADMA stocks of maize were recently moved from Katherine to the Douglas-Daly storage depot and are now about to be moved from the Douglas-Daly storage depot back to Katherine? If this is the case, can he given an explanation as to why this has happened and who will meet the associated costs?

ANSWER

I will pretend that I received a phone call and advise the honourable member that I will ring him back.

Consultative Committee on Children's Services

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Northern Territory child-care conference held in mid-April, about 6 months ago, requested of the Northern Territory government to establish a consultative committee on children's services. Does the government intend to establish such a committee and, if so, when?

ANSWER

I have to say honestly to the honourable member that the creation of a consultative committee on children's services is one that I have not had a briefing on for this sittings. I will endeavour to get the information for her and make it available. Could I say that I do not have any difficulty with the proposition that was put forward by the conference. It seemed perfectly reasonable. If it is possible to effect it without a great deal of expense - we need to cover the whole of the Northern Territory with the establishment of such a committee - then we will do it. However, I will provide the honourable member with a definite answer later today or tomorrow.

Darwin Bus Service

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that the written report on the Darwin Bus Service states that contract services might reasonably be expected to cost more than in-house

operations and, if so, does the government intend to replace contract services?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the report the honourable member referred to. I have indicated before that the cost of providing bus services is of considerable concern to the government and reviews are ongoing in respect of that service. In respect of the Palmerston bus service, I have no knowledge of what management proposals are being submitted for consideration.

Local Government for Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise what steps are being taken by the government to encourage the development of local government at Jabiru?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has been supporting and encouraging the development of local government at Jabiru for some time now. In the same way, some years ago we offered local government to the people of Nhulunbuy. Unfortunately, the people of Nhulunbuy seem to have spurned that offer. There has been no visible movement or agitation towards local government there that I have been able to discern in 3 years. At the opening of the high school in Nhulunbuy some years ago, I deliberately offered, in a formal political sense, the concept of local government to the people of Nhulunbuy and there has been absolutely no move to take up that offer. Local government in Nhulunbuy would be a most complex arrangement because people there do not own their houses.

Of course, the same complex arrangements will have to be developed for Jabiru because, at this stage, people cannot own their homes either due to the nature of the tenure. The underlying title at Jabiru is Aboriginal freehold and a lease, for a term of years, has been granted by the Aboriginal Land Trust to the Director of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. In turn, he has granted an underlease to the Jabiru Town Development Authority. Any form of title for a house in Jabiru would be in the nature of some sort of assignment of the underlease held by the Jabiru Town Development Authority and banks would not rush to pick that up as security.

In any event, the government has been supporting the movement towards local government at Jabiru. Honourable members will recall that, in June 1982, we amended the Jabiru Town Development Act to provide for the establishment of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council which consists of 8 members of whom 5 are elected by the local community and 3 are appointed. The council's main function is to advise the Jabiru Town Development Authority on matters within the competence of a municipal council in the Territory. The council is an advisory body only and serves a useful purpose in training elected members for greater responsibilities in local government in future and in providing valuable feedback to the Jabiru Town Development Authority and the government on community wishes.

The government has also provided financial support to the Jabiru Town Advisory Council. In 1983-84, the government will be providing a grant of $31 000 to the council through the Department of Community Development to meet its administrative expenses. The Jabiru Town Development Authority and the Advisory Council met recently to discuss the introduction of local government at Jabiru. I am pleased to advise the Assembly that the government proposes to

introduce legislation amending the Jabiru Town Development Act to enable the authority to delegate its municipal powers and functions, except the power to set the general municipal rate, and to determine the terms and conditions of employment of municipal staff to the Jabiru Town Advisory Council. The council's name is to be changed to the Jabiru Town Council to reflect its enlarged responsibility. The term of office of the present elected members of the advisory council terminates in May 1984.

Mr Speaker, it is proposed to introduce a bill to amend the act along the lines that I have just outlined at the next sittings of the Assembly and the timing of the transfer of powers will be referred to a joint working party of the JTDA and the council. Mr Speaker, the extent to which, and the way in which, municipal functions can be devolved to the Jabiru Town Council are influenced by the rather complex legal situation with regard to the town of Jabiru. Bearing in mind Jabiru's particular legal situation and that ERA's interest must be protected, it will be necessary for the Jabiru Town Development Authority to continue to remain in existence and to hold the lease over the town from the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

I believe that these initiatives represent an important step forward in the development of local government at Jabiru. They will provide scope for general community involvement and participation in local affairs whilst recognising the peculiar legal and other constraints, especially financial, in the Jabiru situation. They will operate as a yardstick whereby local government at Nhulunbuy could work if the people and the company could agree on the concept of local government with the Northern Territory government, with the traditional owners of Nhulunbuy and, presumably, with the federal government under whose act, the Nabalco Agreement Act, the town of Nhulunbuy exists. I think we are pushing forward in Jabiru. If there is any genuine agitation in Nhulunbuy for local government, then I would suggest that it would need to go somewhat the same way.

Erosion Hazard Area South of Heavitree Gap

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS

Has the minister received any recommendations from the Soil Conservation Authority in relation to the erosion hazard area declared south of Heavitree Gap in Alice Springs? If so, what action will flow from them?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have not received any such recommendations. Perhaps they would go to the Minister for Conservation because soil conservation is in his area of responsibility.

Erosion Hazard Area South of Heavitree Gap

Mr BELL to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Mr Speaker, I redirect the question.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have not received a report but, if there is one, then I will obtain it. If there are any actions to flow from the recommendations, I would be happy to make that information available to the honourable member.

Traffic Flow in Inner-city Area

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I understand that consideration has been given to restructuring the traffic flow in the inner city area. Is he able to inform me if his department has put forward any proposals to alter the existing traffic flows in the inner city area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand the department, in concert with the city council, has looked at various alternatives from time to time. I think they have arrived at a position where they do not believe there is urgency, over and above initial planning, to determine a track, particularly out of the city. I understand they will be aiming to enter the city through Bennett Street and, through a U-turn, depart via Knuckey Street. However, I believe they are looking at other options. They want to take into account the opening of the performing arts centre and traffic resulting from that. I believe there may be a need in the future for consideration to be given to an outlet through the McMinn Street/Daly Street bridge area. I believe it is still very much in the early planning stages.

Accommodation Funding for Students from Isolated Areas

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Given that the Education Advisory Council has recommended that a hostel be built in Darwin to accommodate students from isolated areas attending government schools and given that the latest Schools Commission report urges that adequate accommodation be provided for isolated children attending both government and non-government schools, will he assure the Assembly that hostels catering to government school students will receive at least equal funding to that currently provided by the Northern Territory in relation to students at non-government schools which have been given in excess of $300 000? No allocation at all has been made in relation to government schools.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would expect that no allocation has been made for government schools because there is no government school hostel. It would seem a very odd thing for the Leader of the Opposition to imply the government was somehow derelict in its funding. At present, the government is examining its options and proposals in this particular area and an announcement should be made at an appropriate time.

Land-backed Wharf

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to an article in the NT News of 17 October in which it was claimed that public authorities were using road transport in preference to subsidised sea transport, which could result in the possible ceasing of the service supplied by the Townsville Trader in January of 1984. Does he now believe that the enormous cost of the land-backed wharf and its associated container installation is warranted?

ANSWER

The situation is that the program development at the port must proceed even

though the various downturns have to be considered. I would not be prepared to make a recommendation, other than that, at this point in time.

Darwin Port Authority Bill

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he circulated copies of his proposed amendments to the Port Authority Act to users of the port as was done with the principal bill?

ANSWER

I do not recall circulating the amendments. I am pretty sure that we sent a copy down to the waterside workers. Certainly, the amendments were circulated to the Assembly last week and I guess those amendments have been made available to them.

Giles House

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware of the concept put forward by Giles House in Alice Springs for a self-development training farm in the area?

ANSWER

It has been brought to my attention that, within the Department of Community Development, a proposal is being worked up to extend the influence of the Giles House correctional service unit to provide for that unit a rural environment where children who are responding well to programs can be given an extension into a more rural setting. I think the proposal involves the acquisition of an area in the Alice Springs farm area and the establishment on that land of rural pursuits such as running chickens and goats and having stables and horses. The present arrangement is that all juveniles held in a correctional environment in Alice Springs do have a very restricted area. I think that everybody who has been to Giles House would agree that it is probably one of the most well-run juvenile detention units in our country. It is really a credit to the people who work there.

I can appreciate that the campus at Giles House does have limitations. I can appreciate that the rural environment that is being suggested would have a lot of benefits, advantages and new opportunities for the children who are involved.

Mr Bell: A prison farm.

Mr TUXWORTH: I heard the interjection by the honourable member for MacDonnell about the prison farm and would just say to the honourable member that the concept of putting young people below the age of 17 in a prison farm with adult prisoners is not one that my heart warms to at all. My heart does warm to the possibility of extending the Giles House environment to a rural setting so that other pursuits are available for the children involved. I am happy to say to the honourable member that, if he, members of the Alice Springs community and the department would like to sit around a table and work up a proposal with me that I can present to the Chief Minister - it involves the acquisition of land - I would be only too pleased to make myself available for that because I think the whole program has a lot of merit. It is one that we as a government should be supporting because the success of Giles House is one that we should be

trying to improve upon to the benefit of everybody in the Northern Territory.

Chlorination of Sewage

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Some time ago, the NT News reported that the department was trialing a process of chlorinating sewage at sewerage stations to eliminate odours. Can he provide any information on how successful that trial has been?

ANSWER

I will get the information for the honourable member.

NT Teachers Federation Strike Call

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware of reports that teachers at least at one Darwin high school unanimously rejected a call by the NT Teachers Federation leadership to go on strike over the Sanderson High School issue?

ANSWER

The matter of Sanderson High School and threatened industrial action by the Teachers Federation last week has been in the press of late. I am very pleased to advise the Assembly that I understand that the Teachers Federation, which proposed industrial action by their members at 2 high schools in Darwin to enforce its demands, had its recommendations rejected unanimously by both high schools.

I am further concerned by a circular put out on 13 October by the Teachers Federation to all its branches on this very subject. It states that it has had considerable success as a result of its threats. I will quote a couple of paragraphs from the circular because it is certainly of relevance to the whole question of the attitude of the Teachers Federation towards the Sanderson High School and towards the government's attitude.

The first paragraph of the circular says: 'Since the failure of the Minister for Education to reply to the federation's demands concerning Sanderson High School by 7 October 1983, the subsequent threat of industrial action by members has resulted in some changes to the Sanderson High School plans and industrial action at this stage has been postponed'. Mr Speaker, I submit that it was postponed because it could not get its members - and I give credit to its members for being sensible in this issue - to institute industrial action. In fact, there have been no changes to the plans whatsoever as a result of the Teachers Federation's threats to me that it would stop construction on the Sanderson High School forthwith unless the plans were changed.

What we did learn from the press was that the Teachers Federation found out that it was indeed looking at the wrong set of plans when it was making up its mind to have the construction stopped. This is referred to in this memo to Teachers Federation branches:

> *A lengthy meeting between the general secretary and 2 senior officers of the Sanderson High School Interim Steering Committee took place on Tuesday 11 October 1983 and a meeting between the Director of Education Facilities and federation officers took place on Wednesday 12 October*

1983. In relation to each of the federation's concerns over the Sanderson High School, the following assurances have been given. Such assurances are to be provided in writing to the federation by 17 October 1983.

I will indicate those assurances. Honourable members would be aware that they were in fact already part of the changes to plans since mark 1 of the plans which the Teachers Federation was incorrectly working from. All it has done really is to have itself updated on events in relation to Sanderson High School. As a result of the community consultative process we have been going through, it has finally caught up.

One of the issues, which it raised quite recently, is the provision of laboratories: 'The Sanderson High School Interim Steering Committee has been given an undertaking by the minister that, should additional laboratory space be necessary, such space will be provided in stage 2'. Mr Speaker, I gave that undertaking weeks and weeks ago. The Teachers Federation is only just catching up. 'Classrooms will satisfactorily accommodate 30 students and are designed in order to use the allocated space effectively. Senior offices/interview rooms: the general interview room is provided in the administration block but no other separate facilities are planned. If senior offices/interview rooms were incorporated now they would infringe upon space planned for other areas'.

Another concern of the Teachers Federation was a lack of faculty areas: 'The one general area set down to house humanities, English, maths and language teachers has been allocated funds so that internal dividing walls can be provided should this prove necessary'. That is another one of several things that the government agreed to alter in the plans as a result of the community process which took place weeks ago. 'Teachers preparation areas: teacher preparation areas now provide 6.2 m^2 per staff based on 48 staff. This area is slightly above the Schools Commission guidelines. The amended design for teacher furniture will adequately meet teacher needs'. That is the Teachers Federation reporting to its members how satisfactory its major concerns have been accommodated in the plans to which the Sanderson High School is being constructed. The disappointing part of the whole affair, Mr Speaker, is the fact that the Teachers Federation has taken so long to catch up with events. In the meantime, it recommended industrial action to stop facilities being provided for students to go to school at the beginning of school year 1985 so that it could demand certain changes to plans most of which had already been accommodated. That is the absurdity of it all.

Since this matter is of considerable public interest, I would like to outline some of the features of the Sanderson High School because it is certainly an interesting school. The Sanderson High School will provide the most advanced facilities of any high school in the Northern Territory. Starting with the sports facilities, there will be a full-size football oval and athletics ground, combined soccer and hockey field, 9 tennis and netball courts, 2 basketball courts and an undercover, synthetic surface, multi-purpose sports venue. Compare the studies area: 2 classroom areas, staff preparation area and a secure central area for the main computer and storage of other sensitive and expensive equipment. Up to 30 micro-computers can be located in each classroom. The drama and dance teaching area will have a wooden floor, higher-than-normal ceiling, special lighting systems, stereo sound system, stores and dressing rooms, a lighting control room which can be used to teach students, technical lighting and air-conditioning. The drama-dance area is combined with the stage area of the multi-purpose building. Operable walls will permit the entire drama-dance area to be used as a stage with audience seating in the open area of the multi-purpose building or an intimate theatre environment to be created with audience

and cast all located inside the drama-dance area or 2 separate teaching areas to be provided on the stage; for example, one for drama and one for dance.

The multi-purpose building will have a synthetic floor surface. This will be the first time that this new floor surface has been provided in a Territory school. The area can be used for basketball, volleyball, badminton, gymnastics and formal functions, with stage and audience areas used. The multi-purpose area will accommodate up to 1000 students and will be suitable for out-of-school activities and functions.

The Sanderson High School will have the first purpose-built music teaching facility in a Territory high school which will comprise 2 classrooms, a group practice room, 2 individual practice rooms, 2 storage areas and some areas designed for live performance. One area is designed to allow for sound recording. A 2-bedroom caretaker's flat has been included in the school design to assist with security of the school after hours.

The following teacher preparation areas are included: science staff room, computer study staff room, general studies staff room, library staff room, home economics staff room, general classroom area staff room, arts staff room, music staff room, technical studies staff room and physical education staff room. Some of the areas of these staff rooms have been increased to accommodate requests from the Northern Territory Teachers Federation, Mr Speaker. Those requests were made to us by the federation weeks ago when we first started the consultative process. These teacher preparation areas give 6.5 m^2 of working space for each teacher. As a comparison, Dripstone High School has 6.07 m^2 South Australia has 3.5 m^2 and Western Australia 3.5 to 4 m^2. In addition to those teacher preparation areas, there will be a general staff room, a visiting staff room, a principal's office and 3 assistant principal's offices.

Mr Speaker, I think that will give honourable members an idea that the Sanderson High School will be the most advanced in design and most generously endowed high school in the Northern Territory. That is understandable. It is the latest high school to be designed and built in the Northern Territory. We learn as we go with design and consultation. What has been annoying in the whole affair is the performance of the Teachers Federation which last week came up with a demand that the minister stop construction of the school forthwith whilst it discusses some of its concerns. As I have clearly highlighted here, by and large, its concerns were more than accommodated weeks and weeks ago. I pay credit to the staff of the 2 high schools in Darwin who were asked to go on strike by the Teachers Federation over this issue and flatly rejected the proposition.

Examination of Tenancy Act

Mr BELL to TREASURER

I refer the minister to his letter to me of 10 August in which he advised that the Commissioner of Tenancies was currently looking at some areas of the Tenancy Act which require clarification and possible amendment. Has the commissioner completed his deliberations and will any action flow from such a report?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Commissioner of Tenancies has been given approval for a total and thorough review of the provisions of the act under which he works. He is conducting that review at present.

Groote Eylandt Lock-up

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Although it was a long time ago, I am sure that the Chief Minister would recall correspondence from myself on the complete unsuitability of the Groote Eylandt lock-up to be used for the detention of prisoners. Is it true that 18 Aboriginal prisoners were detained recently by police at Groote Eylandt over a number of days in 2 cells, one of which did not even possess mattresses? Can he confirm that there have been consistent requests, including requests from the Police Force itself, for an upgrading of detention facilities at Groote Eylandt? What steps are being taken to effect this necessary upgrading?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can certainly remember the Leader of the Opposition raising this matter previously. It is unfortunate that, in a relatively small community such as Groote Eylandt, a lock-up which would normally be deemed of sufficient capacity for a population of that size proves to be insufficient from time to time. I took this matter up with the Commissioner of Police and I understood that other arrangements had been made. I cannot say specifically whether funds have been allocated for the upgrading or construction of an alternative lock-up at Groote Eylandt but, to my recollection, the Commissioner of Police indicated that alternative arrangements would be made. Since the matter has only just been brought to my attention again, all I can do is to look into the matter and see what steps are being taken by the police. It is not really a matter of their bringing it to my attention. I have brought it to their attention for action. I would assume that, if another lock-up is seen by them to be necessary, then provision will be made for it in a capital works program.

Power Failures in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

My question follows on from a letter I wrote to the minister earlier this month concerning constant power failures in Alice Springs. Can he advise the reason behind these power failures?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, with respect for the honourable member for Stuart, there have not been constant power failures. There have been a number of minor power failures emanating from the Alice Springs power-station. At the outset I would like to put the minds of the community at rest and put a certain employee in a better light than he has been painted at the Alice Springs power-station. The rumour that was going around Alice Springs was that the power failures were caused by NTEC's employment of an inexperienced shift supervisor. These stories were quite damaging to that person because it is not difficult to work out which shifts coincided with the power failures. This became such widespread rumour in Alice Springs that I personally had the matter looked into. The truth of the matter is that the difficulty has involved the conversion of the first power plant, plant number 5, to the new duel fuel firing of gas and diesel.

For the benefit of honourable members, I might describe very briefly how the equipment works. It is not pure gas being injected into the cylinders because it is compressed gas. It simply cools down to such a stage that it liquifies. In other words, it has the opposite effect to the compression of gas. Clearly, it requires a detonating mechanism. From memory, about 10% dieseline is injected

into the power plant and the remainder is gas. The dieseline then detonates as a normal diesel engine does. It ignites the gas and there is power. This is the first plant of this type attempted in Australia. One must reasonably expect that there will be some teething problems. It is those teething problems which caused the automatic shut down of plant number 5. When that plant shuts down, it automatically triggers a power-shedding arrangement.

NTEC was faced with the problem that, as each unit was commissioned, there was a risk of teething problems occurring in each of the 8 units. That was unacceptable to the general public. NTEC has now arranged for a constant spinning reserve to be provided during the 100-hour test period. It takes about 100 hours to settle the plant down, I am told. During each of those 100-hour test period times, while the tested plant is on grid or on load, it will have a spinning reserve operating.

I think that it is fair to point out that this is not a cheap way to go about it. That sort of spinning reserve costs quite a lot of money. Over that 100-hour period, it costs several thousand dollars. We believe that, in order to guarantee the continuity of supply in Alice Springs, this spinning reserve will be maintained. With any sort of luck, during the commissioning process for the major use of natural gas in central Australia, a spinning reserve will be maintained. I am not guaranteeing it but, with luck, there ought to be a minimum of disruption from now on.

Power Charges in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is Nabalco Mining Company the licensee for the Northern Territory Electricity Commission and, if so, is it the responsibility of the minister to fix and vary the charges?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Electricity Commission has no direct role in that, although negotiations have been going on to clarify the relationship of NTEC with such undertakings as Nabalco. The same would apply to the uranium province and undertakings of that type where the public are recipients of electricity and are charged for the electricity consumed.

I am not certain as to the exact relationship at this time between the electricity commission and Nabalco. I would have to check that out. But I am certain that, whatever relationship that is, it certainly does not include the power to override commercial decisions of a commercial undertaking such as the company mentioned by the honourable member.

Power Charges in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Given that answer, I would ask him if he can confirm a statement made by the Chief Minister in this Assembly in February 1981 that power charges in Nhulunbuy had been increased by 17% to comply with the requirements of the Electricity Commission Act which specified that there had to be a standard charge for power throughout the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I would have no recollection of what was said in 1981. Clearly, the question is asked to cast a complete red herring on the real issue of the reported 10% increase in electricity charges in Nhulunbuy. It is widely known, and he wants to bury it with red herrings, that it was the federal government's oil levy which caused this increase. If he has concerns about the increase in electricity charges in Nhulunbuy, I would suggest that he does not ask this side of the Assembly, which is not responsible for the necessary increases, but refer the matter to the Labor government in Canberra which is the direct and total cause of this increase. Let him not stand there and try to disguise the real issue. I will bet the honourable member for Nhulunbuy has done absolutely nothing about making representations to the Australian Labor government which is the true cause of this impost on Northern Territorians.

Power Charges in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In an attempt to extract an answer from the minister, I will repeat my question. Can he confirm a statement made by the Chief Minister in this Assembly in February 1981 that power charges in Nhulunbuy had been increased by 17% to comply with the requirements of the Electricity Commission Act which specified that there be a standard charge for power throughout the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The answer to the question is, as I have already indicated, that I cannot. The fact remains, Mr Speaker, that, even if that was the case, there is nothing the Northern Territory Electricity Commission can do to prevent the 10% increase in Nhulunbuy imposed as a result of the Australian Labor Party government in Canberra. While I am on my feet, I point out that that is clearly demonstrated by the absolute compulsion placed on the Northern Territory Electricity Commission to increase its charges by at least 6.2% from 1 January this year for the very same reason.

Doctor for Jabiru

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the position of a permanent doctor for Jabiru yet been filled?

ANSWER

Realising that the honourable member would ask me a question regarding the doctor for Jabiru, I asked the department to prepare a brief. I advise the honourable member that the Department of Health has placed advertisements in various newspapers and journals: the Weekend Australian, the Medical Journal of Australia, Lancet, the British Medical Journal, the New Zealand Medical Journal and the Hong Kong Medical Journal. The advertisement called for expressions of interest from doctors interested in establishing a private practice in Jabiru. It offered a package of assistance with the establishment and the initial operation of service. I understand, at the moment, that there has been no response to those advertisements but a doctor has been appointed temporarily to work in Jabiru until a decision is taken to appoint a permanent person to that position once the expressions of interest are received.

Dr Thorn is still providing a normal medical officer service at Jabiru and

his term is due to expire in February 1984. Consequently, yesterday, I was discussing this particular problem with a resident of Jabiru who informs me that another doctor is in the area and has been working quite well. I am concerned that the Department of Health, at this stage, has not made any permanent arrangement to provide the service after January 1984. I intend taking that up with the Secretary of the Department of Health to discuss the problem that he may be having in appointing somebody after January 1984. In the next couple of weeks, it is my intention to visit the Jabiru area and talk to the people concerned.

Marina for Frances Bay or Doctor's Gully

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS

Is he aware of any firm proposal, including sketch plans, for the establishment of a marina in either the Frances Bay or Doctor's Gully area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of any proposal whatsoever for Doctor's Gully other than fish feeding. As for Frances Bay, the honourable Minister for Transport and Works could better answer this question, but I have taken a bit of interest in it. The Northern Territory government is proposing to establish fore and aft moorings at Frances Bay. It will not quite be a marina in terms of what you would expect in Sydney. It will not be like some of those marinas on the north shore in Sydney, but at least there will be access for people wanting to get to the boats. Provision is being made for the reclamation of some land, an access way and some sort of little wharf. Piles will be put in. At least, I think that this is the case. There was some ingenious device shown to us some time ago. It was a series of chains that held the boats in place. It looked pretty complicated. I think they have gone back to piles. I hope that these piles will be put in place in the near future, within the next 6 months or so. I believe it will increase substantially the availability of Frances Bay for yacht mooring. It should enable a considerably greater number of yachts to moor there.

Further up in Frances Bay, there is a proposal for Sadgroves Creek. On a technicality, I really need not have mentioned it because I was asked about Doctor's Gully and Frances Bay. For Sadgroves Creek, there is a feasibility study being conducted by a firm of civil engineers as to whether there could be a marina combined with some sort of residential land subdivision. That has a long way to go yet. I would not want to excite anyone about it because I would rate its chances of getting off the ground at this stage as maybe 1 in 4. So many of these things come forward. People accost you on planes with sketches of proposed marinas and subdivisions for Darwin, and in airport waiting rooms. When you are walking down the street to Charlie's, they sidle up to you with a set of plans and so on. Only 1 in 20 of these things ever gets off the ground. Maybe the honourable Minister for Transport and Works might like to give us a better run down in the adjournment debate this afternoon of the provision of piles. We are going to insert piles, rather than operate for their removal, in Frances Bay.

Garbage Collection

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the government been approached by the Darwin City Council with a request to amend the Local Government Act to enable more than one garbage collector to collect garbage within the municipal boundaries?

ANSWER

If there has been an approach by the Darwin City Council, it has not come to my notice. It may have been made at officer level through the Local Government Division of the Department of Community Development. I am happy to get that information for the honourable member. If there is any advice on such a proposal, I will let him know the details of it.

Golden Perch at Koolpinyah Station

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Some time ago, Mr Lawrence Ah Toy imported a considerable quantity of fish, commonly known as yellowbelly, into the Territory. They were to be kept in ponds for commercial purposes. At that time, he had a fish expert, Mr Chan Lee, working for him. He is no longer in his employ. As the yellowbelly are a voracious fish, known to eradicate indigenous fish if released in a waterhole, is it a fact that these fish have been released in creeks and waterholes in the vicinity of Koolpinyah Station?

ANSWER

I can only promise the honourable member that the matter he raises is one of concern to me. I will get him the information he is seeking later in the day. I would be extremely concerned to hear that a species such as the yellowbelly now has access to the Northern Territory's waterways. In fact, I will be surprised if it has. I will be very concerned if it has. Something will have to be done about it.

Mt Wells Battery

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

When the Mt Wells Battery was sold, the tender price was $300 000. Can he confirm whether the successful purchaser, Jingellic Minerals (NT), has yet paid the full tender price?

ANSWER

The answer is no. It is a particularly disappointing and miserable performance on behalf of Jingellic as a company. One can only note with disappointment that a company such as Jingellic can enter into a contract like that with the Northern Territory government, pay a 10% deposit and then fail in the remainder of its obligations to government. When you look at Jingellic's annual report, Mr Speaker, you will note a multi-million sum - I do not recall the exact amount - for which it purchased a share in a gold mine. It seems that it can expand its commercial activities in Western Australia but not honour its contracts with the Northern Territory in relation to the battery. I can assure honourable members and Jingellic that I would have cancelled the contract forthwith or alternatively taken action to ensure specific performance of that contract long ago had there been any prospect at that time of anyone else being able to buy and operate the battery, including the government itself. The position is the result of the world tin market. The quota system which has been applied upon indigenous tin mining in Australia has made it impossible for the battery to operate as a tin battery. Currently, we are negotiating with another party, who is well known in mining circles in the Northern Territory, to take over the operation of the battery. That person is negotiating with Jingellic in the hope that the matter can be resolved. Mr Speaker, the answer to the question

is no. To say that I am disappointed and annoyed would be understating the position.

Female Prisoners

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The honourable minister will be aware that alternative arrangements are made for long-term, male prisoners classified as a low security risk. Normally, this involves transfer to the Gunn Point Prison Farm. When will alternative arrangements be made similarly for low-risk, long-term female prisoners who at the moment have no option?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member's concern is noted. I regret that I have not responded to her on this matter earlier. There was a proposition put forward some time ago about the possibility of using Gunn Point Prison Farm. It did not receive a great deal of favour at the time for various reasons but I would undertake to take the matter up again with the prison authorities and see what arrangements they are making. I do accept that the premise that long-term women prisoners who are not a security risk ought to have an alternative environment during their period of rehabilitation.

Mt Wells Battery

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr ROBERTSON (Mines and Energy)(by leave): Mr Speaker, I would like to add to my answer in relation to Mt Wells Battery purchase. I recall now that the figure was not in the millions but was about $800 000, if I recall correctly. The exact amount paid by Jingellic to date is $28 500 of an amount of $363 750.

Seminars on Criminal Code for Aboriginal Communities

Mr BELL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Will the government provide information seminars on the Criminal Code in Aboriginal communities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that matter was canvassed at the seminar held in Darwin last Saturday. It is amazing that the government basically has to do the job that the Aboriginal Legal Aid Service is paid for. It staggers me that representatives of the Aboriginal Legal Aid Service could stand up in a forum like that, purporting to represent the interest of Aboriginal people and the law - that is what their sole function is and it is of course one of the functions of the Northern Territory government - and say that the Aboriginal communities have never in any way been consulted about the Criminal Code. I believe it is a dereliction of duty of those legal officers.

The Aboriginal Legal Aid Service continues to be completely negligent in its duty. By the very nature of the request from the Aboriginal Legal Aid Service, it has indicated that it will continue to be negligent in its duty because it really indicated that it was not going to take the information to Aboriginal communities which it regularly visits and represents. Seeing that it did not intend to do it, then it was left to the government to do it. So the answer to

the question is yes. Where and when reasonably required, this will be done. It will be done now at double the taxpayers' expense because it should have been done by that service ages ago.

Use of Manton Dam for Recreational Purposes

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Have there been recent studies into the possible use of Manton Dam for recreational purposes? If so, has the government considered these studies and is it looking at changing its present policy on such use?

ANSWER

Ongoing studies have been undertaken into the use of Manton Dam for a number of years. Recreational activity has been prevented at the dam by virtue of public health requirements in respect of the water. At this stage, I would need to research the matter to see where we are at present. I will do that and report to the honourable member.

Bindi Centre

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What action is proposed regarding the night-time care of young people with psychiatric problems who fit in with the Bindi Centre day program but who are considered to be a danger to control at night in the Bindi Centre?

ANSWER

There is no easy answer to this particular question. The Bindi Centre staff and the Department of Health are aware of this problem. They have discussed it on a number of occasions. I am hopeful a proposal will be put to me for consideration in the very near future. The young people accommodated at Bindi Centre are retarded. The psychiatric problems result from their mental and physical condition. The 3 young children in particular have caused problems. They have seen the Department of Health psychiatrists. There is really very little they can do. Ward 1 of the Alice Springs Hospital at this particular time is not an appropriate place for them because their problems are not amenable to psychiatric treatment. As I said, it is not an easy one. Hopefully, after the recent discussions between the Health Department and Bindi Centre people, the problem may be solved.

Aboriginal Legal Aid Service

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he advise whether it is the policy of his government, as I am sure it is, that a reasonable obligation does exist on the government to provide public information on the government's own legislation? Could he confirm that he knows, as the honourable Attorney-General would know, that both Aboriginal Legal Aid Services have been close to the point of bankruptcy and are simply conducting their major work, which is defending their clients in court? On at least 2 occasions in the last 12 months, they have needed additional funding to do that work alone. Could he explain how the Aboriginal Legal Aid Services were supposed to do this ages ago when the act was only assented to a fortnight ago?

ANSWER

It is a bit disappointing this morning that the standard of questions is perhaps not as high as it might be. I hark back to the exercise where this Assembly passed the liquor legislation. At that time, the cooperation of the Aboriginal Legal Aid Services in disseminating information about the draft liquor legislation was virtually taken for granted by the government. The Aboriginal Legal Aid Services did, at that time, perform a very useful task in explaining the proposed legislation and participating in meetings in many communities as to the effect of the legislation on the people in those communities. Whilst I might concede that the Aboriginal Legal Aid Services say that they need more funds, there has been dispute about why they need the funds. For instance, the local Northern Territory bar has said that, if the Aboriginal Legal Aid Services - definitely the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service, because I am not quite certain in relation to the North Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service - used local barristers instead of always bringing up southern counsel, then considerable savings would be made. So it could be that some of their financial problems are of their own making.

But I concede, as did the honourable Attorney-General, that the government has a role in information promulgation. We do not shrink from undertaking that task. I am just as surprised as he was to find that, in the period that the code has been under discussion, at no time when lawyers from the Aboriginal Legal Aid Services have visited communities have they taken the opportunity to discuss aspects that they say concern them. After all, they say these aspects concern them. But they have not concerned them enough to discuss it once with the people whom they are supposed to represent. Their charter is not simply that of a solicitor to take a client into the court and defend him. They have a much wider charter than that. I do not think that they have carried out the terms of their charter. I fully support my colleague in what he said. The Aboriginal Legal Aid Services should have been consulting with their potential clients because, whilst they certainly have a wide brief in terms of acting as it were without instructions, who are they representing?

It has become very clear from what has been said this morning that the Aboriginal Legal Aid Services have been representing the views of no one but some of the lawyers. I know they do not represent all the views of all the lawyers in their employ. A handful of lawyers in the employ of the Aboriginal Legal Aid Services have very strong views about different aspects of the code, views that, in most cases, are legally incorrect. In one or two cases only, these are views of difference in philosophy. It is quite obvious that this small coterie of lawyers in the Aboriginal Legal Aid Services have embarked on an ego trip quite at their own discretion and without any reference to the people whom they are supposed to be acting for. If they have the time to go around giving plenty of interviews to journalists and to rush down to consult with Victorian barristers, I wonder why they do not have money. I know that they have been doing that because it has been in the papers.

A gentleman who is in the employ of the North Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service was said to be closeted with some Victorian barrister. Not only that, he was closeted for the weekend with the Australian Attorney-General. It was reported in one of the newspapers, either here or nationally that this gentleman, whose name I just cannot remember - although he has been shouting a fair bit lately - was spending the weekend with Senator Evans. Unfortunately, Senator Evans cannot find the time, despite my invitations, to see Mr Des Sturgess, who formulated in great part the Criminal Code, but had to send a representative to talk to him. It is a great shame that the Australian Attorney-General does not want to speak to the 'horse's mouth' but is quite

prepared to talk to these people who, it has now been proven, have gravely misconceived ideas about the Criminal Code.

We will be taking affirmative and positive action to ensure that not only Aboriginal people but the wider public of the Northern Territory are properly informed in relation to the Criminal Code, as best one can deal with such a massive subject. Honourable members can look forward to the commencement of a widespread publicity campaign, reaching into all corners of the community, in the very near future.

Consumer Affairs Reports

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Consumer Affairs Act requires the Commissioner of Consumer Affairs to present an annual report to the Assembly. Why has the report not been presented for 1981 and when will the reports for the years 1981-82 and 1982-83 be presented to the Assembly?

ANSWER

I am not in a position to talk about 1980-81 and 1981-82. I can say that the report to come before the Assembly for this year is on my desk and will be presented to Cabinet before it is presented to the Assembly in the next sittings. On the advice of the honourable member, I will endeavour to table the earlier 2 reports at the same time.

Family Law Court

Ms LAWRIE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

He will recall that, on Thursday 24 March, I drew his attention to the shortcomings and lack of privacy presently faced by people attending the Family Law Court in Darwin. In his considered reply, he acknowledged that there were deficiencies and stated that he would seek advice from court staff and the appropriate officials. Could he now advise the results of those consultations and any action which is likely to ensue?

ANSWER

I can only express to the honourable member my heartfelt penitence at my omission. I have not followed the matter up. I do know that there was a call for information from the various sections of the Department of Law involved in this. I apologise to the honourable member. I will make sure the information is obtained and provided to her without further delay.

ALP Submission to Freight Inquiry

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the minister aware of the content of the Labor Party submission to the recent freight inquiry and, if so, is he able to inform this Assembly if that submission has thrown any light on the freight problems being experienced by Territorians?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the level of questioning has just improved. I read with interest

some weeks ago the submission put forward to the freight inquiry committee by the member for Millner on behalf of the Labor Party. It was one of those documents that would have been very easy to put down at any moment because it had very little in it. I did not do anything or say anything about it because of the nature and the weakness of the document. However, last night, the honourable member took up the time of the Assembly to tell us what a jolly good job he had done in preparing the report to the freight inquiry and how his report would assist the consumers of the Northern Territory.

Ms D'ROZARIO: A point of order, Mr Speaker! This Assembly has constituted an inquiry to examine the matter and the minister is reflecting upon the contents of a submission made to it. It is properly the privilege or right of the inquiry to perform that task.

Mr B. COLLINS: Mr Speaker, the question was phrased: 'Can the minister shed any light on whether the Labor Party's submission assists in the freight problems of the Northern Territory'. Mr Speaker, that is clearly a question seeking an opinion of the minister - a political opinion on a political document. It is completely out of order. Questions must seek information.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, the document is a public document and I am about to provide information if honourable members can restrain themselves for half a moment while I do it. I can understand the situation whereby the honourable members opposite do not want the document spoken about any further.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, I would not have raised the matter of the document myself but, in view of the fact that the member for Millner went to great lengths last night to tell us what a fantastic document it was, I thought I should explode the myth about the great things that the honourable member is doing on our behalf before the freight inquiry. I would like to read about 5 paragraphs from this document. If honourable members will listen to the words carefully, they will understand my concern about how the situation is being represented by the honourable member.

On page 5: 'It is recommended that this inquiry investigate the channels of distribution through which these items are forwarded to the end user in order that any deficiencies present might be exposed, overcome or minimised'. A little further on, it says: 'Any inquiry into freight costs is faced with the task of both segmenting the overall cost structure of goods sold in the marketplace and quantifying these costs on a unit basis'. There are 30 pages of these miscellaneous quotes from high school primers on economics. On another page, we read: 'However, in the absence of any economies of scale and at normal profit levels, a firm reducing its freight rates may increase its volume of trade but would not reduce its per unit cost hence reducing profitability'. It goes on to say: 'There has also been a trend within the transport industry to increase profit performance by differentiating services and then increasing freight rate scales, the argument being that the consumer is prepared to pay a premium for higher-priced services'.

When one starts to analyse all that and read it carefully ...

Ms D'ROZARIO: A point of order, Mr Speaker! This inquiry has not been set up by the minister but by this Assembly. It is not the function of the minister to comment on the evidence that is placed before this inquiry. If he wished to be a member of the inquiry, he should have appointed himself to it. The minister is not just giving information from the submission. He is giving

opinions on the submission as well.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, I can understand why the honourable member would not want a word of this spoken about in the community because, if the average Darwin citizen read that, he would not believe it because no one would understand it anyway.

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, order!

Mr TUXWORTH: I understand the honourable member's frustration and I will try to be brief for her benefit.

Mr B. Collins: It will be the first time in history.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, as the honourable member says, there is a first time in history and I am happy to accommodate him on this occasion.

Mr Speaker, this submission is not about freight in the Northern Territory; it is a collection of paragraphs taken out of high school textbooks. The honourable member for Millner is entitled to his opinion that this is a great submission. I am about to point out that it is not a submission but a series of instructions to the inquiry. It does not outline any facts or problems, present any options or discuss any of the realities of the Northern Territory freight system in any way at all. Nowhere in this submission is anything mentioned but roads. There is no mention of shipping. Given the honourable member's connection with the waterfront ...

Mr B. COLLINS: A point of order, Mr Speaker! This performance is turning the Assembly's freight inquiry into a total fiasco. Apart from that, the minister himself has indicated by his statement that it is not a submission, but a collection of this, that and the other. He is offering political opinions on the document. That is clearly in contravention of the Standing Order 93 which says that answers shall be relevant and opinions cannot be sought. Mr Speaker, the question is completely out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, there is no point of order. My adviser has pointed out that, while opinions may not be sought, that does not prevent the honourable minister giving an opinion.

Mr B. COLLINS: Mr Speaker, I have no argument with that proposition. The point of order is not against the answer but against the original question. I suggest that the wording, which will be reported in Hansard tomorrow, clearly sought an opinion from the minister. I am not objecting to the answer but to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr B. COLLINS: Mr Speaker, I wish to move a dissent from your ruling on this matter.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, I must say that ...

Ms D'ROZARIO: A point of order, Mr Speaker!

Mr SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Ms D'ROZARIO: Mr Speaker, there is a motion of dissent before you.

Mr B. COLLINS: Mr Speaker, perhaps we could seek a Hansard proof of the actual question.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the sittings will be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

Sittings suspended.

Mr Speaker MacFarlane resumed the Chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have checked with the extremely efficient Hansard we have here. The question was: 'Is the minister aware of the content of the Labor Party submission to the recent freight inquiry and, if so, is he able to inform this Assembly if that submission has thrown any light on the freight problems being experienced by Territorians?'

I stick by my ruling. In view of the question asked and the verification of that by Hansard, I request the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw his dissent motion.

Mr B. COLLINS: Mr Speaker, in view of the discussion that was held outside the Chamber and the agreement that was reached and on the understanding that the honourable the minister will withdraw, I will withdraw. If he is satisfied that his statement has been sufficient, I am quite happy to withdraw, and I will withdraw, my motion of dissent.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I am not happy with that. The question is allowable.

Mr B. COLLINS: Mr Speaker, the statement I made was unconditional. I said, in closing: 'I will withdraw my motion of dissent' - unequivocally, I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, I have completed my answer to the question.

Mr ROBERTSON: Mr Speaker, could I seek leave of the Assembly to make a gratuitous comment on how I see procedure in this matter?

Members: No!

Mr ROBERTSON: All right.

Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware of concern from the medical profession about practical problems relating to the Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act, particularly the need for written permission before administering one-dose schedule-A drugs in maternity cases and also relating to repeat prescriptions? If so, will he undertake to investigate these claims and seek to remedy them if possible?

ANSWER

I am aware that there are problems relating to the Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act. In fact, I have received a submission from the Pharmaceutical Association of the hospital and I will undertake to investigate the matter.

Aboriginal -
  associations, user-pays principle 346
  communities, employment studies 295
  Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 287
  Legal Aid Service 379
Aborigines, federal funds 349
Accommodation funding for students from isolated areas 368
ADMA, transfer of stocks of maize 365
Admiralty House 305, 345, 358
Alice Springs -
  high-rise building 323
  power failures 373
  reconstruction of Stuart Highway 356
  sports stadiums, funding 308
  subdivisions 338
Ammaroo School 324
Apprentices 287
Asbestos -
  for Sanderson High School pipes 333
  insulation replacement in NT powerhouses 321
Ayers Rock tragedy 313, 317, 319
Berrimah police complex 333
Bindi Centre 379
Blind and visually-impaired people, qualified teachers for 359
Cane toads 334
Casuarina development site 337
Central Australia, horticultural development 360
Chief Minister's future intentions 312
Chlorination of sewage 370
Community employment program 332
Community Welfare and Juvenile Justice Bills 303
Consultative committee on children's services 365
Consumer Affairs reports 381
Corkwood Bore abattoir 295
Criminal Code, seminar 336, 339, 340
Crop contract scheme 351
Darwin -
  Bus Service 366
  performing arts centre 363
  Port Authority Bill 329, 369
Department of Mines and Energy staff, Litchfield Corporation Ltd 349, 350, 356, 358, 361
Disabled -
  employees, government departments *284, *285, *286
  persons 335
Door-to-door salesman 343
Drinking law, 2 km 288
Electoral rolls 344
Electricity -
  charges 337
  meters, cost of verification 352
  outback communities *283
  subsidy *283
Family Law Court 381
Federal member's assertions on NT funding 364
Female prisoners 378
Firearms licences for private security guards 307
Fish River Station, acquisition *284, 325, 327

Freight inquiry, ALP submission 381
Garbage collection, Darwin 376
Gas pipeline construction, moneys owed 302, 322, 324
Giles House 369
Golden perch at Koolpinyah Station 377
Grants-in-aid 289
Groote Eylandt lock-up 373
Heavitree Gap area, erosion hazard 367
Horse slaughtering *284
Housing Commission -
  dwellings with electric hot water systems 297
  flats 360
  interest rates on loans 325
Howard Springs Reserve 341
Humpty Doo High School 338
Interstate Constructions Pty Ltd 302, 322, 324
Jabiru -
  doctor 375
  local government 366
Kargaru bush camp, lease 287
Katherine, gravel for Mainoru Road 357
Land-backed wharf 368
Lyons Cottage 342, 358
Manton Dam, use for recreational purposes 379
Marina for Frances Bay or Doctor's Gulley 376
Meat processing, hygiene regulations *284
Minister for Transport and Works, ministerial officer in Katherine 315, 316
Moudal Consultants, NTDC loan 296
Mosquito-borne diseases, control 337
Mt Wells battery *283, 377, 378
Myilly Point, development 299, 301, 331
Nabalco, rigging and scaffolding safety procedures 363
National Companies and Securities Scheme *283
Ngaringman Aboriginal lease application 321
Nhulunbuy -
  electricity tariffs 362, 374, 375
  school buildings 335
Northern Land Council -
  chairmanship 314, 315
  legal advisers 288
NTEC, funds 328
Nursing sisters for high schools 364
Oolloo pastoral lease valuation 305
Pastoral leases, possible government acquisition for national parks 306, 308, 347
Payroll tax, collection 336
Perpetual pastoral leases 297
Pine Creek water supply 314
Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act 306
Point Stuart estate, NTDC loan 296
Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act 384
Power-station, Darwin *283
Public holiday for Australia II's victory 318
Public Service Commissioner 357
Railway electrification *283
Rolls for new electorates 328
Rum Jungle rehabilitation 344
Rural Adjustment Scheme 362
Sale of food from vehicles 344

Schools, funding 359
Security in NT prisons 320
Small businesses, government assistance 328
Souery, Edward, NTDC loan 296
Subsidies for freighting liquor to NT 317
Sulphur, stockpiling in rural area 310
Suspension of Standing Orders, censure of minister 354
Teacher -
  positions in NT 316, 329
  ratio to pupils in schools 353
Teachers Federation strike call 370
Tenancy Act 372
Tennant Creek meatworks 297
Terri Hatcheries and Fish Farms Pty Ltd, NTDC loan 310, 311, 329
Territory lottery 331
Timber Creek -
  land claim 288
  school 325
Timorese people 345
Tourist vehicles 313
Townsville Trader, passenger service 339
Traffic flow in inner-city area 368
Trustee Executor and Agency Company 327
Upper Daly River Land Claim 352
Vocational Training Commission, staffing review 295
Water supply agreements with rural residents 362