



DEBATES

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HANSARD

25 February 1993

Thursday, 25 February 1993

Motor Traffic (Alcohol and Drugs) (Amendment) Bill 1993	481
Social Policy - standing committee	481
Standing committees	490
Standing committees	490
Personal explanations	501
Drugs - select committee	503
Canberra in the Year 2020 study	510
Questions without notice:	
Flag - contract	516
Fightback - Treasury analysis	516
Members' staff	517
Laboratory assistants - industrial dispute	519
Hospital beds	519
Parking infringements - penalties	521
Goods and services tax - racing industry	521
ACTTAB	523
Education - administrative structure	525
Territory Plan variation - Griffith	525
Road maintenance	526
ACTION - job vacancy	526
Parking infringements - penalties	527
RSL retirement village	527
Vocational Training Authority - appointments	528
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Conference study trip	528
Papers	528
Canberra in the Year 2020 study (Ministerial statement).....	529
Unemployment (Matter of public importance)	530
Personal explanation	547
Workers' Compensation (Amendment) Bill 1992	547
Personal explanation	550
Adjournment:	
Members' staff	551
Members' staff	553
Members' staff	556
Croatian Embassy	556
State Bank of New South Wales.....	557
ACTION bus drivers	558
Legislative process	558
Federal election	559

Answers to questions:

Government Service - over-award payments (Question No 307)	561
Health portfolio - committees, boards and advisory groups (Question No 336).....	566
Canberra Institute of Technology - fitting and turning courses (Question No 511)	597
University councils - appointments (Question No 522)	598
Government fees and charges - use of credit cards (Question No 523)	599
Planning approvals - fire-damaged house in Garran (Question No 527)	600
Aboriginal sacred sites (Question No 529)	601
Arts organisations - annual reports and financial statements (Question No 531)	602
Arts organisations - annual reports and financial statements (Question No 532)	604
Canberra Theatre Trust - performance statistics (Question No 533)	609
Arts grants program - jazz concerts (Question No 534)	610
Canberra Institute of Technology - possible Tuggeranong campus (Question No 548)	611
Canberra Institute of Technology - semester and term dates (Question No 549)	612
Cook and Lyons primary schools - Year 6 students (Question No 550)	613
Student Representative Council (Question No 552)	614
Homework Club (Question No 553)	615
Florey Primary School - transportable classroom (Question No 554)	616
Canberra Institute of Technology - purchase order for medical advice (Question No 555)	617
ACTEW - Senior Executive Service officer statistics (Question No 572)	618
Rent relief for private tenants (Question No 579)	620
Ministerial Advisory Council on Public Education (Question No 580)	621

Appendix: Vocational Training Authority	623
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Thursday, 25 February 1993

MADAM SPEAKER (Ms McRae) took the chair at 10.30 am and read the prayer.

MOTOR TRAFFIC (ALCOHOL AND DRUGS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993

MR CONNOLLY (Attorney-General, Minister for Housing and Community Services and Minister for Urban Services) (10.31): Madam Speaker, I present the Motor Traffic (Alcohol and Drugs) (Amendment) Bill 1993.

Title read by Clerk.

MR CONNOLLY: I move:

That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

This Bill contains amendments to the Motor Traffic (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1977 to overcome a current defect in that Act. The need for an amendment became apparent following a decision handed down by the ACT Supreme Court on 21 February 1992 whereby a Canberra man succeeded in getting a drink-driving conviction overturned even though his own evidence had suggested that he had a blood alcohol level of at least .089, which is well in excess of .05. The Bill addresses the deficiency in the Act by amending the Act to make it an offence for a driver to have, within a specified time of ceasing to drive, a blood alcohol concentration equal to or in excess of the prescribed blood alcohol concentration.

The amendment will enable the prosecution to rely upon alternative evidence to establish the commission of the offence in the event that the validity of the breath or blood analysis conducted in accordance with the Act is successfully challenged. The right of the driver to challenge the accuracy of a breath or blood analysis will not, however, be affected by the amendments. Madam Speaker, I present the explanatory memorandum for the Bill.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Humphries**) adjourned.

SOCIAL POLICY - STANDING COMMITTEE
Reference - ACT Housing Trust

MR CORNWELL (10.32): Madam Speaker, I move:

That the Standing Committee on Social Policy of this Assembly conduct an inquiry into the operations of the ACT Housing Trust.

Madam Speaker, for the last eight months my office has been rather patiently compiling a dossier, which we have now called "A Question of Trust", on the operations of the ACT Housing Trust over its 12,500 properties. The resulting alphabet of evidence shows an organisation that can no longer properly manage its stock or its tenants because it has simply grown too big, and it continues to grow with annual injections of funds from the Commonwealth through the

25 February 1993

Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. The evidence I have compiled also shows a contempt for the lifestyles of decent Housing Trust tenants through what I term "selective compassion" for a minority. One hardly knows where to begin in addressing this issue but some facts might be a good place to start. Significantly, the information I am about to provide was given by the Housing Trust itself, so I do not believe that anybody can argue its accuracy.

The first point is: The Housing Trust at December 1992 had a waiting list of 7,662 applicants, of whom some 2,357 were in private rental housing and receiving the benefit of rent relief. Where are the remaining 5,305 applicants? I do not accept that they are all staying with friends or relatives but I do suspect, despite the Housing Trust's assurances, that many, if not most, are living interstate and thus are ineligible for ACT Housing Trust accommodation. The truth, according to the Minister, is even stranger and, I might add, renders the applicants just as ineligible. I say this because, according to a letter from the Minister on 19 February 1993, these 5,305 Housing Trust applicants who are on the waiting list but are not receiving rent relief "are either managing in the private rental market without the assistance of rent relief, are not interested in applying for rent relief or are ineligible for such assistance".

What then are these 5,000-odd applicants doing on the trust waiting list where to be accommodated they must satisfy a means test? Are they there deliberately to inflate the trust waiting list in the hope of increased funding and to appear to establish the need to extend the trust empire further? Are they there simply because the waiting list has not been culled recently? I would remind members that 2,519 applications were withdrawn in the 12 months to October 1991. Are they there simply because it is too easy to register? We do not know, but I submit that an inquiry would find out.

The second point is: Why are 10,661 current and vacated accounts at 13 January 1993 in arrears, including 29 owing between \$5,000 and \$9,999 and a further 1,531 owing between \$1,000 and \$4,999? How can a trust tenant run up arrears of over \$5,000? More to the point, how can 29 tenants achieve this dubious honour? It adds up to \$145,000. How could the trust incur total rent arrears of \$4.5m in 1991-92, of which \$2.4m was in what are euphemistically and deliberately termed "vacated accounts"? This is also known as "skipped town" or "written-off rent" - rent lost to the trust and to this community.

Despite a new \$3m computer that the trust has, we do not know why this appalling failure to chase up rents occurred, any more than we know why in December 1992 some 5,975 trust tenants - or 49.47 per cent of tenants - were in arrears. Within a matter of weeks, by 13 January 1993, that figure had climbed to 7,112 or 59.9 per cent of tenants, yet only 1,553 of these had entered into rental arrears agreements. What were the other thousands of tenants in arrears doing? Enjoying Bankcard?

Neither do we know why the Housing Trust writes a letter to tenants in arrears - many of them, I would remind you, low income tenants - only after 28 days, when the private sector chases up outstanding rents within a week. Why is there no adequate procedure to prevent people defaulting on payments? In 1991-92 only \$2,600 of \$162,195 - the total amount outstanding between 1989 and 1992 - was collected. Of equal concern, data is not available for the years prior to 1991-92, so we have no idea how much, if any, default payments were collected in that time. We do not know the reasons for these expensively unsatisfactory events, but, again, an inquiry would find out.

The third point is: How can any rental organisation spend 39.5 per cent or \$16m of its income in 1990-91 on maintenance - incidentally exceeding its budget by a massive 28.6 per cent - and do even better in 1991-92, spending \$20.5m or 48.3 per cent of income on maintenance? South Australia spends 15 per cent and New South Wales 27 per cent. How can anyone spend almost 50 per cent of income on maintenance and then try to justify it, firstly, by claiming that the figure represents only 2 per cent of stock value, which puts the value of stock at \$1 billion; and, secondly, by claiming that the percentage was not almost 50 per cent on maintenance but only 25 per cent because revenue was really \$84m, not \$42m?

How can anyone base their maintenance expenditure on the value of stock? Stock value fluctuates and, in any event, is worth nothing until realised. As for the claim that maintenance is really only 25 per cent, the basis for this creative accounting is that trust revenue really should be \$84m if they had not given a 50 per cent rebate to most tenants. Leaving aside the fact that they cannot even collect most of the rebated rents that are due, how can one make such an absurd defence by basing the percentage on a "might have been" level of rent?

Whatever excuses may be put forward, the fact is that almost 50 per cent of income is expended upon maintenance, yet there is no routine inspection of trust houses, as we know from the Estimates Committee hearings. Because there is no routine inspection, how does the trust ascertain accurately what is fair wear and tear and what is wilful damage? The latter is levied against the tenant, we hope. Further, with no routine inspection, how do we know that the total maintenance costs are not much larger than they need to be, because of longer-term neglect, than is necessary or than is warranted? We do not know the reasons for these staggering amounts or these strange procedures, but again an inquiry would find out.

The fourth point is: Why do so many people have criticisms of the Housing Trust in relation to the rorting of the system? Some examples are de factos in full employment, employed spouses returning to live on the premises or improved financial circumstances after tenants have been granted rental rebate. What about families moving in with pensioner parents to get the benefit of the concessions that those parents enjoy? What about people being allocated three- and four-bedroom properties to which they are not entitled? What about animals in flats and widespread allegations of criminal activities, such as drug dealing?

Why are decent, law-abiding tenants living in fear of a minority of tenants in Housing Trust properties? Why, when action is sought against such troublemakers, does the trust argue that to move the troublemakers would simply "transfer the problem elsewhere"? Why are tenants denied the option of moving into private rental accommodation where rent relief of \$48 per week is cheaper for the taxpayers than the concessions through Housing Trust accommodation? Why is information "not recorded" for ex-prisoners who might have been ACT residents before serving their sentence and then again might not, so they are in fact jumping the current 8,000-applicant waiting list?

What is meant by the statement that I received recently from the Minister? It stated:

In order for people to register for public housing they must live and/or work in the ACT. As the ACT does not have a jail, ex-prisoners who lived and/or worked in the ACT prior to their imprisonment are deemed to have lived in the ACT during their imprisonment.

Does this mean that, if the ACT did have a gaol, someone who came here to commit a crime and was caught and served a sentence here in the ACT could then apply for trust housing, perhaps even priority housing? I do not know. Does the trust bother to find out why people were gaoled, so that "single applicants who are entitled only to one-bedroom accommodation and will therefore be housed in flat complexes" hopefully takes into account the risk of rapists and child molesters, et cetera, not being accommodated too near temptation?

I think that is a matter of concern to everybody. Why do people tell me that the so-called green form, ostensibly to assess continual eligibility for rebates, is treated as a joke by some people and not even received for completion, even over periods of several years, by others? Why are up-market trust properties rented for ludicrous amounts - like one in Hopetoun Circuit, Yarralumla, at \$150 per week? Why are other trust properties leased out to diplomatic embassies, as was said in the *Canberra Times* this morning? And why are trust properties like Burnie Court, a potentially pleasant environment, being used as a dumping ground for people who cannot be accommodated elsewhere? Bedsitters are damaged and vandalised and, again, tenants live in fear. Again, I suggest that an inquiry would find out.

To conclude, I believe that I have demonstrated sufficient areas of concern in the trust's operations, the evidence for which I remind members has been largely provided by the trust itself in replies to my questions on notice. The trust does not seem to appreciate that it has a responsibility to the Australian taxpayer, to the ACT ratepayer and to all its tenants, rather than to an irresponsible minority, to manage its affairs in a businesslike and firm but fair manner. The Housing Trust's level of outstanding debt, its lack of control of its waiting list and its selective compassion to a minority all would indicate that this is not the case. The Housing Trust has allowed its philosophy to become imbued with an extreme interpretation of the social justice concept which appears to permit all sorts of abuses of the system and of other people to take place in the name of some perverted sense of equality and of equity.

In its quest for social justice for some, the Housing Trust cannot override the social justice expectations of the many. Problem tenants also have responsibilities as well as their much vaunted rights. I am not convinced that the political will exists to create the attitudinal change necessary in the trust to make its administration either efficient, cost-effective or even-handedly compassionate. I also believe that there are many unanswered questions about the operations of the ACT Housing Trust that need to be addressed. I would hope that I have demonstrated enough of these concerns to seek and to obtain the support of the Assembly for a public inquiry into the operations of the ACT Housing Trust by the Assembly's Social Policy Committee.

MR CONNOLLY (Attorney-General, Minister for Housing and Community Services and Minister for Urban Services) (10.46): Madam Speaker, the tirade we have just heard represents yet again the Liberal Party's ideological obsession with destroying public housing. On repeated occasions in this place we have heard Mr De Domenico and Mr Westende saying that a budget solution for the ACT would be to flog off our public housing and get our level of public housing, which is 12 per cent of the housing stock in the ACT, down to the level of about 5 per cent, which is what it is in New South Wales. So there are two Liberals who have said in the chamber that we should be flogging off half our public housing. Mr De Domenico is enthusiastically nodding. They want to flog off our public housing.

Last year Mr Cornwell was ranting and raving against a women's shelter which he was disparagingly referring to as a "Club Med". There is a sort of hatred of provisions for people who are disadvantaged and in crisis - you just ridicule them; you try to pretend to the community that they are living in some sort of luxurious palace. It is an extreme, right-wing, ideologically driven opposition to public housing. "Flog it off", say two of them. Marginalise it out in the suburbs, the fringes of Canberra. Do in the ACT what Liberal governments did in the 1960s in New South Wales and Victoria - build Housing Trust ghettos and get rid of all the Housing Trust stock in the inner city areas.

One of the great things about public housing in this Territory is that it is spread throughout every suburb of Canberra. There is not a suburb in Canberra that does not have a Housing Trust house in it. There was a developer in Gungahlin that was advertising on the basis that it did not have any public housing, and I made sure that we went and bought a block. We will ensure that there is public housing scattered throughout Canberra. We do not take the approach that Dr Hewson took, namely, "You can tell the renters because they are living in ragged houses". That is Dr Hewson's approach; that is the Liberal Party's approach - flog off public housing.

Mr Cornwell: On a point of order, Madam Speaker: Relevance to the matter before the Assembly.

MR CONNOLLY: The relevance here is that I am saying that Labor believes in integrating housing; you people believe in marginalising it.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! If we had a bit of order, it might make it easier to follow the logic of all this.

MR CONNOLLY: Madam Speaker, the most extraordinary new proposition that came up today - there were not too many new ones, but there was one - is one which is going to cause Mr Humphries great embarrassment. Mr Humphries is wont to parade around the Territory being the champion of prisoners' rights and generally attacking the Government for being hard and uncaring and not doing the right thing for prisoners. Mr Cornwell has a proposition that if you have ever been to prison you have a tattoo on your forehead, "This person was convicted for an offence, so he cannot be moved into a Housing Trust house".

Mr Kaine: I raise a point of order, Madam Speaker. What the Minister is saying is a gross distortion of the member's view on this matter, and I suspect that he should withdraw it and stick to the facts.

25 February 1993

MR CONNOLLY: I will withdraw "tattoo on the forehead"; I was speaking figuratively. What he said was that it is outrageous that people who have been to prison can move into public housing.

Mrs Carnell: No, he did not say that either.

MR CONNOLLY: He did. He said that people who may have served a sentence for rape or for assault are being moved into public housing near families and are being exposed to temptation. That is what he said.

Mr Kaine: I raise a point of order. Mr Cornwell did not say that it is outrageous. The Minister should stick to the facts and stop distorting what Mr Cornwell has said. Withdraw it.

MR CONNOLLY: Mr Cornwell has attacked the proposition that people who leave prison can move into Housing Trust properties near other people. The implication that one draws from that is that people who have once served a term of imprisonment are to be forever marginalised. I can assure you, Mr Humphries, that Mr Cornwell's precise words with no embellishment from me will be sent to every prisoners group in the community. You may have some embarrassing opportunities to explain to these people just what your colleague means by that extraordinary proposition that once you have served a term of imprisonment you are to be somehow quarantined in a sort of pseudo prison away from any other member of the community. It is an extraordinary proposition.

Mr Cornwell: So rapists and child molesters presumably are all right. Is that okay?

MR CONNOLLY: Mr Cornwell, the person who purchases the house next to my house or privately rents the house two doors up from my house may well have served a term of imprisonment for anything. There is simply no difference in who goes into a public house or a private house on those criteria. You are suggesting some new test, that if you have served a term of imprisonment for a particular offence - and we are not quite sure what ones it would cover - you are somehow to be treated differently from any other member of the community in public housing but not in private housing. That is an extraordinary proposition that somehow suggests that you forever serve out your term of imprisonment.

These so-called facts that have been put before the Assembly today really are nothing new. The call for an inquiry is merely a political stunt. We spent hours and hours in the Estimates Committee going through just these facts. Last year in its report the Estimates Committee, in effect, gave the trust a clean bill of health. It made no comment on the Housing Trust, no specific recommendations, no call for any inquiry, no call for any further explanations. So the suggestion that there is a need for an inquiry is rather inconsistent after Mr Cornwell ran this same sort of line for hours and hours before the Estimates Committee. The Estimates Committee did not see any problem with the Housing Trust. There were areas where the Estimates Committee had said that we should inquire into this or report further on that or do this or whatever, but there was nothing on the Housing Trust.

Madam Speaker, I will deal with some of Mr Cornwell's more extraordinary manipulations of statistics to give a result which he claims to be alarming. Firstly, Mr Cornwell relates repairs and maintenance - we spend about \$20m - to the cash income from rents of \$42.5m and he comes up with a 50 per cent expenditure level. Every public housing authority in Australia measures its expenditure on repairs and maintenance as a proportion of its asset base. When you look at expenditure on repairs and maintenance compared with other authorities, New South Wales spends 1.28 per cent, Victoria 1.58 per cent, Queensland 1.79 per cent, the ACT 1.87 per cent, Western Australia 2.39 per cent, Tasmania 2.58 per cent and South Australia 3.04 per cent. So the ACT is spending about in the middle of the range of repairs and maintenance to the asset base. Where is the scandal? There are the figures; we sit right in the middle. An expenditure level of around \$20m is split up into \$5m on cyclical management, \$9.7m on urgent and minor repairs and \$4.5m on property updates.

Is Mr Cornwell saying that we should be running down our asset base? Is Mr Cornwell saying that people who live in public housing should have to tolerate broken windows, broken doors?

Mr Kaine: No, he is not saying that.

MR CONNOLLY: He is saying that we spend too much, Mr Kaine, and if we spent less tenants in public housing would be enduring that. We are spending precisely in the mid-range of the amounts that are spent by similar public housing authorities in Australia measured as a proportion of the asset base. This is how it gets measured. So, nonsense!

Through the building assets management section of the Department of Urban Services we are undertaking a major review of the way we undertake our maintenance. We are achieving some significant savings through workplace reform and changes at the level where tradesmen and multiskilling efficiencies are being achieved. We have done away with an absurd system which prevailed under the former Government, where, in effect, if you had a broken window, you rang up the Housing Trust and they sent out a Housing Trust inspector. The Housing Trust inspector said, "Yes, I think you have a broken window", and rang up the Department of Urban Services. They sent out an inspector who said, "Yes, madam, you have a broken window", and went back to the depot and sent somebody out to fix the window. We are doing away with that multiple inspection level of absurdity. So we are achieving things.

Mr Cornwell has made a great play that rental arrears are at about \$5.5m, and indeed that would be a matter of real concern. The figure is quite correct, but he omits to relate it to the amount of rent receivable. To determine the acceptability or otherwise of a level of current arrears - and current arrears are \$2.65m - any professional and impartial observer would relate that level to the current rent receivable, which is about \$90.3m. Looked at that way, current arrears have remained constant at between 2.5 per cent and 2.9 per cent of rent receivable over the past two years.

25 February 1993

That is a level of rental arrears which is not unreasonable in an organisation of this nature. The rather dramatic figures - that over half of the tenants are in current arrears - look very bad, I will grant you, Mr Cornwell. Most of those tenants, while technically in arrears, are in arrears for less than two weeks. That has occurred because we have recently had a change in policy in the trust where, instead of charging tenants rent in arrears, we now seek rent in advance. So tenants who for many, many years have been paying their rent at the end of the fortnight are required by a change of policy last year to pay rent in advance. That has meant that a lot of tenants have not fully adjusted and have a sort of two-week standing arrears on their account. We are gradually trying to whittle that down.

If you had a situation where over half the tenants were not paying their rent, I would agree that that was a major problem. As of now, we have over half our tenants in arrears; but, of those, 3,800 - the majority of that arrears group - are in arrears for less than two weeks and that has occurred primarily because we have changed our rental collection policy to get rent in advance rather than rent in arrears. Presumably it is the sort of housekeeping measure which you would favour because it is tightening up somewhat. It will take some time for people to adjust, so it is not really an overly dramatic situation.

Mr Cornwell: Tell me about the big ticket arrears.

MR CONNOLLY: A lot of those big ticket arrears occur because a person has been claiming a rebate which they are not entitled to. When that is adjusted you can suddenly get a large arrears amount which needs to be recovered.

Mr Humphries: When they are caught.

MR CONNOLLY: When they are caught. We could catch more if we had, for our 12,500 tenants, 12,500 inspectors. We would probably need three lots because we would need eight-hour shifts. We would need 36,000 so that we had somebody living in every house, all the time, in order to check whether anyone's eligibility changed from moment to moment, or hour to hour. It would be absurd.

Mr Cornwell: So you are just allowing this to go on, are you?

MR CONNOLLY: No, we do not. We investigate matters. We look at them; we evict. Some years ago a Labor Federal Minister made the unfortunate statement in the media - this was back in the Whitlam Government days - that the ACT housing authorities never evict. As a result of that, virtually everybody stopped paying their rent. We do evict and, indeed, over the recent three-month period some 70 eviction notices have been issued. Most cases do not actually lead to eviction because when the eviction notice is received people do get the message that we are serious and satisfactory arrangements are put in place.

I think the only way that we and other housing authorities will get on top of the arrears problem is through the introduction, which is very imminent, of an arrangement whereby social security recipients can have their public housing rental direct deducted - that is, they will not get the cash which they then have to pass to the trust. They will get their DSS cheque - - -

Mr Cornwell: But this is only voluntary, is it not, Minister?

MR CONNOLLY: It will be voluntary, but we will be able to give significant encouragement for people to move to that system. The current arrears, as I say, are about 2.5 per cent to 2.9 per cent of rent. The vacated arrears - which Mr Cornwell is critical of - grow forever in the ACT system because we tend to be reluctant to write off bad debts. Some of these people who have done a bunk, gone to Queensland, gone wherever, died perhaps, may come back, and if they come back - - -

Mr Cornwell: Do let me know.

MR CONNOLLY: Not those who died, Mr Cornwell. If we keep the debt on the books, we can catch up with people who return to Canberra and re-register for public housing. Victoria has a remarkably good record on this. It has virtually no vacated debt because they automatically write it off their Housing Authority's books. They pass it notionally to debt collectors who can never do anything but produce accounts which look rather attractive. The simple fact is that the vacated arrears figure steadily grows in the ACT - it is \$2.5m now. In 10 or 15 years' time it will be much greater because with people who do a bunk it just sits on the books. What do you do, Mr Cornwell? Do we employ 20,000 people to comb every caravan park and tenement in Australia to try to pursue someone who may have lived in the ACT? That is one of the reasons why we have moved to rent in advance rather than rent in arrears. When you people were running the show, you did not have the wit to introduce such schemes. We, however, have had the wit to introduce such schemes.

The issue of bad tenants is an emotive one. It is easy for Mr Cornwell to say, "You should shift people", but you must give people rights; you must hear both sides of the case. You, presumably, want me to have the power to evict that Housing Trust tenant. Should it apply to private tenants as well if you have a dispute with your neighbour? If your neighbour says, "Look, I have had a blue with Mr Cornwell; he keeps his sprinkler on and it gets my cat wet", should I have the power to come in and say, "Mr Cornwell, your neighbour says that you are a nasty resident and you must leave the house"? Obviously, that would be absurd, and what you are suggesting, Mr Cornwell, is just as absurd.

Private tenants and public tenants all have rights and we have to balance the complaint of one party with the complaint of another. In most neighbour cases you will find that both sides are making accusations against the other. However, where the problems are intractable we do move people and we do it on a quite regular basis. The attack on public housing which we heard from Mr Cornwell, as I have said, is nothing new. It was gone into in great depth in the Estimates Committee last year; they did not find any problems with these allegations that Mr Cornwell was making then. I do not think any inquiry would take the matter any further. This is a political attack, and I would urge members to reject this call for a wasteful and politically motivated inquiry.

Debate (on motion by **Ms Szuty**) adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEES
Amendment of Resolution of Appointment

MR MOORE (11.01): Madam Speaker, I seek leave to move a motion regarding the resolution of appointment of the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Leave granted.

MR MOORE: Madam Speaker, I move:

That:

- (1) paragraph (2) of the resolution of appointment of the General Purpose Standing Committees, as amended on 7 April 1992, be omitted and the following paragraph be substituted:
- "(2) The Standing Committee on Conservation, Heritage and Environment and the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs shall consist of three members, and the Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Infrastructure and the Standing Committee on Social Policy shall consist of five members."
- (2) Paragraph (2) of the resolution of appointment of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, as amended on 7 April 1992, be amended by omitting "four members" and substituting "five members".

The motion changes the number of people on the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs and the Public Accounts Committee in order that we can then have a second motion that would change the appointment of members to those committees.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

STANDING COMMITTEES
Membership

MR MOORE (11.02): I seek leave to move a motion regarding the membership of the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Standing Committee on Social Policy.

Leave granted.

MR MOORE: I move:

That:

- (1) Ms Szuty be appointed to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs;
- (2) Mr Moore be appointed to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts; and
- (3) Ms Szuty be discharged from the Standing Committee on Social Policy on 16 March 1993, and Mr Moore be appointed in her place.

Madam Speaker, it has been obvious in this Assembly that the issue has been raised as to whether the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs in particular has been working particularly well. Although the issue has not been raised in terms of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Ms Szuty and I in discussion, and in discussion with other members, determined that we were prepared to take a place on those committees. In doing so, we feel that it would suit our own interests, and, we believe, the interests of the Assembly as a whole and the interests of the community, if Ms Szuty were discharged from the Standing Committee on Social Policy and I took her place there. As much as anything, this would more evenly distribute our workload.

Motion (by **Mr Kaine**) put:

That the debate be adjourned.

The Assembly voted -

AYES, 7

Mrs Carnell
Mr Cornwell
Mr De Domenico
Mr Humphries
Mr Kaine
Mr Stevenson
Mr Westende

NOES, 10

Mr Berry
Mr Connolly
Ms Ellis
Ms Follett
Mrs Grassby
Mr Lamont
Ms McRae
Mr Moore
Ms Szuty
Mr Wood

Question so resolved in the negative.

MR Kaine (Leader of the Opposition) (11.07): Madam Speaker, I moved the adjournment of this debate because it had not been discussed with me. I remind members that I do happen to be - - -

Mr Berry: You cannot speak to it.

MR Kaine: I am debating the motion, Minister. Do you mind? I am entitled to debate this motion, am I not, or are you going to come up with some standing order that says that I cannot even debate the issue now?

Mr Berry: I thought you were debating the adjournment. My apologies.

MR Kaine: I moved the adjournment because this is a not insignificant issue. The matter has not been discussed with me in any way, and I remind members of the Assembly that I do remain Leader of the Opposition, although members opposite would like that not to be the case. If somebody is going to move for the restructuring of committees, surely it is a matter that should be discussed broadly and openly before it is jackbooted through this house. If Mr Moore and Ms Szuty have some interest in changing their membership on committees, why did they not come and discuss it with me?

Ms Follett: Why did your Whip not talk to you?

MR KAINE: It has not been discussed with anybody, Chief Minister. I understand that Ms Szuty came down the corridor half an hour ago and told a couple of members of the Liberal Party that they were going to do it. This is your interpretation of consultation. You are like this lot over here. You come and tell somebody that you intend to do something. You do not intend to debate it in any way, and you do not intend to debate it now. You have the numbers and you are going to ram it through.

Madam Speaker, I remind members of this Assembly that there is a standing order that talks about representation on committees in proportion to numbers. These two so-called Independents have a higher representation on committees, even now, than they are entitled to under the standing orders, because they have a deal with you. That is why they have a higher membership. Now you are proposing to increase that. I suggest, Chief Minister and members of the Government, that you might think about that. This used to be a democratic institution. It is now nothing but a chamber for you people to impose on the rest of us whatever you feel inclined to do, without discussion.

Mr Moore: You did not do that when you were in the Alliance! Ha, ha!

MR KAINE: The great democrat, Mr Moore, laughs. Mr Moore has no interest in having anything debated here or anywhere else, unless it is one of his Bills. Then he gets very interested in community consultation and discussion, and this is a typical case. Mr Moore does not want to debate this because he has made a deal. Mr Moore is going to get an additional committee position out of this, and you people are all happy about it. Quite frankly, you amaze me and, quite frankly, you appal me.

If this is to be done, let us talk about it and think about it and reach some agreement on it. What would you do if I came in this morning and suggested an amendment that put an additional Liberal on every committee in this Assembly? You would resist it because you would argue that we were asking for more than we were entitled to. But you are prepared to go along with these two Independents, the tails wagging the dog, and give them a number of places on committees that they are not entitled to. Why? Because Mr Moore wants to influence the outcomes on some issues that he cannot currently influence. Is this in the interests of the members of the Government? Is this in your interests? Why do you not look me in the eye, just one of you? You all look away because you do not want to hear what I have to say. You have not the courage of any convictions.

You allow Mr Moore's tail to wag the dog. You allow Mr Moore to determine the issues for you, and he is going to continue to do it for the life of this Assembly. If you people are so gutless that you allow this to occur, you all go down considerably in my estimation. Quite frankly, I cannot believe that you can attempt to impose this on the Assembly without the opportunity to discuss it, without the opportunity to think about the ramifications. I hope that Mr Lamont, of all people, will listen to what I have to say.

I am opposed to this because it has not been discussed with us in any way. No reasons have been put forward, except that, as Mr Moore said in his introductory speech, it suits him and Ms Szuty. Do we put members on committees of this Assembly, do we allow them positions on committees way beyond their entitlement under our standing orders, simply because it suits them? If that is the rationale, you have to accept the next amendment I put forward that says that every committee of the Assembly shall have an additional Liberal on it, because that suits us. We do not have enough representation on those committees and I want an additional Liberal on every committee.

Are you going to buy that? Mr Connolly is not. Look at the sneer on his face. Of course he is not going to buy it, but he buys it from Mr Moore because they have some deal cooking, and we will see the results of that at some time in the next few weeks. Madam Speaker, I am appalled.

Mr Berry: You are making a big fool of yourself.

MR Kaine: I am not making a fool of myself. I am showing you up for what you are.

MS SZUTY (11.12): Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to refute Mr Kaine's accusation about not discussing this with the Opposition. In fact, I discussed it with your Opposition Whip yesterday afternoon in the chamber. This morning, as a courtesy, I came to see Mr Cornwell and Mr Humphries.

Mr De Domenico: What were you told by the Whip, though, Ms Szuty?

MS SZUTY: Madam Speaker, this was discussed with the Opposition Whip yesterday in the chamber. It was something that I wanted the Opposition to be acquainted with before this motion was moved today. Mr Moore's motion nominates Mr Moore and me to membership of two Assembly committees on which we are not represented. They are the Legal Affairs Committee, chaired by Mr Humphries, and the Public Accounts Committee, chaired by Mr Kaine. Our platform states quite explicitly that the role of Assembly committees should be strengthened. Mr Moore and I believe that these two Assembly committees will work more productively with us represented on them. The committees of the Assembly - comprising as they do, Government, Opposition and Independent members - work well in a non-political manner on most occasions to resolve issues by consensus, generally by means of public inquiry. Mr Moore and I are therefore keen to take up our responsibilities by nominating ourselves for the two committees on which we are not currently represented.

I am also seeking discharge from the Social Policy Committee, Mr Moore being keen to take my place. I want to say on the record that my decision in no way reflects on the current membership of the Social Policy Committee and that I have thoroughly enjoyed my work with Ms Ellis as presiding member, Mrs Grassby, Mrs Carnell and Mr Cornwell, most particularly in examining aged accommodation and support services, our inquiry being completed in 1992. Madam Speaker, this discharge will take effect from the time the Social Policy Committee presents to you on 16 March its report on the Adoption Bill 1992. Mr Moore's Select Committee on Drugs will be dissolved shortly, at the wish of this Assembly, and he is keen to pursue his interest in social issues. This will suit me at this time, as my work on the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Committee in particular, which is currently considering the Territory Plan, takes up much of my time.

25 February 1993

MR BERRY (Minister for Health, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Sport) (11.15): The first thing I want to say, Madam Speaker, is that I observed a discussion going on between Mr Moore and the Opposition Whip yesterday in this chamber and I saw the same piece of paper.

Mr De Domenico: You do not know what you are talking about. On a point of order, Madam Speaker: I claim to have been misrepresented.

MADAM SPEAKER: At the end of the debate you may use standing order 46 or 47 to do that, Mr De Domenico.

MR BERRY: You can leap to your feet in the course of this debate, the same as Mr Kaine. You can be as agitated as you wish.

Mr De Domenico: All I have to say now is: Who is a liar now, Mr Berry?

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr De Domenico, you will have to - - -

Mr Kaine: He asked that question yesterday and you ruled that it was not unparliamentary.

MADAM SPEAKER: I will treat that as a rhetorical question, Mr De Domenico, but I warn you not to use that expression to - - -

Mr Kaine: Warn the Minister, too, please, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Kaine, I will take your advice. I warn all members not to use such expressions. Please proceed, Mr Berry.

MR BERRY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The facts are that, prior to the consideration of a motion in this place in April 1992, there was much discussion between various parties about who would take places on the respective committees.

Mr Kaine: Yes, and the Labor Party welshed on the agreement and put a chairman in contrary to what you had agreed.

MR BERRY: Anybody that says - - -

Mr Kaine: That is the fact.

MR BERRY: I think what needs to be made clear here is that there was an attempt to get some sort of cooperative arrangement for all of the committees.

Mr Kaine: And you flunked it.

MR BERRY: Madam Speaker, I would not mind having the chance to speak without interjections from the agitated Leader of the Opposition, who is just about to be made a fool of.

Mr Connolly: Again.

MR BERRY: Again and again. Your leadership is in dire straits because it is poor leadership. I can see the green eyes all around you. Madam Speaker, I played the role of honest broker in all of this in an attempt to get all players to participate in a committee system. Members will know and recall - some of them may not; I may be able to excuse the Leader of the Opposition on this score - that there was a gap in the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs. There were only two members on it, and it was always my intention that members should participate in these committees. I think that is a reflection of the principles of the standing orders.

You may or may not like the Independents participating in these committees, but I think it is fair that they do. There was also a gap on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts; it was two Labor and two Liberal. There was one Labor and one Liberal on the Legal Affairs Committee. It was always our view that the Independents should participate, and if you think back carefully you may recall that we complained that they were not participating.

Mr Kaine: It was always our view that one of the committees should have had our chairmanship. You agreed, and then you welshed.

MR BERRY: Which one?

Mr Kaine: The one that Mr Moore chairs.

MR BERRY: Fair enough. He is doing a good job.

Mr Kaine: So you do welsh and you reckon that is okay.

MR BERRY: No, nobody is welshing. What people are doing here is ensuring that there is participation on all committees. You do not like it. The Liberals have always been born to be in charge. They just cannot get over it when they have to share some of the decision making around this place. The Leader of the Opposition is being made a fool of. He knows that the gaps were there and they were always going to be filled.

Mr Kaine: There were never any gaps there, Minister. You are making this up.

MR BERRY: The nose on your face - it is as plain as that. It is as plain as the nose on your face. I have to say that I have screeched loud and long about the refusal of Mr Stevenson to participate in certain committees, and you have echoed that screech.

Mr Kaine: That has nothing to do with giving Mr Moore and Ms Szuty more seats than they are entitled to. That is a different issue altogether.

MR BERRY: It has nothing to do with it; it is different! You have a bit of a burr under your saddle now about Mr Moore and Ms Szuty participating in the committees, where they should have participated in the first place. I am very pleased that they have decided to participate in these committees because that has always been the way forward as far as this Assembly is concerned.

I know that Mr Kaine is referring to standing order 221, and he is going to argue that committees should be composed of representatives of all groups and parties in the Assembly as nearly as practicable in proportion to their representation in the Assembly. I know that you are going to take the fine line and say, "There are fewer of them and more of us". You can say that we can hack a leg off

25 February 1993

a Liberal or half an Independent and half a Liberal and all that sort of silly nonsense. I think perhaps a lobotomy has occurred anyway. You are absolutely refusing to accept the facts of history. The facts of history are that there were gaps in committee representation, gaps which ought to have been filled by the Independents, and they will now be filled as a result of this motion. It was discussed with your Whip. If your Whip is keeping secrets from you, that is your problem, not ours.

MR STEVENSON (11.22): Mr Berry mentioned that there was an attempt to get a cooperative arrangement, and it may be that there was not quite enough time for that. That is why I voted for the adjournment. If there are a number of members in this Assembly who feel that the arrangements should be looked at with a little more time rather than late yesterday, when they found out, I think that is reasonable.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Stevenson, could you confine your remarks to the motion, please.

MR STEVENSON: What is the motion, please, Madam Speaker?

Mr Moore: That Ms Szuty be appointed to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs and Mr Moore to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and that Ms Szuty be discharged from the Social Policy Committee and Mr Moore put there.

Mr Kaine: What is he talking about if he is not talking about that?

Mr Moore: He was reflecting on the vote to adjourn.

MADAM SPEAKER: It is a good idea not to talk about the vote, Mr Stevenson.

MR STEVENSON: As to whether or not that should happen, I think it is reasonable that the matter be adjourned. That does not necessarily have to reflect on a past vote; it can reflect on a future vote.

Mr Berry also said something about screeching. I take up the point that in the first three years of the Assembly I nominated for the Public Accounts Committee. I was blocked by members who have done a lot of screeching in this place. I nominated for the Administration and Procedures Committee. I was blocked by members who do a lot of screeching in this house. I nominated for another committee. I was further blocked by members who do a lot of screeching in this house. As a sop, I was told that I was on the Cultural Activities and Facilities Committee. No-one asked me; I was told. This is how we have some sort of democratic say. I was on one committee, and obviously that was only because it was thought that I could not do much damage on the Social Policy Committee; they would have to give me one or it would just look too blatant.

I think there was a bit of a problem with that one. The fluoride inquiry came down to the Social Policy Committee. You would have been a lot better off creating a select committee for that. The 177-page dissenting report records that history very well. You would well understand, although you may not agree with it, that I use my time extremely well to benefit the community and to help groups in Canberra. You may not like that, but I will continue to do it.

MR HUMPHRIES (11.26): Madam Speaker, I also am disturbed by the tendency to do deals behind closed doors in this place and to effect changes to the way in which our committee system works by agreements which are worked out but which the Liberal Party is involved with only afterwards - to be advised about the changes that have been made, not to be consulted about whether those changes should be made in the first place. Those opposite might care to characterise that in some different way for the benefit of the public gallery and the media, but I have no doubt at all that the discussions about these changes to committees occurred quite some time before late last night, that they went on for quite some time before they were first raised with us, and that agreement was substantially reached between the Government and the Independents before this matter was broached with the Liberal Party.

Madam Speaker, we rely on standing order 221. It is a perfectly clear and sensible standing order, which states:

Membership of committees shall be composed of representatives of all groups and parties in the Assembly as nearly as practicable proportional to their representation in the Assembly.

How near to practicable is representation by our two Independent members on the Assembly? I have just had a quick look at the figures. At present the Liberals hold about 35 per cent of the seats in the Assembly and we hold about 37 per cent of seats on committees. So there is an approximate parity, with a slight surplus in our favour, between the number of seats we hold on committees and the number of seats we hold in the Assembly. The Australian Labor Party holds 47 per cent of the seats in the Assembly and 47 per cent of seats on committees. If they came forward with a proposal to put more ALP members on committees, we would not be able to argue with that. The Independents hold, between the two of them, 11 per cent of the seats - - -

Ms Follett: There are three of them.

MR HUMPHRIES: No, Mr Stevenson is not getting any benefit from this, Chief Minister. He is not part of the gravy train of more committee seats. It is just Mr Moore and Ms Szuty, with respect. For their part, they hold only 11 per cent of the seats in the Assembly and they have now 21 per cent of the seats on committees - almost double their entitlement on the basis of standing order 221.

Mr Moore: No; you are missing the word "practicable".

MR HUMPHRIES: There is nothing practicable about having double representation. If we are looking at as nearly as practicable fair representation, Mr Moore - through you, Madam Speaker - you would be on at least one less committee and so would Ms Szuty. That would be a fair balance. But, rather than taking yourselves off committees, you are putting yourselves on more. You might think you have the right to sit on every committee of the Assembly and have your finger in every pie, but that is not what the standing orders say.

25 February 1993

Mr Moore: No, we are not both trying to get on each one; we are sharing them out.

MR HUMPHRIES: You will get your chance, Mr Moore. That is not what the standing orders say. If you are not happy with the standing orders, do another deal with your friends over here and change the standing orders. Say, "Membership shall be as nearly as practicable proportional to representation, unless we are Independents, in which case we are entitled to a seat on every committee". If that is what you want, say it, but do not pretend that you are in some way justified in making this change. It is nothing more, as Mr Kaine said, than a tawdry little deal.

MR DE DOMENICO (11.30): Madam Speaker, I rise to tell the truth about things I have been involved with. Mr Berry was not even around when they happened.

Mr Berry: Madam Speaker, there is a clear imputation there that other speakers have not, and I think he has to withdraw that.

MR DE DOMENICO: I imputed nothing, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: That is for me to judge, Mr De Domenico. You are making a clear imputation that other members have not told the truth. I ask you to withdraw that imputation.

MR DE DOMENICO: Madam Speaker, I will repeat - - -

MADAM SPEAKER: I am asking you to withdraw the imputation, not your statements.

MR DE DOMENICO: I am just trying to reflect, Madam Speaker. With the greatest respect, I said that I was going to rise and tell the truth about the occasions on which I was present and nobody else was. That is not an imputation at all. I am just saying that I am going to tell the truth about the meetings I was present at.

MADAM SPEAKER: Since you have decided to say outright that there is no imputation whatsoever, I accept that.

MR DE DOMENICO: Last night, after the Assembly adjourned, Ms Szuty came over to me and said that Mr Moore and she intended to make certain changes to committees. I said, "Let us have them in writing and we will consider them". That is what I said. Point No. 2 is that at the Liberal Party meeting this morning I did discuss with my colleagues the fact that Ms Szuty had approached me last evening, after the Assembly had adjourned and I was walking out through the gates here, and asked me about these committees and I said to let us have it in writing. Mr Moore came across to me at about 10.32 this morning and showed me these notices that he handed out.

Mr Moore: What about during the sitting yesterday?

MR DE DOMENICO: No, you did not show me these during the sitting yesterday.

Mr Moore: I gave you a written one.

MR DE DOMENICO: No, you did not.

Mr Moore: Yes, I did.

MR DE DOMENICO: Where is it? You did not give me anything in writing, Mr Moore; I am sorry. Have you a copy of it?

MADAM SPEAKER: It is Mr De Domenico's speech, Mr Moore. Please continue, Mr De Domenico.

MR DE DOMENICO: Madam Speaker, Mr Moore did not give me a written copy of anything yesterday. Had Mr Moore given me a copy yesterday, as he says he did, I would not have asked Ms Szuty last night to put it in writing. For Mr Berry, who was not there when Ms Szuty and I spoke, to stand up and allege to know what Ms Szuty and I said is a bit of humbug. Mr Berry was not there, so he does not know what I said or what Ms Szuty said, unless Ms Szuty told him.

Mr Berry: Mr Moore told me what he had done.

MR DE DOMENICO: Mr Moore told him what Ms Szuty said to me, did he? As far as I am aware, Mr Lamont is the Government Whip, not Ms Szuty or Mr Moore.

Mr Kaine: Or Mr Berry.

MR DE DOMENICO: Or Mr Berry. As Opposition Whip, I have not heard from Mr Berry or Mr Lamont about what the Government's intentions were. Obviously Mr Lamont and Mr Berry have spoken to Mr Moore and Ms Szuty and made up their minds in advance. That is fine. If you want to get into bed with Mr Moore, Mr Berry, that is your prerogative. If you want to increase Mr Moore's and Ms Szuty's standings on committees in order in the future to give them more staff, that is your prerogative and the Chief Minister's prerogative, but you cannot break standing order 221.

Mr Humphries said, quite rightly, that Mr Moore and Ms Szuty already have double the representation they are entitled to. I do not know what deal you have made, but you have obviously made some deal which says, "Okay, you can have whatever you like as long as we get something back in return, perhaps politically". That is your business. We are not going to do deals with Mr Moore. If you want to do deals with Mr Moore and if you want to break standing orders, in our opinion, it is your prerogative to do that. Let us make no mistake that in the discussions I had as Opposition Whip with Ms Szuty yesterday I said to Ms Szuty, "I want it in writing". I did not receive from Mr Moore anything in writing.

25 February 1993

Mr Moore: I will explain that.

MR DE DOMENICO: You will explain that? Did you give me something in writing?

Mr Moore: Yes.

MR DE DOMENICO: When?

Mr Moore: I will explain it.

MR DE DOMENICO: I did not receive anything in writing from Mr Moore yesterday. The first thing in writing I got from Mr Moore was when he came to me this morning at 10.32 and showed me these pieces of paper. That is why the Liberal Party moved to adjourn the debate. That was the first time we had seen anything in writing.

MR MOORE (11.34), in reply: Madam Speaker, in one sense Mr De Domenico is correct in saying that he did not receive something in writing. I recall what happened. I wrote out the form of the motion, which the secretariat has changed to make it more workable and to put it into a more appropriate form. One of those I wrote with a fountain pen, and that is the one I can see now on Mr Lamont's desk. One I wrote with my black biro, as it so happened, and it is the one I had written with my black biro that I walked over to Mr De Domenico and put on his desk and said, "This is what we are intending to do". At that stage, my perception is that I had given Mr De Domenico a copy of this in writing, but I recall quite clearly that I took it back and handed that particular copy to the secretariat, and the motion was drawn from there.

For Mr De Domenico to say that he has not seen it in writing is inaccurate. For him to say that he has not been given it is quite correct. The point is that I very clearly discussed the matter with Mr De Domenico last night. I did not expect to get an answer last night because I would have expected him to take it to his party room - I have no difficulty with that; that is the process - as indeed I expected Labor to take it to their caucus. I spoke to various members of the Liberal Party last night and I had a quite long discussion on the matter with Mr Cornwell. That discussion included a discussion about his possible membership of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedures. What has been presented here is another problem the Liberals have in their internal ranks in terms of how messages get back and forth and through. We have seen it demonstrated in this house before today. That is the first point I would like to make.

The second point I would like to deal with is standing order 221. Mr Humphries read that out, as he has done a number of times in this Assembly and in the previous Assembly, and the Assembly as a whole has seen Mr Humphries's interpretation of that standing order as incorrect. A precedent has been set. The interpretation of that standing order looks at that term "as nearly as practicable" as taking into account whether the committees will or will not work, and that is the most important thing.

Mr Humphries chairs the Legal Affairs Committee, which is due to report in April on a major reference that this Assembly has given to it. I pointed out last week that that committee had met only twice. Mrs Carnell said to me earlier that in fact it has now met three times. Madam Speaker, it will surprise me greatly if

by April we can have a reasonable report from the Legal Affairs Committee on the major matter it was charged with. They have not even had public hearings on that matter - not that public hearings are necessary for a committee to report. That may be different from what they are doing, but it is a good example of why it is necessary to have an appropriate number of people on a committee to make it work and to spread proportionally the background of those people as far as the committees are concerned.

Ms Szuty and I have made ourselves available to do the extra work on what I think Mr Humphries referred to as the gravy train of committees. Mr Humphries, if you chair a committee and you take money and you have only two or three meetings a year, perhaps you can consider it a gravy train. For the rest of us, it is hard work and we take it very seriously and we really do work at it. Perhaps you can take a lesson from that.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

MR HUMPHRIES: Madam Speaker, I seek leave to make an explanation under standing order 46.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Humphries, you have my leave.

MR HUMPHRIES: Mr Moore, in a reference to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs in the debate, suggested that the committee needed an extra member in order to be able to do its work. He had made previous references to that standing committee as well, and I believe that I ought to explain in the Assembly what has occurred with that committee. Members will recall that there was a two-part inquiry originally commissioned for that committee: One part was on the cost of justice and the other was on conveyancing. The Assembly subsequently discharged the inquiry on conveyancing because the Government had already announced initiatives in that area and it was not felt appropriate to continue with that inquiry while the Government was proceeding with its own initiatives.

In the area of the cost of justice, in my opinion and to some extent the opinion of my colleague on the committee, Mr Lamont, that is a somewhat difficult inquiry to conduct while at the same time an inquiry into precisely the same thing - the cost of justice - is going on in the Federal arena. Our committee has made a deliberate decision to wait for some indication from the Federal committee reporting on the cost of justice before it begins to do any work on any ACT implications of that report. That is a reasonable step to have taken. It was taken with the full concurrence of the Labor member on that committee.

I also reject the suggestion coming from Mr Moore's comments that in some way the committee is deadlocked and cannot agree and, as a result, is delaying having any public hearings. Mr Lamont and I have worked extremely well on that committee. We have had no disagreement, that I can recall, on any matters of any substance, and I think it is quite unfair to suggest that Mr Moore is required to break some kind of deadlock on that committee between Mr Lamont and me. I reject the assertion as quite unfair.

25 February 1993

MS SZUTY: Madam Speaker, I seek your leave to make a personal explanation under standing order 46.

MADAM SPEAKER: Proceed, Ms Szuty.

MS SZUTY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to put on the record my discussion with Mr De Domenico yesterday during the adjournment debate. I did approach him and explain the changes Mr Moore and I wished to make to the committee structure; that is, for me to be appointed to the Legal Affairs Committee, Mr Moore to be appointed to the Public Accounts Committee, and me to be discharged from the Social Policy Committee. I had to explain it twice, because Ms Ellis was speaking during the adjournment debate and Mr De Domenico was attempting to listen to Ms Ellis at the time. I did suggest to Mr De Domenico that the motion would probably appear on the notice paper, which it has not today. My understanding was that there was no request made directly to me for the motion to appear in writing.

MR DE DOMENICO: Madam Speaker, I would like to make a personal explanation under standing order 46.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, Mr De Domenico, you have my leave.

MR DE DOMENICO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Ms Szuty is correct. She did speak to me whilst I was attempting to listen to Ms Ellis during the adjournment debate. Perhaps Ms Szuty did not hear what I had to say, but I am sure that I did say, "Let us see it in writing". That is point No. 1. Point No. 2 is that Mr Moore, playing with words, referred to the difference between "received" and "talked about". I did not even know that Mr Moore put a piece of paper on my desk. He now confirms that he has taken it away and given it to somebody else.

First of all, I did not read what was on that piece of paper. Secondly, Mr Moore and I did not, as far as I can recall, have any conversation about it. I had conversation with Ms Szuty; I did not have conversation with Mr Moore. The point I make again, Madam Speaker, is that the discussion I had with Ms Szuty was - - -

Mr Berry: I think you had better get another Whip.

MR DE DOMENICO: No, I think you had better get another Whip. Your Whip did not approach me at all, Mr Berry - unless I assume now that Mr Moore or Ms Szuty is your Whip. They are everything else for you; one of them might as well be your Whip. Madam Speaker, under standing order 46, that is what the facts are. I would be delighted to speak to the new Labor Whip, Mr Moore or Ms Szuty, when the need comes up from time to time.

DRUGS - SELECT COMMITTEE
Interim Report on Benzodiazepines and Dependence

MR MOORE (11.43): Madam Speaker, I seek leave to present the second interim report of the Select Committee on Drugs.

Leave granted.

MR MOORE: I present the second interim report of the Select Committee on Drugs entitled "Benzodiazepines and Dependence - A Tranquil Addiction?", together with extracts of the minutes of proceedings. I move:

That the report be noted.

The subtitle of the report, "A Tranquil Addiction?", is a very appropriate term to use. This report is very different from many of the other reports of the Select Committee on Drugs and its predecessor, the Select Committee on HIV, Illegal Drugs and Prostitution, in that it deals with drugs that are readily available through sources such as pharmacies and on prescription by medical practitioners, as opposed to the illegal drugs we have previously dealt with and as opposed to methadone, which is generally used in conjunction with treatment for some illegal drugs. It is important to explain what benzodiazepines are. When we use the term, people say to me, "What are you talking about?", and I think a reference to some common brand names is appropriate. Members will find on page 5 of the report a chart indicating those. Some of the common ones are Valium, Rohypnol, Mogadon and Serepax. I think most people would be familiar with those drugs.

The Select Committee on Drugs found a number of indications from members of the community that there was a growing problem with benzodiazepines, and as far as the ACT goes that may well be the case. It seemed to us that, if one extrapolates from research done Australia-wide in other States, we can presume that there are problems with benzodiazepines. We know that there is a program in the ACT that is designed to assist people in getting away from their addiction. That program is usually referred to as the COPE program. The committee recognises the good work that program does but feels that the program ought to be expanded to assist people.

One of the interesting things about benzodiazepines is that, like most drugs, they have both a very positive and a very negative impact. The very positive impact can be best illustrated by the extreme case of somebody who is under a great deal of stress, perhaps through bereavement, through the loss of someone very close, say a spouse, and for the first five or six weeks a prescription of one of the benzodiazepines assists the person to deal with that stress. They have proved to be particularly successful with that sort of usage. When the usage continues, though, there is usually a fairly rapid onset of dependence. One of the difficulties with benzodiazepines is that that dependence is particularly difficult to remove - much more difficult than with some of the illegal drugs and much more difficult, we understand, than with alcohol. Part of the reason for that is that people who are addicted to benzodiazepines are not searching for a high but are simply addicted and need that drug to feel normal.

25 February 1993

In those circumstances, it is appropriate that people seek assistance to help them with that dependence. It seems that for most people it is almost impossible to simply say, "Yes, I have a dependence. No, I am not going to take any more of these drugs". Unlike cigarettes, even though that addiction is considered to be one of the most difficult to remove, if you simply go off the benzodiazepines they can damage you. So there are some dangers associated with that.

One of the difficulties the committee had was that we felt that we did not have enough knowledge about what was going on in the ACT as far as benzodiazepines go. Our initial reaction was that we should be in a position to commission an epidemiological study that would provide for us the research and the information we needed to be able to make stronger recommendations than we have. The way the committees are set up, the way the committees are funded, made that impossible. I think it is a matter for you as Speaker and for members to consider whether committees should be able to commission research in order to provide them with some answers.

The course we took was to put the responsibility back to the Minister for Health and his department, as it will be shortly. We have recommended that more information be gained on the extent of benzodiazepine dependence and usage in the ACT. Recommendation 1 is for a comprehensive epidemiological study of benzodiazepine usage - I imagine that there will be some in this Assembly and some support workers who will have difficulty reading that sentence - including prescribing and dispensing practices in the ACT, to be commissioned by the ACT Department of Health. We then go on to talk about other ways of getting this information and maintaining it. One of those is to ask the Department of Health to maintain quarterly statistics on prescriptions and dispensing of benzodiazepines per 1,000 of the population. The third prong is to assess the amount of usage of benzodiazepines in our public hospital system.

We believe that it is appropriate to take that approach because we need to understand the extent of usage and how long people are using benzodiazepines - and it is very important to be able to determine both of those things - in order to assess the extent of the problem. The only way we can get a real indication of the problem in the ACT is to find the number of people who are already dependent. Some of those people present themselves for COPE programs and to drug referral information centres and places such as that. However, we feel that we are not reaching a number of people who are living quite comfortably but are dependent upon benzodiazepines - perhaps they use Serepax regularly and cannot stop.

It is interesting that this set of drugs do not in any way focus on a lower socioeconomic group in the population, as is the case for some of the other drugs we have dealt with. We believe that this set of drugs is very widespread across the population, but that information needs to be verified. The information we have at this stage is anecdotal, although supported by a range of evidence from other places where research is done from which we can extrapolate. We do not know how often it applies. We have been given anecdotal evidence about secretaries of departments and a whole range of people who have found themselves dependent on such drugs.

The current urban myth is that this is a problem for women, a housewife's problem. We reject that statement. It may well be - and it is up to a study to find out - that the problem is more widespread amongst women; but, if that is the case, then the reasons that are currently given for it may need to be questioned. One of the suggestions that have come to our committee is that it may be that medical practitioners are more inclined to prescribe benzodiazepines for women than for men. In discussing this with my wife, Madam Speaker, she pointed out to me that women have the problem that they have to live with men, whereas most men do not have that problem.

We also made a very broad recommendation to professional members of our medical community. Recommendation 5 states:

That the ACT Branch of the Australian Medical Association -

who were very helpful in their submission and in appearing before the committee -

the ACT Sub-Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the ACT Nurses Registration Board and the Department of Health consider conducting a coordinated and continuing education campaign for benzodiazepines prescribers ...

If there were a coordinated approach, as far as it went, some of the problems associated with benzodiazepines that appear to be growing could be resolved at the appropriate place, without attempting to blow the use of benzodiazepines out of proportion. I suspect that some people, perhaps for personal reasons, perhaps because of an obsession, almost, are inclined to do that. I think the benzodiazepine problem is contained at the moment and in some ways appears to be improving. I think it can be contained by appropriate educative processes, not only in the general community, as we recommend, but also particularly by further education of medical practitioners, who have a whole range of things happening to them all the time and who at this stage, it seems to us, get most of their education about these drugs from the pharmaceutical companies.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank first and foremost my colleagues on this committee for their help and for their work in dealing with these issues: Mrs Ellnor Grassby, the deputy chair of the committee; and for this report in particular, Mrs Kate Carnell, who was able to assist other members greatly by explaining the pharmaceutical qualities of various drugs and answering many questions on which we might otherwise have had to go for practical advice to a broader source. Beyond that, I thank Mrs Carnell for her contribution to the report as a whole.

It would be remiss of me if I did not point out the impact the secretary of this committee has had on the preparation of the report. Mr Ron Owens, with whom I have now worked for nearly four years, has been working steadfastly on these issues, and his understanding has assisted the committee greatly, as has his work in preparation and research. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to present the report to the Assembly.

25 February 1993

MRS GRASSBY (11.56): I am very pleased to be able to support the recommendations of this report, and I would like to take this opportunity to make some points about the report. First of all, I would like to thank Mr Moore, who is the chairman of this committee, Mrs Carnell, and our very able secretary, Ron Owens. It was a delight to work on this report with them.

Prescription drug abuse is very much a hidden problem. The media in Australia has done an excellent job in depicting the horrors and dangers of illegal drugs, and the picture many people have of drug abuse is of a back alley drug dealer or an unfortunate overdose victim. It is important that other drugs are also seen to be dangerous. The dangers of alcohol and tobacco are well documented. However, the dangers of benzodiazepines are still overlooked or ignored. All of us remember the old advertising slogan, "A cup of tea, a Bex and a good lie down". I remember going to a play with that title. This seems to sum up many people's feelings when it comes to legal drugs. The trust people have in their family doctor is such that a prescribed drug is accepted without question in many cases. However, we know that "a cup of tea, a Bex, and a good lie down" is the cause of many of our kidney transplants today. How many people do we know who started the day off with a Bex because otherwise they could not attend to their work?

I am not blaming doctors for their patients' overuse. However, I would like to see an informal arrangement where the pharmacist could contact a doctor and advise that one of his patients was having scripts filled often or had scripts from several different doctors. Such a situation does not need to be formal but merely a courtesy between two health professionals. If this does not work, the Government could look at legislation that could cover the situation, whereby pharmacists would have to report this happening. I know that there are pharmacists who take that sort of care. However, there are people who feel that they need these drugs and they keep having scripts filled. The doctor may not take the pointer, and we all know that doctors are busy. Pharmacists see this trend, and this could be a way of doing it.

A major point made to me during the committee's visit to Sydney was that patients do not realise the danger of these drugs. It may well be that many problems will not surface for years, in much the same manner that the kidney problems I spoke about earlier are now being linked to long-term aspirin use. I am astounded at the number of brands of benzodiazepines on the market. It seems that every drug company produces these drugs. However, more importantly, it brought home to me that these drugs are common and therefore have an acceptance that other drugs do not have.

The NHMRC has found that women have a greater chance of being prescribed these drugs. As a woman, I understand how being an overworked housewife, mother, income earner, chief hostess - the list goes on and on - can lead to a situation where drugs appear to be the answer. Unfortunately, these drugs are legal and often seem to be given out by doctors like a 25c bag of lollies. Of course, they cost a lot more to buy, but there is also a cost to the community. The survey shows that 48,700 more women than men are involved in long-term use of tranquillisers, and this cannot be ignored.

Community cost is measured in many ways. There is a simple economic cost to the health system of overprescription on the national health scheme. Then there is the cost of problems in newborn babies, which become an emotional and financial cost to the family as well as to the health system. Danger to others when operating machinery or driving is another aspect of dependence on benzodiazepines. In the same way that alcohol can affect people's relationships, so may tranquillisers inhibit their response and judgment. One of the things that came up was the worry of mothers who were taking these drugs and driving children to school. Their reactions may not be as quick as they should be to a child running in front of the car or a car going through a "stop" sign which they do not see. This is quite a problem.

Finally, I would like to comment on two of the committee's recommendations. Firstly, recommendation 5 deals with the education of users of these drugs. Such a scheme should include a provision that all doctors and dispensing chemists advise the patient of the possible problems of abuse of the drugs they are receiving. I know that most chemists take the responsibility of doing that, so it is no criticism of them, but I think it needs to be made clearer. A warning on a bottle is easily missed. As we know, warnings on cigarette packets have not really stopped people smoking. A warning from a trusted family doctor, or from the pharmacist the person attends to have prescriptions made up, cannot be shrugged off in the same manner. This is very important, and perhaps the Government could look at putting out a leaflet describing all the problems. We know that people often take things and never read the labels.

Recommendation 7 discusses grants to non-government agencies. I believe that a condition of any grant from the Government should be that this treatment is offered for people on benzodiazepines. The community must address the hidden problem of prescription drug abuse and we must provide the means for this to occur. In the future I would like to see benzodiazepines used only as a last resort and the term "mother's little helper" used to refer to the new breed of Australian men who share the tasks and responsibilities of running a home and bringing up children.

May I say, Madam Speaker, that it was an enjoyable committee to be on. Mrs Carnell had a lot more knowledge than Mr Moore and I could possibly acquire because she is a pharmacist, and she was a great help to the committee. Our trip to Sydney, talking to so many people in the field, gave us a wide view of how serious this problem is. As we all know, these are not drugs that we can take people off immediately and put them onto something else, as we have done in the past. If we were to take people off these drugs immediately many would die. They are very serious and frightening drugs to let loose on the community without a lot of understanding. I think this inquiry has opened our eyes, and I hope that the rest of the Assembly members will realise from reading the report that this is a problem for society and that we should be looking into it in a serious way.

MRS CARNELL (12.05): Madam Speaker, I too support the recommendations of the committee. As did Mrs Grassby and Mr Moore, I very much enjoyed being part of the committee on this reference. The reference does have a certain personal importance to me, and when we were initially deciding on what we should look at I did push quite hard for it. After many years at the coalface of this problem, it continues to concern me that benzodiazepine addiction is overlooked, and overlooked regularly and in an ongoing manner, by the community at large.

Initially, when the name of the report was suggested - "A Tranquil Addiction?" - I was concerned because it could have been seen to play down the importance of the subject. On further thought, though, I felt that it did quite specifically show what the problem was. It is a tranquil addiction. It is an addiction that is not obvious in the community, yet it is an addiction that in its own way is substantially more widespread than addiction to heroin, marijuana, or possibly even cigarette smoking. Certainly, one cannot look past alcohol as being our greatest problem in the drug area in the community, and that is something the committee is looking at in its last reference.

As Mr Moore said, benzodiazepines are interesting drugs because they are probably one of the safest groups of medication we have at our disposal. Benzodiazepines are used predominantly for stress and anxiety, but they are also very important muscle relaxants and are used regularly for sporting injuries and other problems related to muscle tension. They are also used for chronic sufferers of tension headaches - something that is a very common affliction in the community - and are substantially safer when used for those conditions than is any alternative drug, even any alternative analgesic, when used for tension headaches and problems like that. This is the great problem of benzodiazepine addiction. Because they are so safe, if we make them less available to medical practitioners and therefore to the community, medical practitioners will be placed in a position of having to use drugs that are less safe. That caused a lot of discussion at the committee level, as Mrs Grassby said, about how we could make benzodiazepines less available, how we could stem the flow. The AMA and other people who spoke to the committee suggested that in anything we do we must keep at the forefront of our minds this problem: If benzodiazepines are not prescribed for complaints such as stress and anxiety or as muscle relaxants, what will be prescribed is compound analgesics, with their obvious kidney and liver problems, tricyclic anti-depressants, with very nasty toxicity problems and easy capacity for overdose - and the problem goes on.

The committee had to come to grips with the fact that we were dealing with a very safe but very addictive drug, and that makes it particularly difficult. The next thing the committee had to come to grips with was the nature of the patients involved, and unfortunately the patients are predominantly women. I fully agree with the committee; I do not believe that it is because women are more likely to be anxious or stressed. I believe that it is because in the past general practitioners have been more likely to prescribe benzodiazepines for women. It has been perceived that women need that little help along, which I think is totally inappropriate and also not true.

The patients are certainly not, as Mr Moore said, in the lower socioeconomic group. They tend to be middle-class women, in many cases, and men in fewer but still a substantial number of cases. This causes a problem for our support services. Support services are generally not aimed at that group. It is particularly

difficult for a woman from middle-class Canberra, for want of a better word, and, for that matter, for senior public servants and senior members of the business community who find themselves with a benzodiazepine addiction problem. Where do they go for help? Fairly obviously, the Drug and Alcohol Referral Centre at the hospital may not be appropriate for those people, and in many cases it is not. That centre does a wonderful job for people with heroin addictions or people with chronic alcoholism, but the people we are talking about here are not the same. They find that being lumped in with a group of people with whom they have no affinity is very daunting, and regularly it means that the problem is not addressed.

The committee looked at that at length and has suggested that it would be appropriate for the ACT Government to investigate the appropriateness of a separate benzodiazepine referral centre. The committee is also acutely aware of the financial constraints that are placed upon the Government, and on that basis did not directly suggest that such a centre should be set up. We did suggest, and I think very appropriately, that it should be looked up, and I urge the Government to do so.

The problem with the addiction, as I said, is that in many cases it is not obvious. In many cases, people continue to do very responsible jobs, continue to look after their children very adequately. Unfortunately, there is a problem with something called benzodiazepine dependency syndrome. It does not occur with everybody, but in those with whom it does it causes quite substantial, debilitating problems. People regularly and very quickly need substantially more of the drugs. That means that their tolerance goes up, and goes up very rapidly. In my practice as a pharmacist I have known people in senior jobs around town taking 30 Serepax tablets a day and managing to drive cars and continue their jobs.

Obviously, this sort of problem causes very real hassles in our medical system. It means that people are placed in a position of having to go to Woden and be treated in the same way as people who are addicted to heroin. There is nothing wrong with that, except that the people involved do not have a good affinity with that sort of deal. They then end up doctor hopping, going from one doctor to another to pick up prescriptions. This is just not good for lifestyle, it is debilitating, the next step is script forgery, and so on.

We desperately need a service in the ACT that those people can have access to in a way that preserves their privacy. The only services currently available are group therapy services. COPE does a wonderful job, but it is a group session. I think Toora have a very good program - again, a program that is available only in a group capacity. For anyone wanting individual, private help, there is absolutely no capacity at this stage, and that must be addressed. Mr Moore rightly talked about the need for statistics, to know exactly what we are doing in this area.

The backup for these people, which I have spoken about, is one step, and a very important one. Backup for doctors, pharmacists and counsellors in appropriate prescribing and dispensing is just as important. Without the scripts, you do not have the people with the addiction problems. Again, may I stress that making benzodiazepines less available will only cause a greater problem. Again, may I say that I really enjoyed being on this committee, and I commend the report.

Debate (on motion by **Ms Szuty**) adjourned.

CANBERRA IN THE YEAR 2020 STUDY
Ministerial Statement and Papers

Debate resumed from 15 November 1992, on motion by **Ms Follett**:

That the Assembly takes note of the papers.

MS SZUTY (12.15): Mr Deputy Speaker, I stated at the time the first report of the Canberra in the Year 2020 study was tabled that I felt that it was a positive response to the task given by this Assembly to the Government. I am pleased that the task has been accepted and tackled in such a dynamic way, and I hope that the momentum continues. The wider community has an interest in this topic. The Territory Plan acknowledges this in its foreword, which reads:

Community involvement in the planning process is an established feature of Canberra's development. This should continue and as Canberra matures into a major Australian city, we have the opportunity to go forward together to build a partnership between people, politicians, and planners that gives us the goals that we seek for the city we call home ...

There is an apparent discrepancy between the Territory Planning Authority's assessment of Canberra's maturity and the 2020 vision document having the view that "in the past decade, Canberra has matured as a city". I hope that, as the major centre for public sector planning and policy making and as the nation's capital, Canberra is already a major city.

The ACT Planning Authority has recognised the level of community interest in planning issues and looks forward to a partnership that will set the goals for the city's future. This recognition of community interest is important and should be incorporated into every aspect of the process of developing a vision for Canberra's future. I am pleased that the next report due this afternoon, which includes issues papers, will be able to focus the debate that is needed to arrive at a strategic plan for the future. I am pleased that the community will be given an opportunity to participate in the process, and I look forward to hearing of the composition of the Canberra in the Year 2020 study reference group.

Another positive aspect of this report is the clear outline it presents for the process. I note this because I feel that often the Canberra community sees processes of public consultation as not having clear steps and not having a clear role for members of the community and for community groups. The easy four-step process outlined in this first report into a vision for Canberra is easy to understand and specific in its aims. I congratulate the Government on the clarity of this section of the report. I also feel that the setting of this strategic plan into context by giving a summary of past strategic plans is useful. Canberra has gone through a myriad of changes over the past few years as it has developed from a supported national capital to a self-governing Territory, and it is important to have an historic context in which to make decisions about the future.

I am less inclined to refer to the vision of Walter Burley Griffin, whose original plan, after all, has been modified to suit the changing needs of the people who have come to live here and to suit the changing nature and function of the national capital. I am certainly not as enthusiastic about the Territory Planning Authority's ideas, which claim in the Territory Plan that the goals of the city "carry on the vision of Walter Burley Griffin and our founders into the twenty-first century". While acknowledging the wonderful contribution Walter Burley Griffin and his wife, Marion, made to Canberra and the contributions of the subsequent planning authorities, it is time to take stock of what we have, look at where we want to go, assess our resources and needs at this time, and plan for the future.

The report starts that process by taking up the potential changes that are likely to affect the ACT in the future. I feel that this section aims to put into context those issues that may modify future patterns of employment, settlement and provision of services. However, I feel that some of the underlying assumptions which informed this section are not fully fleshed out. For example, greater explanation needs to be given of the term "social behaviours". I do not believe that this term has a common understanding. What is the nature of change that is envisaged by the impact of computers on teaching? If this refers to some idea of replacing teachers with computers and television monitors, I would oppose the idea. Computers are tools and are no substitute for teachers. Terms such as "non-invasive surgery" need some clarification to ensure that we are all speaking about the same things. Similarly, the measures used as exemplars for environmental management, such as polluter pays, pricing structures for resources, carbon taxes, et cetera, need further definition and clarification as the process goes on, to ensure that all involved in the process, including the community at large, understand these concepts and can comment on the ideas and philosophical basis of our future vision.

Many of the statements seem to imply future policy directions. An example of this is the discussion of changing demographics leading to smaller school populations affecting the future location of schools and the location and mix of the provision of health services. What appears to be happening here is a subtle shift from determining what sort of Canberra we want in 2020 to looking at what demographics may dictate. The whole concept of forming a vision for Canberra in the future is not about making judgments on the basis of demographics alone but about looking at what the people of Canberra want in the way of a future for their city. The emphasis must be placed on looking at the demographics and then making a judgment about what we want to provide for the future students and community members who use these facilities, in this instance. I hope that the issues papers will correct this perceived shift in emphasis and will achieve a balance between models based on the demographics and an attempt to direct the debate.

The major part of the study report addresses approaches to education, health, social justice, law and justice, the environment, economic and employment development and financial issues. However, while some of the subsections in this part of the report address the issue of what Canberra will be like in 2020 with an open and objective tone, some subsections are more prescriptive. For example, it is categorically stated and emphasised that a system of government and non-government schooling will continue. Surely, looking towards 2020, we need to assess whether this is practical or desired or whether increased amalgamation of the government and non-government school systems is a preferable way to proceed.

25 February 1993

The discussion of technological change appears to anticipate an increase in capital budgets or parental contributions if the stated change, trend or challenge of technological advances possibly reducing the need for structured learning within classrooms is to become a reality. Again, it does not address the spirit of the study, which is to look at 2020 and determine what our vision is for the future. I think a more constructive approach would be to put forward the proposal that technology could lead to such changes, and then lead debate on the possibilities arising from these changes. Reduction in classroom teaching is only one of a number of possibilities that can arise from technological change. Another, I suggest, is the separation of disciplines into their factual and intellectual components and redirecting more teaching resources into developing intellectual study and research of subjects, making the connection to the need for access to factual material.

The statement that urban renewal will assist in keeping schools viable over the longer period and will reduce the need for schools in new areas also clearly indicates that a policy line has been adopted without reference to the strategic planning process. What this process should eventually arrive at is ideas on how and when new schools will be built, what level of school provision the community is prepared to support financially through taxation and other measures, and what part older education assets should play in the future of the education system and broader community life in Canberra. The presumption that urban renewal will provide sufficient school age children to keep older schools viable is currently not supported by available evidence. Let me quote an authority that illustrates my point. In 1986, Lyndsay Neilson and Associates provided a report to the NCDC on the principle of urban consolidation. Page 5-5 of that report, speaking on the decline in enrolments in older government primary schools, states:

In theory, programs to achieve increases in the housing stock should help alleviate this problem. However, if such programs result only in an increase in the stock of medium density units, particularly private enterprise developments, their impact may be slight, as experience shows that such developments have not, generally, proved attractive to families with young children. The redevelopment that has taken place in Kingston has resulted in a net increase of over three hundred dwellings, but the impact to date on enrolments at Griffith Primary School has not been sufficient to reverse the downward trend.

Of course, we know that that downward trend continued and that further attempts to reverse the problems of a small school by twinning Griffith with Narrabundah have also apparently failed. There has been no lessening of the need for new schools in other areas. Other more recent studies also suggest that an increase in housing density does not lead to an increase in the school age population.

Similarly, the discussion of housing in the future follows the policy that is promoted for urban renewal. However, this section limits itself to discussing the need to provide housing for smaller family units, without addressing the social needs of those units. Expectations of space provided by housing have changed significantly since our parents' early years, when several children often shared a bedroom and possibly even the same bed. Children in 1993 expect and

anticipate having a bedroom of their own, and it appears that most parents aspire to that level of space provision. We have also seen the relatively recent phenomenon of family areas and formal areas, with separate dining and living spaces provided for families' use and visitors' entertainment. We often have rooms set aside for people's home offices and computers.

Is it necessarily correct that declining household size will lead to the need for less household space; or are there needs and wants that are satisfied by larger living spaces? What sort of analysis do we need to determine what sort of housing mix will satisfy future demand? Again, we are talking about what the community will fund through the Government's revenue base and what type of lifestyle Canberrans will want in the future. If infrastructure is proving very expensive to provide at the fringe, and the Industry Commission report appears to cast doubt on that assumption, are there other alternatives or other measures the community can consider as alternatives? To say no to this proposition also ignores the spirit of the exercise in dictating what level of services the community must have and in what way they will be provided. If technology is to have such an impact on other areas, such as education, why does it not affect housing?

Likewise, there are some facts ignored in the area of alternative housing models. The study talks of future housing being designed for maximum energy efficiency. That is not a goal for 2020; that is, hopefully, a goal for the next two to three years and, since the first report was published in 1977, should have been a priority much earlier. The study also talks about potential problems of inadequate housing or homelessness. Again, I suggest that these are current problems and do not play a role in a future vision 30 years away. The solutions should be actively pursued now, so that by 2020 we do indeed have a socially just society.

Health seemed more open about the way we will incorporate the changes it sees as occurring in the next 30 years. The debate over allocation of resources is not hard to predict. Health puts forward that view without comment, other than to predict an increase in the need for preventative health care. Social justice is another section of the report which appears to be more philosophical than prescriptive, starting as it does with a philosophical statement of the goal for social justice. As a generalised statement it is positive, and I hope that the specifics which the community identifies as being important are given as much weight. Unfortunately, in my estimation, law and justice seems to lose relevance to the topic "Canberra in the Year 2020". As with housing, some of the issues raised are current and definitely need action before 2020.

Environment as a section starts off with a fundamental goal which may come into conflict with the development arm of government, and it should recognise this factor in setting its goals. Here there appears to be a problem with identifying goals as against influencing factors. While global concerns, technology, population growth, and community attitudes are factors influencing policy, surely it is a goal to improve energy efficiency and sustain acceptable levels of air and water quality, while allowing economic development and reducing reliance on motor vehicles. I found it curious that community attitudes on domestic pets was an important factor but the community's attitudes towards environmental issues did not rate a mention, nor did their attitudes on sustainable development. I feel that the above illustrates a certain rushed attitude to the preparation of this report, and I hope that in the remaining three stages more consideration will be given to making the discussion more cohesive and relevant to the topic.

25 February 1993

I found the economic and employment development section problematic in that it appears to have a different client from the rest of the Government Service. I would like to see an explanation of who the writers of this section see as their clientele, as I and many members of the community would see it as being the community. Any other client base could see this section in conflict with other areas. While the points outlined were credible, there needs to be more explanation of the relevance to 2020. Most of the issues raised, I would think, are on the current agenda, while the study addresses much longer-term planning.

The final section, on financial issues, gets down to the nitty-gritty of how much we are prepared to pay for our quality of life in 2020. As part of the process, I am ambivalent as to whether it takes place with, or as a separate part of, the study. After the discussion of what sort of society we want in the future, there comes the need to look at the revenue base and then to modify, if necessary, our expectations and goals. I feel that it is important that we use this area of study as a cross-reference to each area of consideration and that its deliberations be carried on as a continuous thread through all other areas.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I conclude with just two points. Firstly, as I have stated, the process is clearly set out, and the community will take an active interest in the next step. (*Extension of time granted*) I hope that its tabling this afternoon will set out what forums will be available to the community and what access the community will have to the people framing the study. It is then that the really hard work will begin, because after the discussion phase we need to be clear on how the views of the community will be synthesised into the final document. The planning process has shown that the community expects to have its views heard. As this exercise is an attempt to formulate a vision for the future, it is imperative that those views be taken into account and given voice in the final report.

Finally, I stated when this first report was tabled that it is important that the Government effectively link the strategic planning exercise with consideration of the Territory Plan. After the formation of the vision, the planning process must be brought into line to serve the vision. The vision must not be distorted to serve the plan.

MR KAINE (Leader of the Opposition) (12.31): I must say that I am amazed that somebody can use that much allotted time, and additional time as well, talking about what was intended to be only the interim, first report. It simply indicates what the Government is hoping to achieve as a result of this study, particularly as the second report, which hopefully will have fairly comprehensive information, is going to be tabled within an hour or two.

I have a couple of comments to make before we break for lunch. The first is that this document highlights a couple of interesting anomalies, or perhaps paradoxes, in the way government - I am not directing this at this Government - goes about its business. Right at this moment the Planning Committee of the Assembly has before it a Territory Plan that took four years to construct under two different governments, and it lacks any strategic thinking. I have said that before and Mr Moore has said it before.

After a resolution from the Assembly, presumably in another part of the administration, we can come up with what is clearly a forward looking outlook which at the end of the study, based on this first document, will give us a very good insight into where Canberra is going. I do not understand what it is about administration and government that you have two different elements to the organisation: One after four years produces what is supposed to be the solution to our planning problems for the next, I would have thought, 25 to 30 years, but in fact it only talks about 15 years and therefore lacks strategic thinking; and here we have, on very short notice, a very short timescale, a document that reflects that administration is capable of doing a decent job of work.

Mr Wood: Perhaps they are required to do different things.

MR KAINE: Do these people not talk to each other, Minister? That is the point that I am making. We have one rather small administration here and yet two parts of it do not seem to be able to talk to each other and to come up with a common result.

The paradox goes even further because the plan, I am told, extends only to about 2005 or maybe 2010. In the same timescale, this EPACT paper No. 2, which was published only in September last year, in the executive summary on page 1 talks about Canberra reaching a population of 400,000, which is forecast to take place around 2005. Here we have another document which presumably is going to become the definitive document and it says that we will get maybe to 400,000 by the year 2020. That is a 15-year timescale difference. One says that we are going to achieve it by 2005; the other says that if we are lucky we might get there by 2020.

We have always had trouble with population projections. I was doing a clean-out exercise recently and throwing all sorts of accumulated garbage out of my garage, some of it going back to the old Legislative Assembly of 1974. One of the things that I kept as I was going through it was all of the population projections produced by the NCDC and other bodies over a period of nearly 20 years. It makes fascinating reading. They never once got it right. I suspect that now we are going into another long-term projection, and who did get it right? Did the Chief Minister's Economic Priorities Advisory Committee get it right or did the author of this document get it right?

Mr Wood: Like Fraser, if Hewson gets in it will go down again.

MR KAINE: I do not know. This document says that even if we went into a decline we might get to 400,000. I suppose that is the worst case scenario. That would be if the present Government stays in place for another three years, presumably; but the best case scenario is a different figure and that obviously was based on the fact that the Hewson coalition government will be in place. It is interesting to read the various documents and to draw some comparisons.

The other interesting aspect of this paper - I will be quite brief - is that when we get down towards the end of it it talks about stage 2. They did not put timescales on this but it says that stage 1 was a review of previous strategic plans and related material, and I presume that this was the end product of stage 1. It says that in stage 2, which it did not put a timescale on, there would be an elaboration of issues and there would be a series of issues papers developed.

25 February 1993

We are about to get the second report. I do not know what is in it, of course, and it may be accompanied by a whole bunch of issues papers. We will have to wait for the Chief Minister to reveal all this. My only question is: When does stage 2 finish and when are we going to see these issues papers that are referred to here, so that we can begin to understand where the study is going and the kinds of things that they regard as being important? We are halfway through the study now, on a pure timescale, and I would have thought that if there were issues papers being prepared we would have started to see some of them by now. Maybe that indicates that the study is not going as quickly as we had planned and hoped for, and that it may take a little longer than the timescale currently applied.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am interested in it. It was an interesting initial document. It is history; it is already quite old. The next stage in the saga will be revealed to us this afternoon by the Chief Minister, but at least I am gratified that here at last we are seeing a study that does have some element of strategic thinking to it.

MS FOLLETT (Chief Minister and Treasurer) (12.38), in reply: Mr Deputy Speaker, I simply want to thank members for their comments and to reiterate that this is a motion passed by the Assembly and that that motion requires the Government to report at quarterly intervals. The next report on the Canberra in the Year 2020 study is due at the end of February and I will be tabling the second report this afternoon. Mr Kaine has asked about issues papers. Mr Deputy Speaker, I should say that I think he will find that he is more than adequately supplied with issues papers by about 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Sitting suspended from 12.38 to 2.30 pm

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Flag - Contract

MR KAINE: I would like to direct a question to the Chief Minister. Given the Chief Minister's commitment to resolving the problems of unemployment in the ACT, can the Chief Minister tell us whether or not it is a fact that a contract for our new flag, the symbol of the independent Canberra, has been awarded to a Sydney firm, with delivery to be made by 10 March?

MS FOLLETT: Madam Speaker, I thank Mr Kaine for the question. I do not have information with me on that question. I will find out as quickly as I can and advise Mr Kaine of the answer.

Fightback - Treasury Analysis

MS ELLIS: My question is also directed to the Chief Minister. Why did the Chief Minister table a copy of the Treasury analysis of Fightback when Premier Fahey has refused to reveal a similar document from the New South Wales Treasury?

MS FOLLETT: Madam Speaker, as members know, I did indeed seek from Treasury an analysis of the impact that Dr Hewson's Fightback package would have on the ACT and I tabled that document in this Assembly. I recall Mr Kaine saying publicly at the time I took that action that, in his view, that was a misuse of public funds. I wonder whether he would level the same accusation at his Liberal colleague Mr Fahey. I have not heard him say that. I requested the preparation of that document because I believe that a government has an obligation to consider and to plan for the albeit unlikely eventuality that Dr Hewson should take government federally. It does appear that Mr Fahey felt the same way about that. I further considered that it was the community's right to know what would be the impact upon them of the alternative Federal government, and for that reason I made the document public.

In looking at that document, it is quite clear from the Treasury analysis that the Fightback package would have extremely detrimental effects on the ACT. For a start, there is the 5 per cent cut in general revenue funding to all the States and Territories - and I am sure Mr Fahey has cast his eye across that one as well. Medicare funding will be slashed by \$500m. I am sure that that one is in Mr Fahey's Treasury analysis as well. A whole host of Commonwealth specific purpose funding programs will also be cut specifically by Dr Hewson's Fightback package. I am quite sure that Mr Fahey's Treasury analysis contains that information.

Madam Speaker, the overall impact for the ACT is some \$340m over the three-year period. I am advised that the impact for New South Wales is some \$1.8 billion - a negative impact - for the same sort of period. The reason that I have released the document is in order to inform the community properly of an alternative government's proposals for the Territory. Of course, the reason that Mr Fahey has not released it is that it would be of grave embarrassment to his Liberal colleague Dr Hewson in this election campaign.

Members' Staff

MR HUMPHRIES: My question is also to the Chief Minister. Can the Chief Minister tell the Assembly whether it is true that a review has recently been conducted by a senior officer in the Office of Public Sector Management into the staff resourcing of the offices of Mr Michael Moore and Ms Helen Szuty? Is it true that the review recommended that staff funding be increased to both those members? Is it also true that you have approved, within the last few days, an increase in staff resourcing to each of those members to the tune of about \$12,000 each? Was the request for additional funding put on any particular basis, for example, that the Independents need special resourcing to deal expeditiously with urgent government legislation? Will you be reviewing the staff resourcing of other members of this Assembly?

MS FOLLETT: I thank Mr Humphries for the question. Can I remind all Assembly members that on 21 May last year, in answer to a very similar question from Mr Humphries, I advised this Assembly that any member who wanted their staffing reviewed should approach me through you, Madam Speaker, and

25 February 1993

I would ask an independent body, the OPSM - the Office of Public Sector Management - to do just that. There have been requests to me from time to time, including a request from Mr Moore and from Ms Szuty, and as a result of that request a review was conducted. In fact, a request was made in June last year by Mr Moore and a review has been conducted. As a result of that I have agreed to increase their staffing allocation by an amount of approximately the order that Mr Humphries has mentioned.

Can I also say that on two occasions a similar process has been followed in relation to the Leader of the Opposition's staff. In fact, on 24 March last year I increased Mr Kaine's staff funding - - -

Mr Kaine: It did not change the level of my staff resources.

MS FOLLETT: I do not allocate staff; I allocate funding. I increased Mr Kaine's staff funding on a continuing basis. On 29 September last year I again gave him additional money. On that occasion it was a one-off circumstance, I will say. On both occasions I referred the matter to the Office of Public Sector Management for an independent review and in both cases I acted upon their advice. This is the normal practice, as has been advised to all in this Assembly. It is open to any member to make that request, as I have repeatedly said.

Madam Speaker, Mr Humphries has asked me what the basis was. There was no basis. They asked for the review; it was conducted.

Mr De Domenico: I will ask for one for mine, too.

MS FOLLETT: Why do you not?

MADAM SPEAKER: Order!

MS FOLLETT: Madam Speaker, I hear members opposite saying that they will now be asking for a review. I am surprised that they have not done so to this point. Mr Humphries has asked me whether there was - to paraphrase - any sort of agreement on the basis of that. The answer quite simply is no. There was absolutely no such agreement, any more than there was between me and Mr Kaine. The only agreement that exists between me and Mr Kaine is that he stays in opposition and I stay in government, and may it ever be so.

MR HUMPHRIES: I have a supplementary question, Madam Speaker. I ask the Chief Minister: Is it true that the review of staffing in Mr Kaine's allocation occurred on the basis that the Chief Minister and Mr Kaine wanted to see their own senior private secretaries upgraded to an equivalent level and that the purpose of the upgrade on Mr Kaine's staff was merely to match the equivalent officer in her office? I also ask the Chief Minister: In respect of her kind offer to make extra staff available to other members of the Assembly if there is a review of their staffing, why is it that the request, which was, as you have indicated, circulated by the Speaker to your office several months ago, has not similarly resulted in a review of staffing of members other than Mr Moore and Ms Szuty?

MS FOLLETT: Madam Speaker, if my memory serves me correctly, I responded to a request from Mr Kaine and - - -

Mr Kaine: For a staffing review, like you did, by OPSM. There has been no such review.

MS FOLLETT: Madam Speaker, I believe I am correct in saying that there is also a general review of staffing matters going on. You may be better placed to comment on that than I am. It has not yet resulted in a report, but I will check that up.

Laboratory Assistants - Industrial Dispute

MS SZUTY: Madam Speaker, my question without notice is to the Minister for Education, Mr Wood; however, Mr Wood may wish to refer the question to the Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr Berry. My question concerns the ongoing dispute between the Department of Education and Training and the Public Sector Union concerning the work of laboratory assistants in high schools and colleges. My question is: What steps has the Government taken to facilitate the resolution of the dispute?

MR WOOD: Madam Speaker, it is correct that there is a dispute and it has been going on for some time, indeed rather too long. The Government has gone through all the usual procedures for resolving disputes with the relevant union. We have made offers to the union which we believed were fair and reasonable in the circumstances. They were not accepted, so we are still in the state of consulting and working with the union and going through those proper procedures to get a resolution as soon as possible. It is the case, and I regret it, that it is causing some difficulty in schools; so I can assure Ms Szuty that we are anxious to resolve it as soon as possible.

Hospital Beds

MRS CARNELL: My question is to the Minister for Health. Given the Prime Minister's promise yesterday to solve hospital waiting lists by purchasing private hospital beds - and I use his words - I ask the Minister: In the unlikely event that Mr Keating will stay as Prime Minister and given that the Minister for Health refused to allow the building of a second private hospital in Canberra, how will the Minister buy the number of private hospital beds required to solve the problem of the 2,045 people on the elective waiting lists in the ACT?

MR BERRY: Madam Speaker, I did hear the announcement by the Prime Minister yesterday and I know that the people of Australia will clearly understand that their health care will be in better hands as a result of that promise than would be the case if Dr Hewson were to go ahead with his plans to cut \$8 billion out of health care across Australia in the first six years.

Mr Humphries: You can stop waffling and give us the answer.

25 February 1993

MR BERRY: I was just given a little note. It says, "Herring of the private hospitals has refused the offer", so it is a bit superfluous, really, because Herring of the private hospitals has refused the offer. That probably tells you where the private hospitals are coming from on this issue. But the detail of - - -

Mrs Carnell: Tell us how you are going to do it, though. It is your Prime Minister's policy.

MR BERRY: Madam Speaker, it would be nice to be able to answer these questions without interjection. She will have her supplementary question. The Prime Minister has made the promise and he will deliver it. Like all arrangements in relation to hospital funding, the details will have to be worked out, but I suspect that any funding that goes to private hospitals will have to go on a basis that they provide services up to the standards which are provided in public hospitals and, indeed, at a rate which is acceptable to the Government that is buying them. I do not think Mr Keating would make an offer like that to hospitals who are prepared to overcharge. He would be making an offer on the basis that we would get sensible pricing for those services in areas where there was a need for private hospitals to provide those services. The final detail, of course - - -

Mr Humphries: Are we in an area like that?

MR BERRY: It depends on the level of private funding for private hospitals which is provided in the ACT, and the detail of that would have to be worked out. I am sure that it would be as a result of complex negotiations, but you can rest assured, Mr Humphries, that Labor in the ACT will continue to provide a strong public hospital system here. It will not be weakened, as the Liberals have suggested with what is proposed by Dr Hewson. Dr Hewson is not going to get elected, so we are not going to have to worry about that. What Mr Keating has promised will be, of course, incorporated in our direction at developing better and stronger public hospital services in the ACT in the interests of the people of the Territory.

MRS CARNELL: I have a supplementary question, Madam Speaker. I will ask the question slightly differently - more simply. Will the Minister tell the people of Canberra how, when the ACT has only 0.5 of a private hospital bed per thousand population, which is less than a quarter of the number of private hospital beds that are present in any other State in Australia, he is going to provide private hospital beds or how they are going to be provided under Mr Keating's own policy? I think he is providing \$25m to overcome the waiting list that he now accepts happens. In the ACT, if Mr Keating happens to get into power, how is the Minister going to deliver?

MR BERRY: It seems that the private hospitals in the Territory do not want to provide too many beds; the market is just not there for them. They are just not interested. It is market driven and, if they have not provided more beds than they need, I do not know how anybody is going to be able to buy any bed space off them.

Parking Infringements - Penalties

MR STEVENSON: My question is to Mr Connolly. Since the introduction of vehicle registration and licence cancellation for non-payment of parking fines, how many vehicle registrations and drivers licences have been cancelled? Also, of those cancelled, how many vehicle registrations and drivers licences have been renewed or, conversely, not been renewed?

MR CONNOLLY: That is a very detailed question which I suspect Mr Stevenson probably did ask my office about some weeks ago. I will undertake to get the full detailed answer to him very swiftly.

Goods and Services Tax - Racing Industry

MRS GRASSBY: My question is to the Deputy Chief Minister in his capacity of Minister for Sport. For those of us who were up late last night watching a television program about the GST which was very interesting, can I ask the Minister to inform the Assembly exactly how the GST will have an impact on the racing industry?

Mr Kaine: From your description, I thought he would have been watching the soccer.

MR BERRY: It is all eating into your time. We have heard, on countless occasions, how this GST is not going to hurt various people and how it is not going to hurt the racing industry; but, of course, we know that the real story is quite different. We know that there have been some big lies told about the GST and how it will affect industry, and this is another lie in the Hewson campaign against the people of Australia. A 15 per cent tax would have to be paid out of an owner's prize money unless the owner was a hobby owner or a professional owner with an annual turnover of less than \$50,000. Owners will have to pay GST on horses' feed, trainers' fees, jockeys' fees, vets' fees and other expenses. The GST will just kill the hobby owner, and hobby owners make up 80 per cent of all owners.

Keeping racehorses in Australia is worth \$600m and, of this, \$300m is paid by hobby owners. A 15 per cent tax will reap \$45m from hobby owners alone and none of those costs will be deductible. Prize money is about \$200m and half of this goes to amateurs. Under Hewson, there will be 15 per cent off. The cold, clammy hand of the Hewson tax man will be in your pocket every time you stick your hand in your pocket. You will have Hewson's hand in your pocket.

Mr De Domenico: I raise a point of order, Madam Speaker. Just to set the record straight, does Mr Berry realise that there is no GST on prize money?

Ms Follett: On a point of order, Madam Speaker: I heard Mr De Domenico say that Mr Berry was not telling the truth. I think that should be withdrawn.

Mr Humphries: He was not telling the truth.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Humphries, as every other member in this chamber knows, you are not permitted to impute improper motives to any member.

Mr De Domenico: Madam Speaker, I will withdraw the words "not telling the truth" and I will say that Mr Berry's statement is incorrect. Who is telling lies now?

MR BERRY: Come on! I think you are being entirely flexible, Madam Speaker, and good on you; but I think it will soon wear thin. Jockeys who opt against registration must pay GST on all inputs obtained from being registered - they would pay GST on boots, saddles, transport needs, et cetera. They would not issue GST invoices for payments. Horse owners will prefer to use jockeys who issue invoices. This will lead to pressure on jockeys below the \$50,000 threshold to register for the GST. Every business in Australia with a turnover over \$50,000 will become a tax collecting agency. You know that. Racing clubs with a gross turnover of more than \$50,000 must register. GST will be charged on all purchases - - -

Mr Kaine: I raise a point of order, Madam Speaker. Is it within the standing orders that the Minister should read a pre-prepared speech in question time? I keep coming back to this point of order, but we do have standing orders about brevity and making speeches during question time. I think the Minister's attention should be drawn to those standing orders.

MR BERRY: There are no standing orders about interrupting the speaker when you are in pain.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! I am sure that Mr Berry is well aware of the requirements of the standing orders. Please proceed, Mr Berry.

MR BERRY: One issue in relation to this is that the answer has to be complete, and I am not finished yet. I should say that they should not complain about the time that they have taken up in interjections. There will be 15 per cent extra on admission charges, 15 per cent on subscriptions, 15 per cent on sponsorship. As I said, Dr Hewson's hand will be in the pocket every time you stick your hand in your pocket. Sponsorship must be increased by 15 per cent to have the same value. If the sponsor is GST registered, they can claim a refund; if they are exempt, no refund.

In Canada, the GST costs small businesses \$4,000 to set up the administrative system and \$6,000 each year in recurrent costs. Add that to 15 per cent on everything to do with horses from the womb to the tomb and you have Dr Hewson's bright plan for creating jobs. This tax on the racing industry will put 40,000 people out of work. The racing industry is a massive employer across Australia. The GST in New Zealand has damaged horseracing in New Zealand; it has damaged horseracing in England. Everywhere there is a GST it has damaged the racing industry. You people claim that you are interested in the creation of jobs when you know darn well that this GST is going to damage a great job creator in this country, the racing industry. This will be enough to damage or even destroy the racing industry. In New Zealand, as I have said, prize money has plummeted, as has the overseas ownership of champion horses. We race a lot - - -

Mr Cornwell: I raise a point of order, Madam Speaker. Is it allowable for the person who asked the question to leave the room while he is still giving the answer?

MADAM SPEAKER: I am afraid that there is no standing order that refers to that, Mr Cornwell. Proceed, Mr Berry.

MR BERRY: I will not be surprised if you do a repeat performance and the lot of you swan out.

Mr Humphries: The way you are going, it is a very tempting proposition.

MR BERRY: It is much better to speak to empty chairs over there than it is to speak to the full ones. This issue is of such concern that I intend to raise it with the racing Ministers at our meeting next week because it is of - - -

Mr Humphries: I am sure that Senator Baume, the new Minister, will hear you sympathetically.

MR BERRY: Senator Baume is not a racing Minister. The Commonwealth does not manage any racing facilities. You did not notice that? I will be raising this with the racing Ministers next week. This is an issue of concern for all Australians, those who are interested in having a punt. It is most important that we preserve those jobs which already exist in the racing industry and the return that it gives to the community as a whole. We will see a fall-off in prize money, a fall-off in the racing industry generally. In the ACT, we will also see the effects of that through the return we get from the TAB. So this is very serious; these people can laugh about it. Dr Hewson and the Liberals intend to damage the racing industry mortally.

ACTTAB

MR DE DOMENICO: Madam Speaker, seeing that the Chief Minister and Mr Berry are so interested in the wonderful racing industry, especially the one in the ACT, my question without notice is to the Chief Minister in her capacities as Treasurer and as one of the two board directors of ACTTAB. The Chief Minister would or should know of a letter received by her then Acting Under Treasurer, Mr Mike Woods, on 30 September 1992, which flies in the face of the legislative intentions announced by her Deputy Chief Minister and fellow director, Mr Berry. Noting that the other States and international TABs are, or are being, modelled along the same lines as ACTTAB, will she protect the interests of the Canberra taxpayer by accepting professional financial advice over left-wing political ideology?

MS FOLLETT: Madam Speaker, if I understood Mr De Domenico's question correctly, he was asking me about a letter that was not actually to me but was to one of my officers. I think I am right in saying that I have not seen such a letter, but in the management of the TAB - as with all other matters - this Government will pursue what is in the best interests of this Territory. In the case of the TAB, it is our view that we need to ensure that that body is accountable to the people of the Territory.

25 February 1993

Mr Kaine: You are one of the two members of the board, so surely it is accountable.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order!

MS FOLLETT: Madam Speaker, as a member of that board I think I am particularly well placed to make that observation. I think that in alluding to whatever it was - left-wing ideology or one of his usual hackneyed phrases - Mr De Domenico really is underestimating the Government's intentions on this matter. As I have said many times, we will be looking after the best interests of our whole community in relation to the TAB. I think that, if the community was thoroughly aware of what Dr Hewson's proposals meant for operations like the TAB, they would be alarmed indeed. I think that if that Fightback package does ever come into effect we will see the TAB suffer dramatically and we will also see the ordinary people who want to have a bet and go to the races suffer as well. They will be paying 15 per cent on their entrance to the races, 15 per cent on any food or drink that they have there, 15 per cent every time they put their hands in their pockets.

Mr De Domenico: You can ring up and use the TAB.

MS FOLLETT: Mr De Domenico observes that you can ring up the TAB, and well you may; but what we know is that Dr Hewson is planning to sell off Telecom and what we will see then, of course - - -

Members interjected.

Mr Berry: I raise a point of order, Madam Speaker. I want to hear what the Chief Minister has to say and I cannot hear it over the ravings of these people opposite. They have to be dragged into gear.

MADAM SPEAKER: It is a fair point of order. I have called for order at least three times. I would be pleased if members could remember the provisions of standing order 39.

MS FOLLETT: Madam Speaker, very briefly, even people who ring up the TAB will, under Dr Hewson, be doing so on the basis of paying for timed local calls.

MR DE DOMENICO: Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Chief Minister. As one of the two major shareholders, the other one being Mr Berry - and the only two shareholders, so you have complete control now - does the Chief Minister not have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure the best possible financial outcome? That is, ACTTAB should remain as a Territory owned corporation which it is now or, better still, as recommended by the professional advice sought by her Under Treasurer, she should accept the advice and privatise it.

MS FOLLETT: I am surprised that Mr De Domenico does not go the whole hog and exhort me to put in a "Ministry of Privatisation" like Dr Hewson's. Of course, I have a fiduciary responsibility in relation to the TAB but I also have a responsibility as a leader of a government to ensure that the people of this Territory are able to see what is going on with the TAB and are able to question what is going on. I believe that the corporatised model does not best reflect that. Mr De Domenico can huff and puff all he likes, but I will not be selling the TAB. I think that this fanatical admiration of privatisation is one of the weakest of the platforms that we are seeing from the Liberals at this particular time.

Education - Administrative Structure

MR CORNWELL: Madam Speaker, my question is directed to Mr Wood as Minister for Education. Mr Wood, I refer to a news item on 17 February in the *Canberra Times*. It stated:

The ACT Government Service is reported to be discontented with legislation introduced to the Legislative Assembly yesterday to change ACT Health from a statutory authority to a department on July 1.

Sources in the bureaucracy said plans were afoot to make a similar move in Education on July 1, thereby doubling the budget sector in one day.

Could you confirm whether this is the intention of the Government and, if so, for what reason?

MR WOOD: Madam Speaker, historically we have inherited the Commonwealth Teaching Service Act and the Schools Authority Act and they continue to operate in the ACT. For some considerable period of time consideration has been given to bringing those Acts into line with what is actually happening in the ACT. So there has been long consideration. One of the difficulties that need to be overcome is that the Schools Authority Act is actually quite good in its application, especially in accounting measures in schools. We have to work that problem out so that we do not make life more difficult - and it is already pretty difficult in accounting in schools. We have to work it out so that we still have sound accounting and effective and efficient accounting mechanisms in our schools. In due course I have little doubt that new Acts will be introduced, but I can say no more than that there is departmental discussion about it. Certainly nothing has come to me and there is nothing immediately on the horizon.

Territory Plan Variation - Griffith

MR LAMONT: My question is also directed to Mr Wood, but in his capacity as Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning. Is the Minister aware that the draft variation to the Territory Plan, Griffith section 78, blocks 27, 33, 34, 39 and 40, will result in housing development on an attractive area of parkland fronting Throsby Crescent?

MR WOOD: Madam Speaker, I am aware of that proposal and of the concern that has been expressed in the community about it. For members' information, that is the general area behind the Griffith shops. It is an area that once had a playschool of some sort on it. It has a parks depot that is no longer operative and a disused tennis court. There is also a further section where a disused service station on the other side of the shops was encompassed as part of that proposed variation.

Mr Kaine: There is a clothing store or something.

MR WOOD: There is something in there. It also included an area that was clearly understood to be local parkland with a children's play area, and I recognise the concern of residents. I have discussed the matter with the ACT Planning Authority. I believe that the Planning Authority will propose to withdraw that variation. I would expect that a further variation will emerge at some time. It takes into account those areas I have mentioned where clearly something needs to be done, but it will not impinge on that area which has some very good trees, is open and green and has a children's playground.

Ms Follett: I ask that further questions be placed on the notice paper.

MRS GRASSBY: Madam Speaker, I rise under standing order 46. I have been misrepresented. I did leave the chamber during an answer because my secretary called me to the door with a very serious problem to do with my family, and I object to Mr Cornwell, who did not know why I left the chamber. Normally I would not leave the chamber at question time.

Road Maintenance

MR CONNOLLY: Madam Speaker, a couple of questions were taken on notice during the sitting period. Last week Mr Westende asked me a question about road gangs. He asked in particular whether we were looking at following the practice in some States and councils of reducing the number of workers on road gangs from the usual six down to four, or two, or three, depending on the circumstances. I am able to advise Mr Westende that during the period that this Government has been in office the roads and maintenance section gangs have been progressively reviewed in conjunction with the unions - and I stress in conjunction and cooperation with the union movement - concerning their size and function. As a result of that, the bulk of road maintenance staff are now working in two- or three-person gangs. The remaining larger gangs are specifically designed for the work involved in major projects such as major hot mix surfacing, but even there we are regularly reviewing the size of those major gangs. We are constantly trying to use more appropriate technology and additional technical advice is always being taken to look at the optimum size of gangs. I would also note that gangs in the ACT provide their own traffic control, which is a time consuming task and in some places is done by separate groups of workers.

ACTION - Job Vacancy

MR CONNOLLY: Yesterday, Mr Westende asked me a question about a store position at ACTION. The position in question is that of a senior store supervisor, grade 1. The position was advertised in the press as well as the Government *Gazette* to broaden the field of potential applicants, so the position was advertised both internally and externally. Some 70 applications were received. I think Mr Westende is probably correct in saying that about 60 of them were internal. A normal merit selection process was carried out. The selection panel selected a public servant, but a person from outside ACTION. A second panel was convened which confirmed the first panel's recommendation. The recommendation was then processed through the normal promotion processes. The promotion did attract an appeal and the Promotions Appeal Committee upheld the original decision.

Parking Infringements - Penalties

MR CONNOLLY: Mr Stevenson today asked me a question about the number of licences or rights to drive or registrations that have been cancelled since the default system has been introduced. I did mention that I thought he had approached my office about this some time ago, and indeed he had - in the first week of February, well before we were sitting. In future I will take up Mr Stevenson's recommendation that I file these questions under "D" for Dennis so that they are easy to locate in my question time brief.

Mr Humphries: "D" for something.

MR CONNOLLY: "D" for something, Mr Humphries interjects. Since fine default legislation was commenced in 1990, some 8,862 licences, registrations or rights to drive have been processed in all the Territory for parking and road traffic infringements. I will recite the breakdown of those in 1992-93 but I will give Mr Stevenson more detailed figures. In 1992-93, for parking infringements, 185 licences have been cancelled, 188 registrations have been cancelled and 1,521 rights to drive have been cancelled. In relation to those there have been renewals after payment of 325 licences, 225 registrations and 1,400 rights to drive. Those figures for renewals are actually larger than cancellations because they overlap the years. In relation to non-payment of traffic infringement notices, this year it has been 63 licences, five registrations and 79 rights to drive. So the overwhelming majority of these cancellations relate to parking rather than traffic, but I will give a more detailed breakdown to Mr Stevenson.

RSL Retirement Village

MR WOOD: Madam Speaker, I have something from the "K" for Kaine file from yesterday.

Mr Kaine: "T" for Trevor.

MR WOOD: As you wish. Mr Kaine asked me yesterday about the current position of the application of the RSL to build on Lake Ginninderra. He inquired whether the secretary of my department had given, as he said, "an unequivocal guarantee" to the Belconnen Community Council on Tuesday that the project would not proceed. The Government has been discussing the RSL proposal for some time and no decision has yet been made on the proposed development.

The secretary of my department met with the president of the Belconnen Community Council, Mr Henry, and two representatives on Tuesday morning prior to that council's meeting on Tuesday evening. Among other things, the representatives of the council asked about the current status of the RSL proposal for a retirement village on the lake. Mr Townsend told the Belconnen Community Council representatives that the Government's position had always been that the site previously proposed by the RSL immediately on the foreshore of Lake Ginninderra would not be available for development as had originally been proposed by the RSL. The secretary further advised the representatives that the department was currently considering an alternative proposal from the RSL. That is the case. That is what was said. Representatives of the RSL will be having further discussions with the department. They talk also, as you know, to the Community Council and to other people.

25 February 1993

Vocational Training Authority - Appointments

MR WOOD: From the "G" for Greg file: Yesterday Mr Cornwell asked me about the VTA, its current state of membership and whether a meeting had lapsed. I will table the information, if I may. There are currently six members of the VTA and action is about completed on filling the three vacancies. We have to get the so-called Bowen letters back yet. I can further advise that no recent meetings of the VTA have been cancelled because of a lack of a quorum; however a meeting of the executive committee proposed for 1 February was inquorate due to the unavailability of an employer representative. Madam Speaker, I seek leave for this to be incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Document incorporated at Appendix 1.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION CONFERENCE - STUDY TRIP Paper

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, I present, for your information, a report provided to me by Mr Gary Humphries, MLA. I present the following paper:

Study trip - Report by Mr G. Humphries, MLA - Community Safety and Crime Prevention Conference, Melbourne, 19 November 1992.

PAPERS

MR BERRY (Deputy Chief Minister): For the information of members, pursuant to the Audit Act 1989, I present the following papers:

Audit Act -

Bruce Stadium - Financial statements, including the Auditor-General's report, for 1991-92.

Office of Sport and Recreation - Financial statements, including the Auditor-General's report, for 1991-92.

CANBERRA IN THE YEAR 2020 STUDY
Ministerial Statement and Papers

MS FOLLETT (Chief Minister and Treasurer) (3.10): Madam Speaker, I seek leave of the Assembly to make a ministerial statement on the second quarterly report of the Canberra in the Year 2020 study.

Leave granted.

MS FOLLETT: Madam Speaker, on 20 August 1992 the Assembly passed a motion as follows:

That the Government inquire into and report on strategic planning in the ACT addressing the key question "What should Canberra be like in the year 2020?".

The motion requires the Government to provide quarterly reports on the progress of the study to the Assembly, with a final report on the first sitting day of August 1993. During the second stage of the study, 11 issues papers and one background paper have been prepared. The issues papers cover a wide range of subject areas important to the future development of Canberra. The topics discussed are: An overview of global and local trends; social justice; education and training; housing; health; law and justice; environmental quality and cultural development; urban form; infrastructure development; economic development and employment; and finance and the economy.

The papers have been developed to set out key issues and stimulate discussion. Each paper examines important social, economic, environmental and technological trends that are likely to impact on Canberra's future. The papers raise some of the choices concerning Canberra's development that face the community and the Government over the coming decades. In addition to the issues papers, the second quarterly report includes a background paper setting out demographic projections of population, household formation and job growth requirements in the ACT to the year 2020. Forecasts of growth in the surrounding region are also examined.

The issues papers tabled today will form the basis for discussion and consultation during the next stage of the study to be conducted through to May 1993. The principal avenue of consultation will be the Canberra in the Year 2020 reference group which will be convened shortly. The reference group will: Review the issues and goals outlined in the issues papers; advise on community views concerning key issues for Canberra in the period to the year 2020; and provide advice to the Government in the formulation of the final report to the Assembly. The final stage of the study will draw together issues and conclusions based on the discussion of the issues papers and community consultation and will develop goals, implementation strategies, and evaluation and review of processes as called for in the Assembly's motion. At the completion of this stage a final report will be presented to the Assembly in August 1993.

I commend the second quarterly report of the Canberra in the Year 2020 study to the Assembly. I table that report and a copy of my statement. I move:

That the Assembly takes note of the papers.

Debate (on motion by **Ms Szuty**) adjourned.

UNEMPLOYMENT
Discussion of Matter of Public Importance

MADAM TEMPORARY DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Grassby): The Speaker has received letters from Mrs Carnell, Mr Cornwell, Mr De Domenico, Mr Humphries, Mr Kaine, Mr Stevenson and Mr Westende proposing that matters of public importance be submitted to the Assembly. In accordance with standing order 79, the Speaker has determined that the matter proposed by Mr Cornwell be submitted to the Assembly, namely:

The Labor Government's failure to treat the horrendous level of unemployment as the number one priority.

MR CORNWELL (3.15): Despite the attempts of an increasingly desperate Labor Party to scare people in relation to the goods and services tax which will be introduced in this country following the election on 13 March of a coalition government, the real issue for this election can be summed up in three words - jobs, jobs, jobs.

Mr Berry: That is an old line.

MR CORNWELL: It may be, but it is a line which I would hope could be repeated constantly between now and 13 March because that is what the future of this country and the future of this country's population are all about. So far we have had from Federal Labor one million official unemployed, and I say "official" because we do not know how many hidden unemployed there may be.

Mr Berry: And it will go up under a GST; it will skyrocket.

MR CORNWELL: You have the runs on the board, Mr Berry. Your party has the runs on the board - a million official unemployed. Does anybody really want a repeat performance of another three years of a Keating administration? I would think that anybody in their right mind would certainly not want the risk of yet another million unemployed under Keating. Unfortunately, the fact that there are one million official unemployed should not prevent - - -

Mr Berry: There are not a million in the ACT. We are talking about the ACT Government.

MR CORNWELL: If you read the MPI, Mr Berry, you will see that it states:

The Labor Government's failure to treat the horrendous level of unemployment as the number one priority.

Despite the one million official unemployed, it should not prevent any Labor government from at least attempting to reduce the numbers - somehow, anyhow. We have not seen this in action in this ACT Labor Government.

Mr De Domenico: They have talked about it.

MR CORNWELL: They have talked about it, indeed, Mr De Domenico, but what is the Follett Labor Government here really doing about unemployment? I would suggest that it is hindering rather than helping. Indeed, the evidence for that claim can be found in the Chief Minister's speech relating to the Government's priorities for 1993. Just listen to this list. It was delivered on 16 February 1993 to this Assembly. I do not intend to read it all, obviously; but I will paraphrase it into the various priority issues that Ms Follett announces her Government is about to pursue in the next 12 months. I will relate them to the number of jobs they will provide. First of all, we have here on page 1 new taxation measures to directly hit small business.

Mr De Domenico: How many jobs in that?

MR CORNWELL: No jobs. Turn to the next page; changes to the Gaming Machine Act.

Mr De Domenico: How many jobs?

MR CORNWELL: No jobs. There will be an independent health complaints unit.

Mr De Domenico: How many jobs?

MR CORNWELL: No jobs. Food legislation - no jobs. Health professionals regulations - no jobs. There will be the creation of - hang on, here we go - an environment commission.

Mr De Domenico: There is one.

MR CORNWELL: There is a job - one job. Protection of endangered plants and animals - no jobs. Boxing Control Bill - I would say probably loss of jobs, depending on how they draw it up, but certainly no foreseeable jobs. A register of education providers to overseas students - no jobs. Law reform - no jobs. Legislation to recognise the property and economic contribution of people in a domestic relationship - I do not think there are any jobs there. There will be an Act to prohibit age discrimination. There are no new jobs created in that, though it may enable people who do not wish to retire from jobs because they are too old under the present law at least to retain their jobs. It is something that we would welcome; but, again, there are no new jobs. The mental health law overhaul - no jobs there. The Adoption Bill - no jobs there. Points demerit system for bad drivers - no jobs.

There are 13 initiatives that Ms Follett's Government has proposed as priorities for 1993, and I have found one job. There is a great deal of regulation. The Labor Party loves regulation. They have, if I may quote Mr Connolly's word, an obsession with regulating people, and certainly they are pursuing that obsession in 1993 to the same extent that they did in 1992. We then move on, because the Chief Minister said:

The Government intends to sharpen its social justice focus during the year.

Mr De Domenico: What about the unemployed? Where is the social justice in being unemployed?

MR CORNWELL: I would have to ask that question myself. Where is the social justice in being unemployed? But it is all right; Ms Follett has promised to work on the following: A social justice budget statement; a separate ACT public service; a voting system for the ACT; and, of course, the indigenous people here. Again, where are the jobs in these four areas that she is going to beaver away at with enthusiasm in 1993? She has also promised a ratepayers survey and a new flag for Canberra. If we can get everybody to sit down and make new flags, we might be able to create a few jobs, but I am not convinced that this is the case. These, however, are the Chief Minister's priorities. They certainly do not address job creation in any real or meaningful way.

Furthermore, they give no hope for the creation of jobs in the business sector. For example, no reduction is proposed for payroll tax. There are no cuts to taxes on business such as wholesale sales tax, payroll taxes, petrol excise, customs duties, rebates on goods and services, tax paid on business inputs. All of these cuts are part of the progressive Fightback package of the coalition. There are no plans by this ACT Labor Government to reduce the huge costs incurred in the ACT with, for example, transport infrastructure, like reducing the costs in ACTION.

Mr Connolly: What? We are the only government that has ever done that.

MR CORNWELL: It is all right, Mr Connolly. I am not going to ask you to comment on that, because I know that you will offend the Transport Workers Union yet again and we do not want anything to happen to you. You are one of the most efficient Ministers opposite.

There is no mention of labour market reform in Ms Follett's 1993 priorities. There is no commitment to aiding the review process for development projects. It has been drawn to our attention that there are housing developments that are still languishing in various offices of this administration all over town, and we do want to ask: How long is it going to take to get these things off the ground? There is no mention at all of employment as a priority by this Government. In fact, what this Government has done in terms of employment in this city is to allow their Federal colleagues to remove employment opportunities from the ACT. For example, the Human Rights Commission went to Sydney - 130 jobs were lost. The Administrative Appeals Tribunal went to Brisbane - 114 jobs. The Industry Commission went to Melbourne - 227 jobs. The CSIRO headquarters moved to Melbourne - I think the figure might have been about 50 there. Of course, there is the suggested transfer of the Australian Broadcasting Authority, with another 50 jobs going to Sydney.

What did this Government, this Government that has such an affinity with the Federal Labor Government, do and indeed what could they do to prevent those job losses from the ACT? They are significant; you cannot just push them aside, because it is known that each job within the public service or within public service statutory authorities generates a certain number of jobs in the private sector. So not only have we lost these jobs from the ACT, we have also lost the potential of generating other jobs in the private sector to serve these positions.

Mr Lamont: Oh!

MR CORNWELL: Do not scoff, Mr Lamont; it is very basic. What about ACT youth unemployment, which is the highest in Australia? The Chief Minister's Youth Advisory Council on Youth Unemployment said in December 1991:

Above all it -

that is, the Government -

must recognise that solutions to youth unemployment will not ultimately be found in the provision of short term support and training programs, but in the creation of jobs ... it must seek to generate sustainable solutions which aim to recover jobs for young people.

It also went on to say:

... begin discussions on wages and conditions for young people and seek to ensure that Commonwealth and state bodies implement a system of wages based on the level of skill rather than age.

In the *Canberra Times* on 16 January 1992 the ACTU - the Australian Council of Trade Unions - was quoted as being maybe ready to agree to the Federal Government introducing a so-called training wage. That was exactly what the Chief Minister's Youth Advisory Council was seeking. What has happened?

Mr De Domenico: When was that done?

MR CORNWELL: That was a month after the Youth Advisory Council made the statement, Mr De Domenico. What has happened? The unions are not going to object. What has Ms Follett's Government done? Nothing whatsoever. In the meantime, the ACT continues to have the highest youth unemployment in Australia, rising from March 1992 when it was 19.7 per cent to January 1993 when it was 39.2 per cent. The cost of one young person on the dole is \$181.10 per fortnight, on average, but we must also look at the cost in a much broader sense. We have to look at it in terms of the social cost, in terms of self-esteem, in terms of respect, of encouragement and incentive, of being idle. There are the problems associated with drugs and alcohol, and of vandalism.

If my friend Mr Connolly would care to go out and have a look at some of his Housing Trust flat complexes one day about midday, not surrounded by his flunkys, but just quietly with one or two staffers, he would start to see a lot of young people appearing around those areas. Why? Because they are just getting up. They have no jobs; they have no future. What is the point of getting up at 8 o'clock in the morning when you have nothing to look forward to for that day? Go and have a look sometime. It brings home to you very strongly the terrible effects of unemployment on our young people; yet your Government has done nothing whatsoever to assist, to tackle this problem. A voluntary service scheme, for example, has been recommended by Archbishop Hollingworth, the Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane. Even that would be a start. It would at least occupy these young people and give them some opportunity to put themselves to work. They may not be being paid a large amount of money but at least they would be getting something out of it. At least they would be getting some self-respect.

I repeat that, so far as this Labor Government is concerned or the Federal Labor Government is concerned, they have failed abysmally to treat the horrendous level of unemployment as a No. 1 priority. On 13 March the Federal Labor Government deserves to be cast into the trash heap of history for this alone.

MS FOLLETT (Chief Minister and Treasurer) (3.29): I will make a couple of points at the outset to respond to Mr Cornwell. The first is that the ACT continues to enjoy the lowest rate of unemployment in the country in general unemployment. In the second place, I have protested strenuously against every removal of a job or an organisation from Canberra. What Mr Cornwell fails to take note of is that some Commonwealth public service bodies have been moving into Canberra, such as the Defence Signals Directorate. In fact, overall, there has been an increase in Commonwealth public service jobs in Canberra. Finally, I would like to echo the words of a distinguished commentator on Fightback. Not one of ours, but a person who I would have thought was in the Liberal league has said that the only jobs which will be created under Fightback will be in the Tax Office for the people who are trying to tally up what everybody is doing.

My Government has never shirked its responsibility to tackle the problem of unemployment and we have always given the fight against unemployment our No. 1 priority. There are two ways to tackle the problem of unemployment, and those are job creation and training. On being re-elected last year, my Government showed that it was concerned to boost jobs by accelerating the capital works program, which provided an additional 330 jobs. The Government gave the go-ahead to the casino. The interim casino has provided an additional 350 jobs, many of them for young people, and the permanent casino will create 280 jobs during the construction phase and approximately 500 jobs when it is complete. We have continued to support the establishment of an international air freight centre at the Canberra Airport and we have provided some funding towards that end. The aim of our support for that project was, of course, the creation of jobs.

The ACT Tourism Commission was provided with \$380,000 for the establishment of a tourism development unit to attract and develop new developments and to identify gaps within existing tourism infrastructure, which will result in increased visitor numbers and increased employment. This Government has a strategy to work with business, industry, unions and the community to achieve development and employment growth in the ACT. There have been a number of consultative forums established. The Economic Priorities Advisory Committee of the ACT, the Industrial Relations Advisory Committee, the Government Business Forum and the South-East Economic Development Council have been established. I am not saying that I established all of these. Issues such as employment and economic development are addressed.

The Government recognises that the future development of the ACT is linked to the growth of the private sector. We have been successful in attracting new businesses to the ACT. Apart from the casino, which I have already mentioned, the following new businesses are now going on in the ACT: Maestro, Optus, Azimuth, the Centre for Plant Science and the Centre for Robust and Adaptive Systems, the Centre for Advanced Computational Systems, the ACT Wool Topping Facility and Total Peripherals. These will all provide the sorts of jobs that we want in Canberra - high technology, knowledge based and clean manufacturing. Approximately 1,300 jobs will be involved there by the end of 1994.

We are also providing practical support and encouragement for small business. The Business Services Centre provides information, advice and referral services to more than 250 clients each month. In addition, we have now established a second business incubator at Kingston to support and encourage new small businesses in

their critical start-up phase. Members would be aware that early in the new year I wrote to the Canberra business community, encouraging them to consider employing additional young people. We set up a hot line so that those considering employing additional people could get immediate information on all available government assistance, including that from the Commonwealth. I am pleased to say that 130 businesses responded and 31 people who did not have jobs before now have jobs.

The strategy is working. Over the period January 1992 to January 1993, the number of people employed in the ACT increased by 11,600; that is an 8 per cent increase. Over the same period, the unemployment rate also fell from 8.2 per cent to 7.8 per cent. This is well below the national unemployment rate and it shows that, in contrast to the ramblings of the Opposition, the ACT Government is serious about unemployment.

As I mentioned earlier, the other aim of the fight against unemployment is to ensure that the unemployed have the skills necessary to fill jobs as they become available. The ACT Government has taken a number of initiatives over the last 12 months to raise the skills level of the unemployed. These initiatives include: The extension of the Commonwealth Jobskills program to the ACT, resulting in 270 training and work experience places for the long-term unemployed; the establishment of an ACT Jobskills program, providing training and work experience to another 100 additional long-term unemployed; a 30 per cent increase in funding for the employment and training grants program, to provide employment and training opportunities for the disadvantaged in the labour market, especially those likely to become long-term unemployed; and a 50 per cent increase in funding for the NEIS program, to support unemployed people wishing to establish their own self-employment ventures. These additional funds provide training and employment opportunities to nearly 600 people.

We have also established the ACT Youth Conservation Corps. Arrangements have been made to run the ACT Youth Conservation Corps and the Commonwealth's landcare and environment action program as joint programs in the ACT. This has resulted in an enhanced program capable of providing specialised support to disadvantaged young people, as well as increasing the overall capacity of the programs in the ACT. Fifteen young people have commenced on-the-job training with the Australian War Memorial. During March, additional projects involving approximately 70 more places will be approved.

I turn to the women's work force development scheme. This initiative will provide 20 women with six months' work experience and training within the ACT Government Service. It targets women over 30 years of age who have been out of work for over two years. We have also conducted the working opportunities for women expo. The Government sponsored a major event on women's employment, education and training in November of last year, which provided practical hands-on advice for women considering entering or re-entering the work force or changing career direction. There were seminars, workshops, information booths and videos, all providing women with a wealth of information. Finally, there are the women's employment strategy grants.

25 February 1993

The Government established the women's employment strategy grants as a formal grants program from 1992 to 1993. This means that the Government is now able to offer grants totalling \$60,000 per year for work in relation to women's employment, education and training, in addition to the priority given to women under the employment and training grants program.

This outline which I have provided now to the house is not exhaustive. It provides only a small cross-section of the programs and initiatives which the Government has put in place to tackle the problem of unemployment. As I said last week in outlining the Government's priorities for 1993, the Territory is only a small player in the macro-economic life of the nation, but we will continue to give our highest priority to tackling unemployment in the ACT.

MR DE DOMENICO (3.38): Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I am going to try to get the perspective back to the ACT with some facts and figures. The Chief Minister, quite correctly says that yes, the percentage of unemployment from one time to the next has gone down from 8.4 to 7.9.

Ms Follett: It is 7.8.

MR DE DOMENICO: It is 7.8; I am sorry. I did not hear her say, though, that that reflects more people out of work now than there were last year. That is also a fact. Notwithstanding what statistics tell you, let us have a look at the people that are affected, the actual people that are unemployed. There are close to 13,000 people in the ACT at the minute who are unemployed, and what has the Government done about trying to make that figure a heck of a lot less than it is?

The Chief Minister quite nicely puts it that we have a casino. That is a fantastic initiative that, by the way, was started a long time ago; but congratulations, Chief Minister. The Chief Minister says that her Government supports the international air freight terminal. Well done! Good support! Wonderful! She has established a tourism development unit. The Chief Minister, though, does not talk about the tourism area. She does not say, for example, that the chairman, Mr Ron Brown, has recently resigned from the Tourism Commission. She also does not say that there have been some vacancies on that Tourism Commission which she has not made appointments to yet, but she has talked about tourism.

She talks about working with business. She has mentioned that she has established five committees and they are doing a wonderful job and looking into the problem. They all have mirrors and they are looking into things. Her own EPACT committee which made a report to her on youth unemployment in 1992 - I think the month was May 1992 - made certain recommendations. We know that some of these recommendations are in the too-hard basket, like the deregulation of the labour market and the deregulation of trading hours. They are direct recommendations from the Chief Minister's own Economic Priorities Advisory Committee; yet, what has the Government done since those recommendations were made? The answer is: Nothing. The Chief Minister has stood up here time and time again and, quite nicely and smilingly, has given some wonderful motherhood statements. She is concerned about unemployment; she is concerned about the unemployed; she is concerned about social justice. Where is the social justice in nearly 13,000 Canberrans being unemployed? Where is the social justice when the ACT has the highest - I repeat, the highest - level of youth unemployment in this country?

Let us have a look at what the Government has done directly to exacerbate that situation. The Chief Minister says that she is - in her own words - working closely with business. She has written them a letter; she is working closely with business. Where was the close consultation with business when, last October, her Government put in the occupational health and safety amendments and yesterday refused to accept a repeal of them? Not one business group in this community wanted that to go ahead.

The Chief Minister waxes lyrical about tourism and the hospitality industry and the retail industry. Did the Government directly target when it put in that legislation? In the very words of the Deputy Chief Minister, those two were the tourism industry and the retail industry. That legislation actually made it more difficult for people in those industries to employ young people. It is ironic, is it not, that yesterday in this Assembly there was a 30 per cent hike for all taverns - once again by press release and letter, with no consultation? It is the very industry that employs young people and we have the highest rate of youth unemployment in the country.

Mr Lamont, who is not here now but was before - I am sorry, there he is; I acknowledge that he is here - was talking about Fightback and GST and what Liberal governments are going to do to the ACT. Let us look at the facts of what Labor governments have done to the ACT. As we all know, we have three prominent members of the Labor Party representing us here in the ACT. Let us have a look at Senator McMullan, for example. In April 1990 Senator McMullan was appointed as Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, with special portfolio responsibility for the Taxation Office. Last year the Taxation Office lost 4,711 jobs. How many of those job losses were in Canberra, Senator McMullan? I do not think anybody opposite can answer that.

Then, of course, we have Mr Langmore. Mr Langmore represents Fraser. In May 1991 Mr Langmore - your mate, although from a different faction - called for the defence budget to be cut in half. Mr Langmore, the member for Fraser, did that.

Mr Berry: Good thing, too.

MR DE DOMENICO: Mr Berry says, "Good thinking". This would mean a loss of 6,000 jobs in Canberra, Mr Berry. What would this mean in Mr Langmore's electorate, for example? How many jobs have we lost at the Russell and Campbell Park offices? How many jobs will be lost at the Jervis Bay naval facility? Will Fairbairn RAAF base be closed? Will ADFA be closed? This is Mr Langmore.

Last, but not least, we have that representative of Tuggeranong. She has complete control over Tuggeranong; no-one is allowed to mention the word - except Ms Ellis, of course. In February 1990 Mrs Kelly was Minister for Aviation, and what did she do? She appointed the former chairman of the board of the Civil Aviation Authority who implemented cuts which will halve the Civil Aviation Authority staff by 1995. So far 423 people have lost their jobs in Canberra alone, with the prospect of hundreds more losing their jobs in years to come, thanks to Mrs Kelly. So, thank you, Mrs Kelly; thank you, Mr Langmore; thank you, Senator McMullan. What humbug!

Under this Federal Labor Government thousands upon thousands of jobs have been lost. We have not stopped there, though. They are three representatives of Canberra. What about Senator Nick Bolkus, the Minister for Administrative Services? What has he done? He has cut 5,000 jobs from the Department of Administrative Services, with 2,300 more to go. There have been 7,000 redundancies and retrenchments in the Public Service in the last four years, and 34,000 jobs have been lost in government business enterprises in the last three years. Here we have Labor politicians standing up in this house, smiling at us when they talk to us, and saying how concerned they are about the unemployed. What humbug!

Ms Follett mentioned new businesses. She said, "Oh, haven't we done wonderful things with new businesses". She has not gone out and had a look at the high-tech industry, because the Queensland Labor Government has been in this town recently trying to poach our high-tech industries. What lollies are these governments trying to poach our industries with? It is with reductions in payroll tax, with free rents for five years and with other inducements. Ms Follett stood up in this house and said, "We should not be inducing anybody to do anything". What we are saying is: If you are really fair dinkum about getting jobs going in this country and in this Territory in particular, do not let one of your colleagues from Queensland rustle into town and pinch some of the high-tech industries.

Payroll tax is something that has been mentioned here a lot. From time to time we hear people opposite talk about GSTs and "frightback", or whatever Mr Berry calls it, but we should ram this down the throats of those opposite time and time again. Let us have a look again at what some of the Labor people have said about taxes. I have picked some former Premiers, current Premiers, people who would be Premiers. Bob Carr was mentioned before. What did Bob Carr say about payroll tax? Let us take a quote from Bob Carr's budget reply speech on 26 September 1991. He said:

If there is any tax relief the priority must be payroll tax.

That was not anybody opposite here saying that; that was Bob Carr. So the Leader of the Opposition in New South Wales realised the potential of job creation in the abolition of payroll tax. But let us have another one - Tom Burns, the Deputy Premier of Queensland. What did he say? On 17 September 1986 he said, and this is a quote from Queensland *Hansard*, page 1530:

It is absolutely incredible that any Government would allow payroll tax to become its major source of revenue.

What is the major source of revenue for the ACT Government? Payroll tax. That was Tom Burns, the Deputy Premier of Queensland. There is more and more. We all remember Carmen Lawrence. She was Premier of Western Australia up till about a month or so ago. In her last budget before she was booted out of office she actually reduced the level of payroll tax in Western Australia. And there are other things. Of course, the lulu of the lot was Mr Paul Keating, the man that wants another 10 years. As far back as 1977 he said that a reduction in payroll tax according to Labor Party policy at the time would create 200,000 jobs. What does this Government do? It actually puts more taxes onto business so that they cannot employ more.

Mr Westende and Mrs Carnell and others that have been in business will tell you that the greatest burden preventing people from employing more people is the cost of labour in terms of payroll tax, workers compensation, occupational health and safety, training guarantee levies, superannuation guarantee levies and the tonnes and tonnes of paperwork that small business in particular has to do in order to comply with the regulations. This Government has done nothing about the unemployment situation. This Government waxes lyrical, smiles and says all the right things; but it sits on its hands. Ms Follett is to be blamed for that. She says a lot of nice things. She and her Government do nothing.

MS SZUTY (3.48): Madam Speaker, the debate today led by Mr Cornwell has addressed the fact that the issue of unemployment - and, in particular, I wish to speak about youth unemployment - has been receiving soft treatment since the election that brought this Second Assembly into being. The Government's response to the problem has been to create a limited number of training places, to write polite letters to businesses pointing out what training assistance is available and to commission EPACT to prepare a paper which to date has had little impact on the growing problem of unemployment among our young people in the ACT.

The problem is not new. In 1987 the Federal Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory gave an historical context for our high youth unemployment rate. It said:

The high level of youth unemployment is a product of lack of experience and skills. It is also influenced by Canberra's industrial structure which requires high skill levels ... Recruitment levels changed greatly from the 1970s to the 1980s with a marked drop in public service vacancies for young school leavers as a result of changed public sector employment practices. The traineeship scheme will have an impact on the recruitment of young people into the public service and the Government traineeship policy is a response to the increase in youth unemployment and should provide better employment opportunities.

I think we all realise that the traineeship road has not taken up as many unemployed young people as have been denied access to employment by the recession. I acknowledge that other packages have been put together to try to stem the increasing numbers of young people without jobs. More traineeships, more training courses and the environmental corps proposed by the Chief Minister, modelled on the South Australian experience, have all attempted to prevent young people from having their expectations of employment diminished, but more needs to be done, and done soon.

Mr Bill Kelty and Mr Lindsay Fox recently joined forces to promote one particular method of encouraging business to employ young people. Their work for Australia campaign has so far received pledges of 27,000 jobs for young people. Mr Fox admits that the bottom line, that is, the number of young people who are actually in some of those promised jobs, is 909, but they continue to be optimistic that the jobs will come. The pair address meetings and have local community members and local employers form committees in Melbourne, country Victoria, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

25 February 1993

The Department of Employment, Education and Training has sent two officers to work in Mr Fox's office to answer questions and to fast-track applications for assistance. It is a telling testimony to the two well-known men that the project has been put on hold during the Federal election campaign to keep the work for Australia scheme apolitical. In the course of seeking information regarding the scheme, my private secretary spoke to one of the DEET officers involved, who stated that Mr Kelty and Mr Fox were both keen to come to Canberra. There appears to be one sticking point - they need to be asked. Perhaps the Chief Minister has done this and may wish to inform the Assembly, or perhaps the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Berry, may inform the Assembly as to whether she has done so and her thoughts on the project. I do not, for one moment, say that this is the only measure that will help curb unemployment among our young people. The reasons for unemployment are many. However, I feel that there must be ways of giving young people access to the employment they seek. The Kelty and Fox option provides mainstream employment opportunities. Can we explore other ways to create self-sustaining, fulfilling employment for our youth?

The Western Australian city of Gosnells, for example, established an urban art program in 1990. It uses aerosol artists to create murals in what are known as "legals", that is, spaces on buildings and public assets on which they have permission to paint. One of the original artists in that group has gone on to become the project coordinator. His training came from being part of the team that organised all aspects of mural painting. I would envisage that the skills learned in such a position - negotiation skills, purchasing skills, office skills and his obvious talent as an artist - would give him a solid basis for a future career in many fields. He has not had standardised training. He has been through training that depended on his personal experience. The point I am making is that formalised training is often placed at the wrong end of the learning-job cycle.

As a community, Canberra has always achieved high levels of education for its young people. However, as the rest of Australia catches up with our high retention rates our perceived advantage in the employment arena will be comparatively diminished. The answer is not to keep our young people occupied in endless training courses. We must look at the Territory's employment base, at the level of entry expected and, in conjunction with the review of the skills required to do the tasks required, match people and skills to jobs and in many cases start their training from there.

I do not claim to have all the wisdom in the area of unemployment. I do not think any one person or even any one organisation can hope to have answers which will suit all people who are currently unemployed. The Labor Party in New South Wales came up with another strategy which I feel the ACT may benefit from reviewing. That strategy involved the establishment of a task force comprising parliamentarians, community members, business sector representatives and groups representing unemployed people, whose task it was to look at the causes of unemployment. I would envisage that part of the brief for such a body would be to review employment practices, educational standards and availability of courses for business and public sectors and their needs, as well as alternative employment opportunities such as community based projects.

Madam Speaker, regardless of comparisons with the rest of Australia, we cannot wait for the next move by Federal parliamentarians, nor can we wait for the trickle-down effects of major economic reforms to filter through. Our residents who are not able to find work need the very best of our attention and efforts. I am happy to participate in any forum that is willing to address and find solutions to the very real problem of unemployment, especially youth unemployment here in the ACT.

MRS CARNELL (3.55): Madam Speaker, I think that whenever we enter into a debate of this nature it is very easy to lose sight of what is actually happening in the job market; what is really happening out there. The Chief Minister regularly gets up and makes that same speech that she gave again today for, I think, maybe the fourth time - or maybe it is more than that - about all the courses, the traineeships, the skills courses, and on the list goes. I should say "on the course goes", because it seems to be that way.

Yet she forgets to tell us all that, when you actually look at the figures, what is actually happening in the marketplace in the Jobsearch area is that the number of people on Newstart allowance now almost equals the number of people on Jobsearch. People are on Jobsearch, as I am sure everyone here is aware, for the first twelve months of their unemployment. They then go on to Newstart. If those figures are correct, and I am assured that they are, and if just as many people, or almost as many people, have been unemployed for more than 12 months as are in their first 12 months of unemployment, it does not say much for all of the traineeships, all of the courses, all of the money that we are putting into those areas.

That would tend to indicate to me that we should be having a total relook at how we are spending taxpayers' money in the unemployment area and what we are actually achieving for our money. I think Ms Szuty rightly alluded to the dramatic need to get away from the cliched statements, from the courses that employ 10 people, of whom at the end of the day two or three might actually end up with a job. That is important; two or three people are important. But when out there in Canberra we have thousands and thousands of people without work, two jobs here and two jobs there is not enough.

I think the Chief Minister cannot forever use that wonderful list of 10 jobs here and 10 jobs there as her way out, as her way of totally abrogating her position and her job of doing something about this quite dramatic problem. My understanding is that at the moment over 6,000 Australians every week are coming on to social security benefits because they are out of jobs. My understanding also is that that is made up of round about half Jobsearch and half Newstart. That just shows you that what is happening is that, unless there is a dramatic change in this country, just about all the ones that go on Jobsearch this week will end up on Newstart in 12 months' time. That is a tragedy.

Mr Berry: Under Hewson they end up being chopped out after nine months, with nothing.

MRS CARNELL: That has been changed, Mr Berry.

Ms Follett: It was seen to be wrong, was it?

25 February 1993

MRS CARNELL: We are capable of listening to what people say, unlike you guys. I think it is very important to look at how women are being affected by unemployment in the ACT, and in Australia, on a wider base. The Chief Minister forever speaks about her programs for women, for mature women - again, 10 women for six months each. Somebody has to employ them at the end of that time. That is the thing that we seem to continually overlook. If there are no jobs, and there are certainly no jobs in the public sector, where are they going to get jobs? In Canberra, at the moment, the private sector is not in a position to be offering any jobs at all. The situation is just too tight. Women are continuing to suffer from the last in, first out principle that the friends of Mr Berry and Mr Lamont in the union movement seem to think is somehow fair. It certainly is not fair to women who choose to stay home and look after their children, at least for a time, until they are regularly forced back into the work force by the economic situation that the Keating Government has provided for this country.

We also should not overlook the women in Canberra who are underemployed - those who do not end up on the statistics because they have more than one hour of work each week. That is all you have to have not to end up on the statistics.

Mr De Domenico: Even ironing.

MRS CARNELL: You are quite right, Mr De Domenico. People who have cleaning jobs and people who have ironing jobs do not end up on our unemployment statistics even if what they want is a full-time job. Also, as we know, the women who have just given up do not end up on our statistics. Women who would love a job, women who are trained, women who have university degrees or TAFE degrees, women who have trained for many years in their jobs, who have chosen to have some time off to have families and who now have absolutely no chance of re-entering the work force, because their husbands or spouses are in work, are not on the statistics. This means that the level of problems for women is substantially higher than the figures suggest.

We already know that in the ACT, on average, the level of female unemployment is substantially higher than that for men. Take into account as well the level of women who are underemployed or whose husbands or spouses are at work, and you really see why we have a huge problem in the work force, an unaddressed problem, because those women are not in a position to get into most of these training courses, assuming that training courses do any good at all. Ms Follett suggests that training 10 women for six months each somehow addresses this enormous problem for women who have been out of the work force for a period. It does not even come close. The only way you can do that - I stress again, the only way - is to give the private sector some sort of opportunity to expand their work force. The only way you can do that is to cut business costs.

Mr Berry: Well, go out there and do it. Do not sit here whingeing. You are in the private sector.

Mr De Domenico: We are not the Government, Mr Berry; you are the Government.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! I believe that Mrs Carnell has the floor!

Mr De Domenico: Give us a chance. We will take over. Give us a go.

Mr Lamont: I take a point of order, Madam Speaker. Would you ask Mr De Domenico to cease interjecting so that we can at least understand or attempt to understand what Mrs Carnell is saying?

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Lamont. I believe that I was trying to do that.

Mr De Domenico: I will, Madam Speaker. I will abide by the ruling, as always.

MRS CARNELL: Hopefully, later on today, we will address the problem of domestic violence. We are acutely aware as a community - I am sure that everyone in this Assembly is aware, and I know that you are, Madam Speaker - that one of the greatest causes of violence at home, domestic violence, is unemployment. When one or both parties are out of work the problems really become nasty. That is why, I believe, we have the level of escalation of domestic violence that we have.

I do not believe - contrary, I think, to the Labor Government - that women are stupid. I think the Prime Minister in his speech yesterday treated women in Canberra, and women in Australia, as total fools. When he said in his speech yesterday that he would pay women who stay home an extra \$60 a fortnight - we now know that that was absolute rubbish - he was treating every woman in Canberra as an absolute idiot. We now know that he is cashing up the dependent spouse rebate - that is all he is doing - and increasing it by an extra \$4 a week. That is \$8 a fortnight, not \$60 a fortnight. As the women in Canberra are not fools they will know that women in Canberra, under Fightback, will get an extra \$300 a year from the dependent spouse rebate and there will be an extra \$1,500 for all of those whose family income is under \$30,000 and who have three children. That is much better than \$4.

MR BERRY (Minister for Health, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Sport) (4.04): Madam Speaker, we have just heard from the Liberals opposite another bout of venom which is really directed at those out there who are interested in creating a little bit of confidence in business, both large and small, in the hope that there might be a growth in employment. During this election campaign all we have heard from the Liberals is groaning and whingeing. They have been talking the economy down. We have in here two examples from the small business sector who, instead of groaning and whingeing, should be out there trying to make their businesses grow and employ more people, not trying to dodge taxes or impose other - - -

Mr De Domenico: I employ more than you, Mr Berry. How many do you employ?

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, Mr De Domenico!

MR BERRY: Get out there and create a few jobs. Get to work.

Mr De Domenico: I raise a point of order, Madam Speaker. Mr Berry said that, instead of moaning and groaning, the people opposite, and he pointed to Mr Westende - - -

Mrs Carnell: And avoiding taxes. Get the "avoiding taxes" in.

25 February 1993

Mr De Domenico: He said "avoiding taxes", Madam Speaker. I heard him say "avoiding taxes" - -

MR BERRY: No, "trying to dodge your taxes".

Mr De Domenico: Madam Speaker, I think that is a slight on the person - - -

Mr Kaine: It is a personal imputation. Withdraw it.

MR BERRY: Okay, I will withdraw that imputation. Trying to dodge the payroll tax for business instead - - -

Mr De Domenico: I take a point of order, Madam Speaker. I believe that that should also be withdrawn. I believe that Mr - - -

MR BERRY: I withdraw.

Mr De Domenico: Hold on! I have not finished. Sit down.

MR BERRY: I withdraw that. They are trying to dump the payroll tax for their business mates - -

Mr De Domenico: I raise a point of order again, Madam Speaker. I do not believe that Mr Westende has ever tried to avoid or to do anything illegal - - -

MR BERRY: It is all right. You have won. I withdraw. You have had a win.

Mr De Domenico: Hold on a tick. I have not finished. I am talking to Madam Speaker, with respect, Mr Minister. I do not believe that Mr Westende, or Mrs Carnell, or any other member of the Opposition has tried at any time to do anything to dodge tax, or to do anything illegal.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you. I think we ended up with "dump", but everything else was withdrawn. Is that right?

MR BERRY: Madam Speaker, while honourable people like Bill Kelty and Lindsay Fox are out there, as has been said, trying to create a bit of confidence in the business sector and causing people to generate more confidence, to create jobs, to get on with the job, instead of whingeing, the Liberal politicians around this country are trying to undermine confidence in order to improve their grubby electoral chances. One of the reasons why the country is in great difficulty is these sorts of grubby activities. I am amazed that the Opposition has the gall to be talking about jobs as a priority, because all of them over here, and federally, are busy talking down the economy. Mrs Carnell, with her scare campaigns about the police, the health system and every other thing, has been talking the whole of society down and sending out a great big negative message all the time, instead of getting out there and talking the economy up.

Locally, as has been outlined by the Chief Minister, the ACT is doing better than anywhere else in Australia, but still the Liberals whinge. Federally, Labor, and only Labor, has the vision to increase employment. As I said earlier in relation to the racing industry, which employs 40,000 across Australia, with your GST you are going to rip the guts out of it and do over thousands of workers. That is what the Liberals are going to do. Over and over, the GST will affect jobs.

It will increase unemployment, as it did in Canada. It will impose more costs on business. It will cost \$4,000 to set up the process in a small business, and \$6,000 a year to look after it. Then, of course, we have the situation in Victoria, where Kennett has increased his redundancy money to \$1 billion. So there are more people that the Liberals are going to throw on the scrap heap. They are going to be thrown on the scrap heap and we are going to have more unemployment.

Mr De Domenico: No. They are voluntary redundancies. Tell the whole truth.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Mr De Domenico, that is enough.

MR BERRY: I think he ought to withdraw that.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Mr De Domenico, to ask someone to tell the whole truth has an unfortunate imputation of impropriety on Mr Berry's part. Would you please withdraw it.

Mr De Domenico: I withdraw it, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr De Domenico. Let us have a bit of order.

MR BERRY: I am a good winner. I am not going to grizzle about that. Nasty taxes of 15 per cent on almost everything you buy will not solve unemployment. Just ask the former conservative Prime Minister.

Mr Westende: I am now paying 20 per cent.

MR BERRY: You can afford to pay them. Why should you not pay them if you can afford it? That is good. Those who do best out of the community should pay more. That is quite - - -

Mr Kaine: You should be paying more in that case.

MR BERRY: I do not mind paying my taxes; I like it. The GST in Canada - - -

Mr Kaine: But you should be paying more. You are not paying enough.

MR BERRY: You cannot understand that sort of mentality. I believe in paying high taxes. If you are earning money, pay the tax. You are doing better; pay more tax. The GST in Canada was lower than the 15 per cent promised by the Liberals, yet the cost to business was excessive and helped lead to high unemployment.

Here in the ACT, without a GST, the Federal and local governments have many projects to create jobs. Commonwealth Government initiatives include, firstly, employment creation in the ACT construction industry, such as the commencement of the York Park project, the refurbishment of Scarborough House, the construction of a regional office for the Australian Taxation Office in Belconnen, and the construction of a display and storage centre for the Australian War Memorial at Mitchell. These will boost employment in Canberra by about 2,000 jobs in construction and that will also spread to other industries. They will enable the construction industry to have a much more stable base in Canberra and will provide good medium-term prospects for the construction industry.

25 February 1993

Importantly, the Commonwealth commitment to the future of the construction industry in Canberra demonstrates active support for the private sector in Canberra. We are trying to talk the economy up, not grizzle about it. Get out there and do something. Make your businesses grow. Get on with it.

Mr Westende: I have.

MR BERRY: Great work. You are to be congratulated. There should be more of it. That is what Kelty and Lindsay Fox are out there doing - putting more confidence into the private sector; not grizzling and whingeing. We have done a lot to enhance the construction industry. Look at the contrast. The Liberals plan to stop work on York Park. Well, well, well! These people say, "Get out there and do more". What a joke!

On public service numbers, the Commonwealth Government announced that public service numbers would increase by 1,798 average staff years in 1992-93. The Canberra share of this increase is expected to be about 240 jobs. What are you going to do? Increased public service levels provide a substantial base support for the Canberra economy and provide much needed expenditure on retail goods and services, greatly assisting many other industries and small businesses, like Mr Westende's. They make it grow. Get out there and get stuck into it.

Madam Speaker, in the Liberals' own words, cutting public servants off at the knees will not create jobs. What about the 5,000 jobs that will go under Hewson? You do not want to talk about that. You should be ashamed of yourselves. Labour market initiatives include \$166m provided over two years to create 12,000 places nationally under the Jobskills program, \$79m over two years for subsidies under the Jobstart wage subsidy program, and \$73m over two years for SkillShare organisations specifically targeting training services for old or long-term unemployed so that they are ready for the private sector to use. As soon as the private sector wants to get on with it, like Lindsay Fox and Bill Kelty want them to do, we will have them ready, and that is what Labor is about.

The national employment and training plan for young Australians, announced by the Prime Minister in July, contained the following initiatives: It offered all long-term unemployed youth a six-month vocational training course with a Jobstart card on completion; the creation of a careers start traineeship to target early school leavers; the expansion of SkillShare and job training, with a link to wage subsidy for a job beyond training; the landcare and environmental action program offering young people employment experience in environment and conservation projects; increased subsidies for traineeships and extra support for apprenticeships - all good for business; a further 12,000 pre-vocational training places for TAFE in 1993; funds for the development of the Australian vocational certificate recommended in the Carmichael report. All this is preparing potential employees for small and large business when you want to get on with it.

Under Fightback, of course, 3,000 jobs will go in the public service, resulting in a loss of a further 1,900 jobs in the ACT, with the resulting decimation of the people you claim to represent, the private sector. The threat to the York Park project alone, and other Commonwealth construction expenditure, will damage irreparably the construction economy in the ACT. It will send it into a nosedive from which it will take years to recover. Lou Westende knows that. He knows that the loss of 5,000 jobs and damage to the construction program will damage small business and large business. Deep trouble from the Liberals.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Lamont, you have 10 seconds.

MR LAMONT (4.15): That will be long enough, Madam Speaker. My apple-cheeked old grandmother said that people who live in grass houses should not stow thrones, and that should be the motto by which the Opposition members have this matter hung around their necks. The simple reality is that experience has proven that the introduction of a GST in New Zealand and in Canada has seen massive unemployment problems as a result. It has seen massive decimation of employment prospects for people who are unemployed. There will be a \$10 billion shortfall in the figures from John Hewson because the sale of Telecom will not be able to raise \$20 billion. Making up that shortfall that the GST will introduce will mean more people on the dole queues.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

MS FOLLETT (Chief Minister and Treasurer): Madam Speaker, I ask for your leave to make a personal explanation under standing order 46.

Leave granted.

MS FOLLETT: Madam Speaker, in question time today Mr De Domenico, in the course of asking me a question about the TAB, said that he was quoting from a letter which he said was sent from an accountant to the Acting Under Treasurer.

Mr De Domenico: No, I did not say "accountant". I said "a letter sent to the Acting Under Treasurer".

MS FOLLETT: He quoted from a letter sent to the Acting Under Treasurer. Madam Speaker, I am advised that Mr Woods, who was then the Acting Under Treasurer, has no recollection of ever receiving such a letter. The Treasury records reveal no record of such a letter being received.

Mr De Domenico: They have lost it.

MS FOLLETT: Table it. I did not think you would.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992

Debate resumed from 17 December 1992, on motion by **Mr Berry:**

That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

MR DE DOMENICO (4.17): Madam Speaker - - -

Mr Berry: "What am I doing on my feet?", he asks.

MR DE DOMENICO: No, I am not. I am doing the Workers' Compensation (Amendment) Bill 1992 and the Opposition, the Liberal Party, will not be opposing this Bill. It is very good legislation. Mr Lamont would recall that in 1983 a committee was set up by the then Minister, Mr Tom Uren, to look into the workers compensation situation.

25 February 1993

Mr Lamont: A fine Australian.

MR DE DOMENICO: A fine gentleman, a fine Australian. That committee was looking into aspects of workers compensation in the ACT. In fact, Madam Speaker, that committee made some, I think, 59 recommendations, or was it 89? It is so long ago that I have forgotten. Anyway, it made many recommendations.

Mr Lamont: It was 39.

MR DE DOMENICO: It made 39 recommendations suggesting what could be done to improve the workers compensation climate in the ACT. I believe that this is one of the recommendations. It means very simply that the last insurer will pick up the tab in terms of the claim and then will recoup any money due to it from other insurance companies once it pays that claim out to the work force. That means that claims will be settled more quickly. It also means that claims will be settled more cheaply than they are now, and that ultimately will, I believe, mean cheaper workers compensation premiums.

The second part of the legislation, Madam Speaker, corrects a typo or a technical error in the Bill. After consulting with Confact, the Insurance Council of Australia, the Chamber of Commerce and the Canberra Business Council - we did have an opportunity to consult with the business community this time, unlike what happened over the past week or so - we are quite happy to say that this is good legislation. Therefore the Liberal Party will support it.

MR BERRY (Minister for Health, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Sport) (4.19), in reply: Madam Speaker, I thank members for their support for this legislation. I have to say that Mr De Domenico's applause for the legislation caused me to quickly glance through it again to see whether I had done something wrong.

Mr De Domenico: If it is good stuff I will say so.

MR BERRY: It is rare, Madam Speaker, that we get such applause but I am happy to - - -

Mr De Domenico: It took you 10 years to put it in, but still, it is good stuff.

MR BERRY: Well, I have been here only since 1989, so it is a bit hard to cram the 10 years into that. It might feel like a long time dealing with Liberals. Madam Speaker, I thank members for their support for the Bill. I foreshadow, Madam Speaker, that I will be moving further amendments later on. I have circulated those amendments and discussed them with various members. I will deal with them later in the course of debate.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Detail Stage

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole

MR BERRY (Minister for Health, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Sport) (4.20): Madam Speaker, I seek leave to move five amendments to clauses 4 and 5 together.

MADAM SPEAKER: Is leave granted? There being no objection, leave is granted.

Mr Moore: Provided that they are the amendments he circulated.

MR BERRY: Trust me.

Mr Moore: Don't I always?

MR BERRY: Indeed, because you know me well. Madam Speaker, the Legislative Assembly's Scrutiny - - -

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Berry, I think you were distracted a little. Would you move your amendments and present the supplementary memorandum. Then you can speak to them.

MR BERRY: Yes, I was distracted. I move:

Page 2, clause 4, line 4, proposed new section 9AA, omit "a disease that is".

Page 2, clause 4, line 5, proposed new section 9AA, after "as if -" insert the following paragraph:

"(a) without limiting the generality of the definition of 'disease' in subsection 6(1), a loss, or a further loss, of hearing were a disease for the purposes of that section;"

Page 2, clause 4, lines 6, 9 and 11, proposed new section 9AA, paragraphs 9AA(a) to (c) (inclusive) are renumbered (b) to (d) respectively.

Page 2, clause 4, line 12, proposed new section 9AA, omit from proposed new subsection 9(6) "an injury", substitute "the contraction of a disease, or the aggravation, acceleration or recurrence, as the case may be, that is".

Page 3, subclause 5(2), line 19, omit "1991", substitute "1992".

I present the supplementary explanatory memorandum. Madam Speaker, the Legislative Assembly's Scrutiny of Bills Committee, in its report No. 23 of 1992, indicated an error in clause 5 of the Workers' Compensation (Amendment) Bill 1992. Clause 5 is intended to rectify an incorrect reference in Schedule 1 of the Workers' Compensation Act 1951, which was amended in 1992. The effect of the incorrect reference was to reduce the amount of compensation payable to

25 February 1993

certain incapacitated workers. It was intended that the corrected reference should operate retrospectively to 22 January 1992, which is the date upon which the incorrect reference was introduced into the Act. However, subclause 5(2) of the Bill incorrectly refers to 22 January 1991. It is proposed to correct that error.

Further minor amendments are proposed to clarify some uncertainty created by the wording in the Bill concerning the definition of hearing loss as a disease where it results from ongoing employment. Amendments proposed will ensure that no doubt is left of a worker's rights where a hearing loss is contracted over a period of time or with a number of employers. I commend the amendments to the Assembly.

MR DE DOMENICO (4.22): The Opposition will not be opposing the amendments. As I said, good legislation will always get the support of the Opposition.

Amendments agreed to.

Bill, as a whole, as amended, agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

MR DE DOMENICO: Madam Speaker, under standing order 46, I wish to make a personal explanation.

MADAM SPEAKER: I grant you leave, Mr De Domenico.

MR DE DOMENICO: The Chief Minister a short while ago talked about a letter to her Acting Under Treasurer, Mr Mike Woods. I said that I would not table it, mainly because I did not have it with me. Might I also say that I did not quote from that letter at all. I now table the letter, for the information of the Assembly.

MADAM SPEAKER: You need leave for that, Mr De Domenico.

MR DE DOMENICO: I seek leave to table that letter.

Leave granted.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr De Domenico.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Berry**) proposed:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Members' Staff

MR HUMPHRIES (4.23): I rise to address a matter that arose out of a question that the Chief Minister answered earlier today. The Chief Minister answered a question of mine concerning a staff resource increase for Mr Moore and Ms Szuty. The answer was, to say the least, quite disturbing. It was disturbing because it seemed to answer a question, which has lingered naggingly over the past few days, concerning the policy pursued by Mr Moore and Ms Szuty on the floor of this house regarding the pace of government legislation. Let me take members back to last year. During a debate on a matter of public importance on 23 June 1992, Ms Szuty said to the Assembly:

As one of the two members elected to this Assembly as an Independent, I feel strongly about the issue of the time that needs to be taken to carefully consider Bills and to have input from relevant groups and individuals. I feel that it is a very important matter of principle that Bills are tabled in the Assembly and then allowed to lie on the table for some 60 days prior to final debate.

Mr Cornwell: Who said that?

MR HUMPHRIES: Ms Szuty. She continued:

Members of this Legislative Assembly have a responsibility to the electorate to consider carefully issues brought to their attention by their electors, the Government, other Assembly members and interest groups.

Mr Moore also contributed to that debate and he said:

The ideal, as the leader of the Abolish Self Government Coalition points out, is that a Bill should remain on the table for something in the order of 60 days. This is something that I have spoken of before in this house ...

He later said:

Public consultation and informed debate are vital to the process, so Assembly members must have time to research the consequences of each proposal and to consult with the community before being asked to vote on those issues.

Mr Cornwell: That was Mr Moore, was it?

MR HUMPHRIES: Yes, that was Mr Moore. He continued:

It certainly is my wish that that become the general practice.

25 February 1993

Madam Speaker, even as late as two months ago, when we dealt with the Adoption Bill, both of those honourable members argued for a delay in that legislation on much the same basis. Something dramatic has happened between December and February to change, and to change dramatically, the view of these two members. On Tuesday Mr Moore voted two important health Bills into law, two Bills which had been exposed to the public for the first time just seven days before. The following day, yesterday, he was joined by Ms Szuty in passing four Bills, also on seven days' notice, two of which were the subject of grave and publicly stated concerns from the hospitality industry. The qualms and reservations of a few weeks before had evaporated.

Today we heard that Mr Moore and Ms Szuty are to find the task of digesting difficult and complex legislation that much easier with an extra \$12,000 each in staffing resources. Madam Speaker, I was not privy to the negotiations which led to this Chief Ministerial gift, but I can comment on the perception that it gives rise to.

Mr Moore: Madam Speaker, the imputation obviously is going to continue. I have tried to give Mr Humphries enough room to move but obviously he has a quite significant imputation. I will speak on the matter later but I ask you to ensure that he resists this sort of approach.

MADAM SPEAKER: I take your point, Mr Moore. I suggest, Mr Humphries, that you withdraw the word "gift". There was in no way a gift of any kind, Mr Humphries. That is an unfortunate use of the word. Would you amend that please, or withdraw it?

MR HUMPHRIES: Madam Speaker, it seems to me that, if it was not a gift, then it was given with some kind of reciprocity in mind. If that is the case - - -

Mr Moore: Madam Speaker, that is the most appalling accusation.

MR HUMPHRIES: It was either - - -

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Humphries, I have asked you to withdraw. I have asked you to withdraw the word "gift". Withdraw it please.

MR HUMPHRIES: I withdraw.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you. Now proceed.

MR HUMPHRIES: The perception is that - - -

Mr Moore: Madam Speaker, I now ask that he also withdraw the comment that he made about reciprocity.

MADAM SPEAKER: I would have understood that, Mr Moore.

MR HUMPHRIES: I withdraw that. The perception is that these members are to receive additional resources in exchange for a more compliant approach to the pace of government legislation. The coincidence - - -

Mr Moore: I raise a point of order, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I think that the tone and the approach that Mr Humphries is taking here are entirely inappropriate. Standing order 55, Madam Speaker, talks about personal reflections and reads:

All imputations - - -

MR HUMPHRIES: I will seek an extension of time if you keep going on like this, Michael.

Mr Moore: No way. The standing order says:

All imputations of improper motives and all personal reflections on Members shall be considered highly disorderly.

Madam Speaker, the way he is talking about perceptions is certainly not appropriate.

MR HUMPHRIES: I will get someone else to read the speech.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Humphries, you have already withdrawn. I suggest that you stay on that course of great caution.

MR HUMPHRIES: Madam Speaker, I have no intention of talking about anything other than perception. The coincidence of these two matters, a change of heart on the passage of Bills and a hefty increase in staffing - - -

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Humphries, your time has expired.

MR HUMPHRIES: May I finish my sentence, Madam Speaker?

MADAM SPEAKER: Not today, I am afraid.

Members' Staff

MR MOORE (4.28): The issues raised here, Madam Speaker, are, of course, similar to the approach taken by Mr Humphries as a Minister. There were occasions, Madam Speaker, when Mr Humphries, as a Minister, was responsible, as part of a government, for passing Bills within a week. The reason, Madam Speaker, is that some Bills are different from other Bills. They - - -

Mr Humphries: We did not have inducements, Mr Moore.

MR MOORE: Madam Speaker, the imputations continue from this man over here in the bow tie, and I think they are highly disorderly. Madam Speaker, I refer you to standing order 56.

MADAM SPEAKER: I will have no further interjections from anyone, thank you. Under standing order 39 I can request total silence, and I will ask for it today. Mr Moore, continue.

25 February 1993

MR MOORE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It seems to me that it was made very clear in the speech that Mr Humphries quoted that it is my perception that Bills should, as a rule, lie on the table for some time. I pointed out, Madam Speaker, that there is a difference between an urgent Bill and normal Bills, such as the Adoption Bill to which we have given appropriate time. I supported a motion by the Liberals, in spite of the opposition of the Government, to adjourn that Bill.

Mr Kaine: None of these Bills this week were urgent.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order!

MR MOORE: Madam Speaker, there is a major difference. The Liberal Opposition seem to think that they can beat up any story and beat up any Bill. The particular Bills that went through, Madam Speaker, were rather simple Bills that resolved problems that were in the public arena and were very clear indeed. I had no difficulty with those, particularly those money Bills.

Mr Humphries: Especially if your palm has been greased.

MR MOORE: The Bills to deal with housing, Madam Speaker - - -

Mr Berry: Madam Speaker, I heard an interjection by Mr Humphries, "Especially if your palm has been greased". That is an imputation on a large number of members in this Assembly and it should be withdrawn. That is not the first time he has used an imputation and I think he ought to be ordered to withdraw it forthwith.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Humphries, would you please withdraw that, as you have the other comments.

Mr Humphries: No, Madam Speaker, I will not.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Humphries, I take that as a deliberate refusal to take an order from me, and I therefore name you.

Mr Humphries: It is.

Motion (by **Mr Berry**) put:

That Mr Humphries be suspended from the service of the Assembly.

A vote having been called for and the bells being rung -

Mr Moore: You are a slimeball, Humphries.

Mr Cornwell: I take a point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Cornwell, I do not take points of order while the bells are being rung. I think I have ruled on that before. Can we deal with it afterwards?

Mr Cornwell: I will most certainly take it up afterwards.

MADAM SPEAKER: I am happy to entertain it afterwards, Mr Cornwell. I have been informed that Mr Stevenson is not planning to return to the chamber.

The Assembly voted -

AYES, 10

Mr Berry
Mr Connolly
Ms Ellis
Ms Follett
Mrs Grassby
Mr Lamont
Ms McRae
Mr Moore
Ms Szuty
Mr Wood

NOES, 6

Mrs Carnell
Mr Cornwell
Mr De Domenico
Mr Humphries
Mr Kaine
Mr Westende

Question so resolved in the affirmative.

MADAM SPEAKER: I direct Mr Humphries to withdraw.

Mr Humphries accordingly withdrew from the chamber.

Mr Cornwell: Will you take my point of order now, Madam Speaker?

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, Mr Cornwell, I will take your point of order.

Mr Cornwell: Madam Speaker, during the ringing of the bells I distinctly heard Mr Moore refer to Mr Humphries as a slimeball. This may be acceptable in the Federal Parliament, particularly from the Prime Minister, who uses the expression, but I do not believe that we should tolerate this sort of thing in this chamber. I would ask Mr Moore to withdraw it, please.

Mr Lamont: What was the word?

Mr Cornwell: Slimeball.

Mr Lamont: And he was referring to?

Mr Cornwell: Mr Humphries.

MADAM SPEAKER: It does lead to an interesting question of what is and what is not acceptable in a parliament. I will offer you the opportunity to withdraw, Mr Moore.

Mr Moore: Madam Speaker, to avoid any difficulty, although I thought I was being complimentary to Mr Humphries, I will withdraw.

Mr Kaine: Madam Speaker, it is in no way a withdrawal to suggest that Mr Humphries is in fact worse than a slimeball and that withdrawing it makes him look even better than before. That is unacceptable.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Kaine. I will seek clarification. Did you withdraw the comment or not, Mr Moore?

Mr Moore: I finished my sentence, Madam Speaker, by saying that I would follow your direction and withdraw.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you.

Members' Staff

MS SZUTY (4.37): I wish to respond to several of the accusations that Mr Humphries made during the adjournment debate. I wish to address in particular the debate that we had here on Tuesday evening about the Health Bill 1993 and the Health (Consequential Provisions) Bill 1993. The Liberals were not here in this chamber for that debate. If they had been here, they would have heard me state quite categorically that I had some discomfort about the speed of the passage of these Bills, and I commented in particular that I felt that the Administration and Procedures Committee of this Assembly should look into the matter further. I understand that that will be the case. Mr Humphries might also like to remember that his motion on the general indecent haste with which Bills are presented to this Assembly was supported by me when he raised it in this chamber this week. He seems to have a very selective memory regarding some of the events that occur in this chamber.

For the record, Mr Moore and I have achieved an increase in our staffing allowance. It is something we have been working on for some time. In terms of its equivalence to the staffing allowance which is available to the Liberals, it is still less if you divide the total staffing allowance available to the Liberals by six. If you average - - -

Mr De Domenico: What? You got 61 votes, for heaven's sake.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order!

MS SZUTY: If you average that figure, the Liberals have \$68,000 each in staffing allowance, and Mr Moore and I have \$63,000. We have stated for some time - - -

Mr Lamont: How many did you get?

Mr De Domenico: Me? I got 990.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Ms Szuty has the floor.

MS SZUTY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have stated for some time that we were not prepared to extend our responsibilities on committees until that staffing allowance had been secured, and I want to place on the record that that is what occurred.

Croatian Embassy

MRS GRASSBY (4.39): I want to bring to the notice of the Assembly that tomorrow night there will be virtually the opening of a new embassy in Canberra known as the Croatian Embassy. As there are 10,000 Canberrans who have contact with Croatia or have family back in Croatia and were Croatian citizens, I pay tribute to our Prime Minister, who recognised Croatia when they were going through difficult periods. I welcome this new embassy to Canberra.

I think it will be wonderful for the people who are of Croatian descent to be able to have contact, to know more about their families back in Croatia and what is going on there in the former Yugoslavia as we knew it. How terrible it was. They will also be able to have contact with their culture and their language, and with many other things that go with an embassy opening in Canberra. It is also very good to see embassies opening in Canberra. They too bring employment, believe it or not, because they employ people from outside their own country to work in the embassies. I would like to welcome them and to congratulate the Australian-Croatian community on having an embassy now representing them here.

State Bank of New South Wales

MR STEVENSON (4.40): Madam Speaker, I rise to talk about victims of the State Bank of New South Wales. A few weeks ago there was a small ad in the *Canberra Times* on a Saturday morning which mentioned that there would be a public meeting at which victims of the State Bank of New South Wales would be able to join together to gain some support against actions that had been taken by the State Bank. On a Sunday evening in Tuggeranong some 70 people met. There were representatives of the State Bank from Sydney, and one from Canberra. A week later there was a similar meeting held by the same group in Sydney, and I believe that some 200 people attended.

At that meeting representatives of the State Bank of New South Wales said that they would place a one-month, or 30-day, moratorium on actions against their victims. They used the word "clients". These are foreclosures, and legal actions, existing and proposed. I have a copy of a news release from the bank that indicates the details of that 30-day moratorium. I also have just received a copy of a letter wherein they say, in one particular client's case, that they will ignore the moratorium. In other words, it is not a moratorium; they have broken their word after giving it, obviously after some detailed thought at the very highest levels of administration within the State Bank of New South Wales. I know that they would prefer that the organisation that was formed, called Victims of the State Bank of New South Wales, remove the word "victims". When you hear the truly tragic cases, the dozens of cases, and what has happened to people because of the practices and operations of the State Bank of New South Wales, you can well understand why their group is titled "Victims of the State Bank of New South Wales".

It is clear to me that the State Bank has long overstepped moral bounds. It also appears clear to me that in a number of cases they have overstepped legal bounds. It is obvious, because of the evidence that I have, that they have broken a promise that they gave not to continue action against their clients. I would like to go into this matter in a more detailed way, and I intend to do so as soon as we meet again. I think it is about time. I know that members must be as concerned as I am, because it is becoming common that everybody knows a banking story. When I say that, I mean that they know of a story of someone who has been well and truly thumped by a bank. They have long gone past the stage where they should be allowed to continue the practices that they operate. I think it is something that we should certainly look at in the near future.

ACTION Bus Drivers

MR DE DOMENICO (4.44): Madam Speaker, I was called out of the Assembly to hear a radio interview with Mr John Wilson, who I believe is the president of the Trades and Labour Council. Mr Wilson was suggesting that ACTION bus drivers would be handing out political leaflets on picnic day. I alert the Attorney-General and Minister for Urban Services. If ACTION bus drivers will be handing out political leaflets on trade union picnic days, one would hope that they will not be on duty at the time that they are doing it.

Mr Berry: It is their day off.

MR DE DOMENICO: Not all of them, Mr Berry, I would assume.

Mr Berry: For the ones at the picnic, it will be.

MR DE DOMENICO: I am saying that Mr Wilson said that ACTION bus drivers would be handing out leaflets. If they are handing out leaflets at the picnic, on their picnic day, that is fine, because we still live in a democratic society. I am saying, though, through you, Madam Speaker, that hopefully Mr Connolly will make sure that those drivers who are rostered on on that day, in ACTION uniform, will not be handing out leaflets of any sort, on the community's time and money, unless it has something to do with ACTION buses.

Legislative Process

MR CORNWELL (4.45): Madam Speaker, I would like to correct one point that Mr Moore, in his outburst of moral righteousness, alluded to - the fact that the Bills that were discussed yesterday were urgent Bills. That is not my understanding at all. They were simply Bills that were on the paper to be debated and we, the Liberal Party, objected to them. They were not declared urgent Bills.

Secondly, Mr Moore made the comment that they were simple Bills. Frankly, we would argue with that. Whether Mr Moore is concerned about the people out there in the constituency who are affected by these Bills is a matter for him and them, and no doubt he will suffer the consequences at the next election. We do not regard them as simple Bills. He regards them as simple Bills and I suppose, no matter how many extra staff he gets, that is not going to help his predicament. Might I suggest, Chief Minister, that any doubts or perceptions that people in this chamber, on this side of the house, or those out in the community may harbour in relation to this matter could easily be corrected if you speed up the request of the Liberals in terms of staff.

Federal Election

MR BERRY (Minister for Health, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Sport) (4.47), in reply: Madam Speaker, I rise to close the adjournment debate. We are facing the most important Federal election for many years. I think everybody here would know and understand that if there is an outcome which is headed up by Dr Hewson the Territory will be in deep trouble, as will the rest of Australia. The same will occur in this country as has occurred in Canada. We will have increased unemployment. We will have increasing bankruptcies, as occurred in Canada. The costs to small business will increase. Those horrid impacts are something that will divide Australia.

We also have to consider the impact of other policies which belong to the dreaded "frightpack", such as those relating to health and, in particular, industrial relations - the divisive formula cobbled together by Mr Howard, the fine detail of which has not been released for public scrutiny. The legislation has been kept a secret. I have already challenged Mr Howard to release his industrial relations legislation, which he claims he has drawn up, so that we can all have a look at what he is up to. If it is true, as he claims, that it is not quite drafted yet - that was an excuse he gave for not being able to release it - let us have a little look at his drafting instructions. The electorate ought to be able to demand that, because it is a crucial part of the "frightpack" package. It is intended to drive wages and working conditions down across this country, and it will drive them down, together with all of those other imposts which will arise from that package.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that Labor will win and that things will again be better; but we still have to do a job and to keep reminding the community out there that there is danger ahead and that they ought to beware.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Assembly adjourned at 4.50 pm until Tuesday, 23 March 1993, at 2.30 pm

25 February 1993

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS FOR THE ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

Question No 307

Government Service - Over-Award Payments

Mr De Domenico - Asked the Minister for Industrial Relations upon notice on 8 September 1992:

- (1) How many unions are involved with the ACT Government Service, including ACTEW, ACTION, Totalcare and ACT Forests.
- (2) How many employees within the ACT Government Service including ACTEW, ACTION, Totalcare and ACT Forests receive over award payments.
- (3) What do these employees receive in over award payments, both monetary and in lieu of wages.

Mr Berry - The answer to the members question is as follows:

- (1) There are currently twenty-one (21) unions involved with the ACT Government Service. The number of unions involved with ACTEW, ACTION, Totalcare and ACT Forests is as follows:

AGENCY

NUMBER OF UNIONS INVOLVED

ACTEW

13

ACTION

TOTALCARE

9

ACT FORESTS

4

A comprehensive list of union involvement is provided at Attachment A.

- (2) & (3) Questions (2) and (3) can be answered concurrently.

Over award payments are payments made outside the prescription of awards. Under a Minimum Rates Award, it is both legitimate and common industrial practice for parties to negotiate rates and conditions above the minimum prescribed by an award. This form of regulation is most common in the private sector.

The public sector relies on Paid Rates Awards and other employment legislation for establishing the framework of employment conditions. The following employment legislation has application to ACT Government employees:

25 February 1993

Public Service Act 1922; Teaching Service Act 1972; Long Service Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1976; Commonwealth Employees Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988; Maternity Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1973; Merit Protection (Australian Government Employees) Act 1984; Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991; and Superannuation Act 1976 / Superannuation Act 1990.

In addition, enacting legislation for some statutory authorities provides powers to employ staff and to determine the terms and conditions of employment. These powers are generally exercised within the existing framework of awards and employment legislation.

Under the guidance of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission, a structured review of allowances is being undertaken over the next three months. I understand the review will cover agencies employing industrial staff, including ACTEW, ACTION and ACT Forests. Totalcare has expressed interest in becoming party to the review.

562

ATTACHMENT A

ALPHABETIC LIST OF UNIONS INVOLVED WITH ACT GOVERNMENT

- . Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners
- . Association of Professional Engineers and Scientists of Australia
- . Australian Capital Territory Medical Officers Association
- . Australian Liquor, Hospitality & Miscellaneous Workers Union
- . Australian Nursing Federation
- . Australian Public Sector, Professional and Broadcasting Union
- . Australian Teachers Union
- . Australian Workers Union
- . Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union
- . Electrical Trades Union
- . Federated Clerks Union
- . Federation of Industrial, Manufacturing and Engineering Employees
- . Health Services Union of Australia
- . Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance
- . Metal and Engineering Workers Union
- . National Union of Workers
- . Operative Painters and Decorators Union of Australia
- . Plumbers and Gasfitters Employees Union of Australia
- . Printing and Kindred Industries Union
- . Transport Workers Union of Australia
- . United Firefighters Union of Australia

25 February 1993

UNIONS INVOLVED WITH ACTEW

Association of Professional Engineers and Scientists of Australia

Australian Public Sector, Professional and Broadcasting Union

Australian Workers Union

Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union

Electrical Trades Union

Federated Clerks Union

Federation of Industrial, Manufacturing and Engineering Employees

Metal and Engineering Workers Union

National Union of Workers

Operative Painters and Decorators Union of Australia

Plumbers and Gasfitters Employees Union of Australia

Printing and Kindred Industries Union

Transport Workers Union of Australia

UNIONS INVOLVED WITH ACTION

Association of Professional Engineers and Scientists of Australia

Australian Public Sector, Professional and Broadcasting Union

Federation of Industrial, Manufacturing and Engineers Employees

Metal and Engineering Workers Union

National Union of Workers

Transport Workers Union of Australia

564

UNIONS INVOLVED WITH TOTALCARE

Australian Public Sector, Professional and Broadcasting Union
Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union
Electrical Trades Union
Federation of Industrial, Manufacturing and Engineering Employees
Health Services Union of Australia
Metal and Engineering Workers Union
Operative Painters and Decorators Union of Australia
Plumbers and Gasfitters Employees Union of Australia
Transport Workers Union of Australia

UNIONS INVOLVED WITH ACT FORESTS

Australian Public Sector, Professional and Broadcasting Union
Australian Workers Union
Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union
Transport Workers Union of Australia

**BOARDS
MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

QUESTION 336

Health Portfolio - Committees, Boards and Advisory Groups

Mr Kaine - asked the Minister for Health:

For all Government Committees, Boards and Advisory groups within the Health portfolio
How many people are appointed to each of these bodies and what is the date of appointment of each member.

What are the terms of reference for each of these bodies.

What is the total time of the appointment for each of these bodies.

What is the gender breakdown of each of these bodies.

What cost is associated with each of these bodies, ie fees or salaries paid to members.

How many public servants, service each of these bodies, by position and salary and how much time is devoted by these officers to that task daily, weekly etc.

How many of these bodies produce a publication, how are these distributed and how much does it cost to produce them.

Mr Berry - the answer to Mr Kaines question is as follows:

ACT BOARD OF HEALTH

1. Present Members

Mr Jim Service

Ms Gail Freeman

Dr Tony Clarke

Professor Bob Douglas

Mr Peter Hohnen

Ms Gillian Biscoe

Mr Ross Walker

Rear Admiral Neil Ralph

Ms Jeanette Budak

Ms Leanne Brown

Vacant

31.1.1991 - 31.1.1994 31.1.1991 - 31.1.1994 31.1.1991 - 31.1.1994 31.1.1991 - 31.1.1994

31.1.1991 - 31.1.1994 5.8.1991 - 31.1.1994

31.1.1991 - 31.1.1994 31.1.1991 - 31.1.1994 5.6.1991 - 31.1.1994

18.9.1991 - 31.1.

1994

2

2. Terms of Reference

The functions of the Board specified in the Health Services Act 1990 are:

- (a) to provide health services for the residents of the Territory and, as appropriate, for the residents of the surrounding region;
- (b) to manage the health services and health facilities under its control;
- (c) to provide for the planning and evaluation of health services, including services provided by persons or bodies (whether or not incorporated) other than the Board;
- (d) to provide, as appropriate, for the training and education of persons providing health services; and
- (e) to make available to the public reports, information and advice in relation to the health of the community and the availability of health services

In addition to the functions of the Board conferred by subsection (1), the Board has such other functions as are conferred on it under this or any other Act.

The Board shall perform its functions in accordance with any directions given by the Minister.

The Board shall;

- (a) give the Minister such information relating to the operations of the Board as the Minister requests; and
- (b) if requested by the Minister - submit proposals to the Minister regarding the nature and extent of the future operations of the Board.

3. Term and Power of Appointment

Appointment by the Minister for a three year term from 31 January 1991.

4. Gender Breakdown

6 Males 4 Females

5. Remuneration Mechanism

A fee of \$300.00 is paid to members of the Board and \$400.00 for the Chair pending determination by the Remuneration Tribunal

.

25 February 1993

3

6. Public Servants
LEVEL
SALARY RANGE
TIME
AS06
\$24 697 - \$27 682
100%
(Part time)

i
AS04
\$29 407 - \$31 929
25%
Chief Executive

Various
\$99 550
10%
Senior Staff

10%

In addition to the above designated staff the ACT Board of Health and associated committees receive reports and submission from other staff members. The following table is an estimation of time devoted to these tasks.

SECTION
HOURS PER MONTH
COST PER ANNUM
Budget Management
20 hours
\$6,000
Health Services
10 hours
\$3,000
Other areas
20 hours
\$6,000

7. Publications

Annual Report Distribution: Government agencies, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Community groups, Libraries and interested organisations. Cost: \$22 020 Design Typesetting artwork and revision, \$7 417 Printing and \$431 advanced copies for the Assembly.

Quarterly Report Distribution. ACT Government Members, Departmental Heads, Calvary Hospital, ACT Board of Health Members, WVH Auxiliary and ACT Health staff. Cost. \$5 147 staff costs and \$800 printing costs

.

4

ETHICS COMMITTEE

1. Present Members

Mr Peter Hohnen

Dr Jim Houston

Ms Sue Alexander

Rev Vicky Cullen

Ms Elizabeth Grant

Mr John Hemer

Ms Helen Wilson

Ms Shirley Batho

Dr Paul Pavh

Ms Margaret Timpson

Ms Ros Madden

2. Terms of Reference

1. 5.1992 - 30.4.1993 1. 5.1992 - 30.4.1993 1. 5.1992 - 30.4.1993 1. 5.1992 - 30.4.1993 1. 5.1992 - 30.4.1993 1. 5.1992 - 30.4.1993 1. 5.1992 - 30.4.1993 1. 5.1992 - 30.4.1993 1. 5.1992 - 30.4.1993

30.10 1992 - 15.3.1993

To consider ethical implications of all proposed research projects and to determine whether or not they are acceptable on ethical grounds;

to provide the surveillance of research projects until completion so that the Committee may be satisfied that they continue to conform with approved ethical standards;

to maintain a record of all proposed research projects, so that the following items of information are readily available:

Name of responsible Institution; Project identification number; Principal Investigator(s); Short title of project; Ethical approval or non-approval with date; and Dates designated for review.

the protocols of research projects shall be preserved in the form in which they are approved; and

to establish and maintain communication with the NH & MRC Medical Research Ethics Committee and provide access, upon request, to information in the Institutional Ethics Committees records.

3.

Terms and Power of Appointment

Appointed by the Chair of the ACT Board of Health for one year.

4. Gender Breakdown

7 Females 4

Males

25 February 1993

5

5. Remuneration Mechanism

The Chairman is paid approximately \$180.00 per meeting.

6. Public Servants

Table included.

7. Publications

Nil

570

6

HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Present Members

Mr Jim Service Chair 1.5.1992 -30.4.1993

Dr Tony Clarke 1.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

Rear Admiral Neil Ralph 1.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

Mrs Sue Belsham 1.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

Ms Vickie Busted 1.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

Mr Kelvin Steel 1.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

2. Terms of Reference

The Hospital Redevelopment Committee is responsible to the Board

to oversee the project; and

manage the budget for the project.

3. Term and Power of Appointment

One year term.

4. Gender Breakdown

2 Females 4 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

The Chair receives approximately \$240.00 per meeting and the Deputy Chair receives approximately \$180.00 per meeting.

6. Public Servants

Table included.

7. Publications

Nil

571

25 February 1993

7

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. Present Members

Ms Gail Freeman Chair 1.5.92 - 30.4.93

Rear Admiral Neil Ralph 1.5.92 - 30.4.93

Mrs Sue Belsham 1.5.92 - 30.4.93

Mr Doug Barton 1.5.92 - 30.4.93

Mr John Ayling 1.5.92 - 30.4.93

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the Finance and Audit Committee are:

to advise the Board in respect to an annual budget for capital and operating receipts and payments;

to examine the monthly financial reports of the Board, and to make such enquires and investigations as it considers necessary;

to advise the Board on financial and audit (both internal and external) aspects of the organisations operations; and

to ensure that financial and audit activities of the Board are conducted in accordance with the required standards, instructions and determinations, and to satisfy itself that accounting procedures are satisfactory.

3. Terms and Power of Appointment

One year.

4. Gender Breakdown

2 Females 3 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

The Chair receives approximately \$180.00 per meeting.

6. Public Servants

Table included.

7. Publications

Nil

573

9

RESOURCES AND SERVICES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Present Members

Dr Tony Clarke

Mr John Ayling

Mrs Sue Belsham

Ms Heidi Ramsay

Dr John O'Donnell

Ms Gwen Robinson

Dr Jim Butler

Vacant

Vacant

2. Terms of Reference

Chair 5.5.1992 = 30.4.1993

5.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

5.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

5.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

5.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

5.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

5.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

- 30.4.1993

- 30.4.1993

The Resource and Services Development Committee advise the Board on matters pertaining to:
facilities utilisation review;

establishing priorities for service development, with an intention to maintain an appropriate balance
in both provision and use of resources for health protection, promotion, education and treatment
services, both within institutions and the community; corporate development programs and
activities; and the development and monitoring of capital works programs.

3. Terms and Power of Appointment

One Year

4. Gender Breakdown

4 Females 5 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

The Chair receives approximately \$180,000 per meeting.

574

10

6. Public Servants

Table included.

7. Publications

Nil

25 February 1993

11

QUALITY AND HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE 1. Present Members

Mr Ross Walker Chair 1.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

Ms Leanne Brown 1.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

Ms Vickie Busteed 1.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

Mrs Sue Belsham 1.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

Ms Heidi Ramsay 1.5.1992 - 30.4.1993

Vacant

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the Quality and Health Care Committee are:

to review overall quality, effectiveness and appropriateness of services provided to clients/patients;

to advise the Board on matters pertaining specifically to the existence of quality assurance programs, and on matters referred from approved Committees established under S26 of the Health Services Act 1990; and quality assurance programs not directly related to clinical care;

submit regular reports outlining areas of client/patient care and services under review and recommend any corrective or preventative action to be taken in respect of identified problem areas;

establish any ad-hoc or standing sub-committees as required, to review and evaluate specific aspects of client/patient care and service;

receive reports of complaints and commendations relating to the care of clients and patients and ensure appropriate action has been taken; and

consider client service matters that may from time to time be referred by the Board.

3. Terms and Power of Appointment

One year

4. Gender Breakdown

4 Females 2 Males

576

12

5. Remuneration Mechanism

The Chair receives approximately \$180.00 per meeting.

6. Public Servants

Table included.

7. Publications

Nil

577

PHARMACY BOARD

1. Present Members

Ms Susan Alexander Chair 4.6.1992 - 4.6.1995
Mr J Stephens Deputy Chair 13.5.1992 - 28.5.1993
Dr Susan Walters 4.6.1992 - 4.6.1995
Ms Ruth Giesel 4.6.1992 - 4.6.1995
Mr William Arnold 4.6.1992 - 4.6.1995
Two positions are currently vacant.

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the Pharmacy Board are:

to administer the Act, principal functions include;

registration of suitably qualified pharmacists to practice in the ACT; disciplining of pharmacists through reprimand, suspension or cancellation of registration, after due inquiry; consideration of complaints against registered pharmacists; and general oversight of the conduct of the profession in the ACT.

3. Term and Power of Appointment

Members terms of office are for a period of three years. In the case of an appointed/elected member resigning during his/her term of office the new members term of office will be for the remaining term of the retiring member.

4. Gender Breakdown

3 Females 2 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

Nil

6. Public Servants

Table included.

7. Publications

Annual Report. Distribution to the Minister. Not costed separately.

14

MEDICAL BOARD

1. Present Members

Dr A McIntosh Chair 6. 5.1991 - 6. 5.1994
Dr W Coupland Deputy Chair 4. 6.1990 - 4. 6.1993
Dr B Richards 4. 6.1990 - 4. 6.1993
Dr S Thomson 4. 6.1990 - 4. 6.1993
Dr L Walker 11. 9.1991 - 22. 8.1993
Dr J Donovan 22. 8.1990 - 22. 8.1993
Dr M Tedeschi 22. 8.1990 - 22. 8.1993

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Medical Board are:

to administer the Act, principal functions include;

registration of qualified persons to practice in the ACT; disciplining of medical practitioners through reprimand/suspension/cancellation of registration after due inquiry, on specified grounds; consideration of complaints against medical practitioners; and general oversight of the conduct of the medical profession in the ACT.

3. Term and Power of Appointment

All members terms of office are for a period of three years. In the case of an appointed/elected member resigning during his/her term of office the new members term of office will be the remaining term of the retiring member.

4. Gender Breakdown

1 Female 6 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

Nil

6. Public Servants

Table included.

25 February 1993

15

7. Publications

Annual Report. Distribution to the Minister. Not costed separately.

580

16

NURSES BOARD

Present Members

Mr S Trick Chair 1.5.1990 = 30.4.1993

Miss L Muir Deputy Chair 9.1.1991 - 8.1.1994

Mrs C Charlton

Mrs E Foley

Ms L Grealish

Ms K Wong

Mr B Griffiths

Ms J Manning

Mrs P Shaw

2. Terms of Reference

1.5.1990 - 30.4.1993

1.5.1990 - 30.4.1993

1.5.1990 - 30.4.1993

1.5.1990 - 30.4.1993

9.1.1991 - 8.1.1994

9.1.1991 - 8.1.1994

7.1.1991 - 8.1.1994

The terms of reference of the Nurses Board are:

to administer the Act, principal functions include:

registration of suitably qualified nurses to enable them to practice in the ACT; disciplining of nurses, through reprimand or suspension/cancellation of registration, enrolment after due inquiry on specified grounds; consideration of complaints against registered/enrolled nurses; and general oversight of the conduct of the profession in the ACT.

3. Terms and Power of Appointment are for a period of three years. In the case of an appointed/elected member resigning during his/her term of office the new members term of office will be for the remaining term of the retiring member.

4. Gender Breakdown

7 Females 1 Male

5. Remuneration Mechanism

6. Public Servants

Table included.

581

25 February 1993

17

7. Publications

Annual Report. Distribution to the Minister. Not costed separately.

582

18

CHIROPRACTIC BOARD

1. Present Members

Dr M Badham Chair 22.12.1990 - 21.12.1993

Dr T Smith Deputy Chair 22.12.1990 - 21.12.1993

Dr I Cocks 18. 3.1990 - 17. 3.1993

Dr D McDowall 18. 3.1990 - 17. 3.1993

Dr M Tapper 22.12.1990 - 21.12.1993

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Chiropractic Board are:

to administer the Act, principal functions include:

registration of suitably qualified chiropractors to practice in the ACT; disciplining of chiropractors through reprimand/suspension/cancellation of registration after due inquiry on specified grounds; general oversight of the conduct of the chiropractic profession in the ACT; and review of accounts for Chiropractic services.

3. Terms and Power of Appointment

All members terms of office are for a period of three years. In the case of an appointed/elected members resigning his/her term of office the new members term of office will be for the remaining term of the retiring member. In the case of the Deputy Chair, he/she is elected for a period of twelve months. A new election is there for held from within the Board each twelve months.

4. Gender Breakdown

0 Females 5 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

6. Public Servants

Table included

25 February 1993

19

7. Publications

Annual Report. Distribution to the Minister. Not costed separately.

584

20

DENTAL BOARD

1. Present Members

Dr R Swanson Chair 7.5.1990 - 6.5.1993

Dr S Parsons Deputy Chair 23.7.1990 - 22.7.1993

Dr B Mor

Dr D Griffiths

Dr D Thornton Taylor

Dr M Loader

Dr C Bonnano

2. Terms of Reference

7.5.1990 - 6.5.1993 7.5.1990 - 6.5.1993 7.5.1990 - 6.5.1993

23.7.1990 - 22.7.1993

23.7.1990 - 22.7.1993

The terms of reference of the Dental Board are:

to administer the Act, principal functions include;

registration of suitably qualified dental practitioners in the ACT; registration of suitably qualified dental hygienists to practice in the ACT; disciplining of dental practitioners and dental hygienists, through reprimand/suspension/cancellation of registration after due inquiry on specified grounds; and consideration of complaints against fees charged by registered practitioners.

3. Term and Power of Appointment

All members term of office are for a period of three years. In the case of an appointed/elected member resigning during his/her term of office the new members term of office will be for the remaining term of the retiring member. In the case of the Deputy Chair, he/she is elected for a period of twelve months. A new election is therefore held from within the Board each twelve months.

4. Gender Breakdown

7 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

6. Public Servants

Table included.

585

25 February 1993

21

7. Publications

Annual Report. Distribution to the Minister. Not costed separately.

586

22

OPTOMETRISTS BOARD

1. Present Members

Mr W Whitnall Chair 24.11.1990 - 24.11.1993

Mr D Langley 29. 1.1991 - 28. 1.1994

Mrs J Thomas 2. 111991 - 1.11.1995

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Optometrists Board are:

to administer the Act, principal functions include;

registration of suitably qualified optometrists to enable them to practice in the ACT; disciplining of practitioners through reprimand/suspension/cancellation of registration after due inquiry on specified grounds; consideration of complaints against registered practitioners and review of accounts or fees; and general oversight of the conduct of the profession in the ACT.

3. Terms and Power of Appointment

Three years. The Deputy Chair is elected for one year by the Board.

4. Gender Breakdown

1 Female 2 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

Nil

6. Public Servants

Table included.

7. Publications

Annual Report. Distribution to the Minister. Not costed separately.

587

23

VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD

1. Present Members

Dr L Citer

Dr W McDonald

Dr P A Creagh

Dr J Aiton

Dr K Doyle

2. Terms of Reference

Chair 28.9.1992 - 27.9.1995

Deputy Chair 25.3.1991 - 24.3.1994

25.3.1991 - 24.3.1994

21.5.1990 - 20.5.1993

28.9.1992 - 27.9.1995

The terms of reference of the Veterinary Surgeons Board are:

to administer the Act, principal functions include;

registration of suitably qualified veterinary surgeons to enable them to practice in the ACT;

discipline of practitioners through reprimand/suspension/cancellation of registration after due inquiry on specified grounds; consideration of complaints against registered practitioners; and general oversight of the conduct of the profession in the ACT.

3. Term and Power of Appointment

The Chair is appointed for a period determined by the Minister. All members terms of office are for a period of up to three years. In the case of an appointed/elected member resigning during his/her term of office the new members term of office will be for the remaining term of the retiring member.

4. Gender Breakdown

2 Females 3 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

6. Public Servants

Table included.

588

24

7. Publications

Annual Report. Distribution to Professional Associations; National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition and State Boards. Not costed separately.

589

25

PHYSIOTHERAPY BOARD

1. Present Members

Ms P Levick

Mrs B Ramsay

Ms E Davies

Ms M Bailey

Mrs J Freeman

Miss J Gunning

Ms K Conroy

2. Terms of Reference

Chair 18. 6.1992 - 17. 6.1995

Deputy Chair 4. 6.1990 - 3. 6.1993

18. 6.1992 - 17. 6.1995

18. 6.1992 - 17. 6.1995

21.11.1990 - 20.11.1993

21.11.1990 - 20.11.1993

21.11.1990 - 20.11.1993

The terms of reference of the Physiotherapy Board are:

to administer the Act, principal functions include;

registration of qualified persons to enable them to practice in the ACT; disciplining of practitioners through reprimand or suspension/cancellation of registration after due inquiry on specified grounds; consideration of complaints against registered practitioners review of accounts for fees; and general oversight of the conduct of the profession in the ACT.

3. Term and Power of Appointment

All members terms of office are for a period up to three years. In the case of an appointed/elected member resigning during his/her term of office the new members term of office will be for the remaining term of the retiring member.

4. Gender Breakdown

7 Females 0 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

6. Public Servants

Table included.

7. Publications

Nil

DENTAL TECHNICIANS AND DENTAL PROSTHETISTS BOARD

1. Present Members

Mr J Darby Chair 5.12.1990 - 4.12.1993

Mr P Fraser Deputy Chair 5.12.1990 - 4.12.1993

Mr D McGuinness 5.12.1990 - 4.12.1993

Mr N Lutz 5.12.1990 - 4.12.1993

Mr F Casey 5.12.1990 - 4.12.1993

Mr S McCulloch 5. 7.1990 - 4.12.1993

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Board are:

to administer the Act, principal functions include;

registration of suitably qualified dental technicians and dental prosthetists to practice in the ACT;
disciplining of dental technicians and dental prosthetists through
reprimand/suspension/cancellation of registration after due inquiry on specified grounds; and
general oversight of the conduct and addressing complaints in relation to the dental technicians
and dental Prosthetists profession in the ACT.

3. Term and Power of Appointment

All members terms are for a period of up to three years.

4. Gender Breakdown

6 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

Nil

6. Public Servants

Table included.

7. Publications

Nil

25 February 1993

27

ACT RADIATION COUNCIL

1. Present Members

Dr R Brock 4.6.1990 - 3. 6:1993
Mr J Lising 12.4.1991 - 11. 4.1994
Dr L Woolf 1.1.1993 - 31.12.1995
Dr C Guner 21.1.1990 - 28. 2.1993

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the ACT Radiation Council are:

granting licences (s20) in relation to the use of radioactive material and irradiation apparatus;
registration of irradiating apparatus (s48); to advise on "prescribed qualifications" for a licence;
to approve the disposal (s68) and transportation (s74) and storage of radioactive material; and
directing licensees (s44) in situations where the health of employees may be at serious risk.

3. Term and Power of Appointment

Members of the Council are appointed by the Minister. All members appointed for not more than three years. Chair of Council is selected by the Chief Executive, ACT Health. Deputy Chair is elected by Council members for one year term of office.

4. Gender Breakdown

0 Females 4 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

Three members receive a daily sitting fee as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal.

6. Public Servants

Table included.

592

28

7. Publications

Annual Report.

Government agencies, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Community groups,
Libraries and interested organisations.

Cost - Published as an annexe of ACT Healths report - not costed separately

593

29

HEALTH PROMOTION FUND

Present Members

Sir R Kingsland Dr J Donovan

Ms S Whitbread Mr B Livermore Mr J Lee

Mr B Hitchcock Ms S Wakerman Ms H Musa

Ms K Lumdy Dr C Mead

2. Terms of Reference

Chair 28.5.1992 - 28. 5.1993

28.5.1992 - 28. 5.1993

1.7.1992 - 1. 7.1995

28.5.1992 - 28. 5.1993

28.5.1992 - 28. 5.1993

28.5.1992 - 28. 5.1993

1.7.1992 - 1. 7.1995

1.7.1992 - 1. 7.1995

12.1.1992 - 12.11.1995

1.2.1992 - 1. 2.1995

The terms of reference of the Health Promotion Fund are:

to advise the Minister on the allocation of monies from the Health Promotion Fund.

3. Term and Power of Appointment

All members are appointed by the Minister for a period of three years.

4. Gender Breakdown

5 Females 5 Males

5.

Remuneration Mechanism

6. Public Servants

Table included.

7. Publications

Annual Report. Distribution to interested bodies. Cost \$500

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30

DRUGS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Present Members

Dr S Rosenman Chair 28. 9.1992 - 27. 9.1995

Dr T Gavaghan 28. 9.1992 - 27. 9.1995

Dr H Lopert 28. 9.1992 - 27. 9.1995

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Drugs Advisory Committee are:

to direct the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) with regard to any applications for approval to prescribe a Schedule 8 drug (ie a narcotic or amphetamine) which the MOH refers to the Committee;

reviews the decisions of the MOH with regard to applications to prescribe Schedule 8 drugs in the event of an appeal being lodged; and

to formulate policy on the prescribing of Schedule 8 drugs.

3. Term and Power of Appointment

Term of appointment is for a period not exceeding three years. A member is eligible for reappointment at the end of the term. A member may resign his or her office by placing the resignation in writing and forwarding it to the Minister.

4. Gender Breakdown

1 Female 2 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

Nil

6. Public Servants

Table included.

7. Publications

Annual Report. Distribution to the Minister and Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly. Not costed separately.

595

31

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

1. Present Members

Ms M Cooper

Ms P Daniels

Ms M Hughes

Ms B IAnson

Mr R Linford

Ms G McDonald

Mr D McLver

Ms L Steeper

Ms E Waight

2. Terms of Reference

12 9 1992 - 12 9 1993 12 9 1992 - 12 9 1993 12 9 1992 - 12 9 1993 12 9 1992 - 12 9 1993 12 9
1992 - 12 9 1993 12 9 1992 - 12 9 1993 12 9 1992 - 12 9 1993 12 9 1992 - 12 9 1993 12 9 1992 -
12 9 1993

The terms of reference for the Mental Health Advisory Council are:

to advise the Minister for Health and the Secretary of the Department on mental health legislation
and the delivery and development of mental health services in the ACT.

3. Term and Power of Appointment

A member may resign his or her office by placing the resignation in writing and forward to the
Minister for Health.

4. Gender Breakdown

6 Females 3 Males

5. Remuneration Mechanism

6. Public Servants

One staff member (SOC - \$41 929 - \$45 546) spends 15°10 of their time on this council.

7. Publications

596

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

Question No. 511

**Canberra Institute of Technology - Fitting
and Turning Courses**

MR HUMPHRIES: To ask the Minister for Education and Training -

- (1) How many positions were offered in fitting and turning courses at the Canberra Institute of Technology in 1992.
- (2) How many such places will be offered in 1993.
- (3) How many staff were involved in teaching fitting and turning courses in the Canberra Institute of Technology in 1992.
- (4) How many staff will be involved in teaching fitting and turning courses in the Canberra Institute of Technology in 1993.
- (5) Will any courses at the Canberra Institute of Technology be offered in 1993 through course work conducted outside the ACT.

MR WOOD: The answer to the members question is as follows:

- (1) There were no new positions offered in 1992. However fourteen students were able to re-enrol to complete stage 3 of their technical training at the Institute.
- (2) The Institute did not offer any new places in 1993. Information obtained from the industry indicated that there would be insufficient numbers to justify running the course considering it is offered in stages over three years and there is generally a drop in numbers in stage 2 & 3.
- (3) There was one part-time staff member involved in teaching fitting and machining in 1992.
- (4) There are no officers specifically employed to teach fitting and machining.
- (5) The School of Engineering will not be offering trade training in fitting and machining as students now enrol at Goulburn. The School will continue to support other areas of the Institute in regard to minor fitting and machining servicing.

25 February 1993

**CHIEF MINISTER FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION NO. 522**

University Councils - Appointments

MR CORNWELL - asked the Chief Minister on notice on 16 February 1993:

Why has the Government not implemented Point 13.3 of its 1991-92 Platform namely:

"Seek to ensure that ACT community representatives are included on the governing Councils of the University of Canberra and the Australian National University" despite being in power for eleven months.

MS FOLLETT - the answer to the members question is as follows:

The delay in appointing nominees to the Councils of the University of Canberra and the Australian National University has arisen due to an inconsistency in Commonwealth legislation relating to the Australian National University.

The Australian National University Act 1991 currently restricts me from appointing Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly to the Council of the Australian National University. This is not consistent with legislation and practice relating to other Universities.

I wrote to Minister Beazley in November 1992 asking that he reconsider the restriction with a view to concluding that it might be removed when other amendments to the ANU legislation are being undertaken. I have not yet received a response.

In the meantime, I have been exploring other options for appointment to the Councils from community and other key groups. It is my preference, however, to be able to choose from a full range of persons, including members of this Assembly.

Further, I believe it is desirable for the Government to examine appointments to the Councils of tertiary institutions in the ACT as a whole to ensure that the nominees represent the most appropriate mix of individuals.

598

**CHIEF MINISTER FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION**

Question No 523

Government Fees and Charges - Use of Credit Cards

MR CORNWELL - Asked the Treasurer upon notice on 16 February 1993:

Further to the Minister for Urban Services response to Question on Notice No. 148, ie. "...the introduction of debit/credit facilities for motor vehicle registrations and other fees and charges across the ACT Government is currently being examined by a committee chaired by ACT Treasury"-

- (1) Has the examination concluded.
- (2) If so, what decisions have been reached.
- (3) If not, when will the examination be completed.

MS FOLLETT - The answer to the members question is as follows:

- (1) No.
- (2) NIA
- (3) It is envisaged that the examination will be completed this financial year.

25 February 1993

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND PLANNING

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

QUESTION NO 527

Planning Approvals - Fire-Damaged House in Garran

Mr Cornwell - asked the Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning - In relation to the three-bedroom house on Block 24 Section 11 Garran, recently damaged by fire -

- (1) Can the building be demolished, and replaced by (a) a five-bedroom house; (b) two three-bedroom houses under dual occupancy and (c) three. or four Aged Persons Units, without seeking planning approval - because current regulations. already permit such developments on that site.
- (2) If so, when were those regulations formalised.
- (3) Where else in the ACT has such approval, via those regulations, for such changes been granted.
- (4) Does such blanket already granted planning approval apply to private landlords and developers as. well as the ACT Housing Trust and, if not, why not.
- (5) What recourse do local residents have to object to such developments at (1), if planning regulations already permit such developments. .

Mr-Wood - the answer to the Members question is as follows: -

- (1) NO - APPROVAL BY THE ACT .PLANNING AUTHORITY WOULD BE REQUIRED IN EACH CASE. THE PROPOSALS NOMINATED WOULD BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE DESIGN AND SITING POLICIES UNDER. THE BUILDING (DESIGN AND SITING) ACT 1964, THE PLANNING POLICIES FOR DUAL- OCCUPANCY OF DETACHED HOUSE BLOCKS (.1986) OR THE PLANNING POLICIES. FOR AGED PERSONS ACCOMMODATION (1985), WHICHEVER WAS -APPROPRIATE.
- (2) NOT APPLICABLE
- (3) NOT APPLICABLE .
- (4) THERE IS NO SUCH BLANKET ALREADY GRANTED PLANNING APPROVAL.
- (5) NOT APPLICABLE

600

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND PLANNING

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

QUESTION NO 529

Aboriginal Sacred Sites

Mr Cornwell - asked the Minister for the Environment,
Land and Planning-

(1) Are there any Aboriginal sacred sites on Red Hill
and if so, what is being done to protect them.

Mr Wood - the answer to the Members question is as follows:

(1) I am not aware of any Aboriginal sacred sites on Red Hill.

There have not been any detailed archaeological
surveys of the area to record sites of Aboriginal
significance.. The draft management plan for
. Canberra Nature Park currently being prepared by my
Department proposes a systematic survey of this kind
for all nature park areas, including Red Hill.

All unrecorded Aboriginal sites in the ACT receive the protection of the Land (Planning and
Environment) Act 1991

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND PLANNING

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

QUESTION NO 531

**Arts Organisations - Annual Reports and
Financial Statements**

Mr Cornwell - asked the Minister for the Arts,

(1) - Are the following organisations in receipt of Government funding required to present to the Government an annual report and audited balance sheet -
(a) Gorman House; (b) Canberra Contemporary Art Space;
(c)- Canberra Festival .and (d) Meryl-Tankard Company.
If not, why not.

(2) - If so, have they done so for 1992 and if not, when will these be presented.

(3)- Are or will copies be made available to interested Assembly Members or will the reports be tabled in the Assembly.

Mr Wood - the answer to the Members question is as follows:

(1) The Arts and Special Events Grant Program provides funding to the private sector. The organisations, specified in the question are non-profit incorporated associations and as such have no legislative reporting requirement to Government.

However, there are reports required by the grant - funding process both at the time of application and at the acquittal stage. These requirements are that either the previous years annual report or where appropriate, the minutes of the most recent Annual General Meeting which include an audited financial statement must accompany applications from organisations.

As part of the acquittal documentation organisations are required to produce an audited financial statement identifying the receipt and expenditure of the grant.

(2) The four named organisations produced their 1991 annual report (including audited financial statement) at the time of applying for their 1993 grant. They will produce their 1992 report with their 1994 application.

Acquittal documentation for the three named organisations that are funded on a calendar year basis is due on 31 March 1993. The fourth organisation, Canberra. Festival Inc, that is funded on a financial year basis, submitted its acquittal documentation on

30 September 1992. The different funding periods originate from the time when Arts and Special Events were separate administrative units.

(3) There is no requirement for ACT incorporated bodies to reports; nor is it normal practice for the Arts and Special Events Section to distribute material gained through the application process.

Annual Reports are public documents and can be obtained upon a direct request to the organisation. Audited financial statements are also public documents which can be obtained from the Attorney-Generals Department.

**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND PLANNING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION**

QUESTION NO 532

**Arts Organisations - Annual Reports and
Financial Statements**

Mr Cornwell - asked the Minister for the Arts

- (1) Are all organisations in receipt of Government funding for arts activities required to present an annual report and audited balance sheet and, if not, why not.
- (2) If so, which organisations, by name, have done so for 1991.
- (3) If so, which organisations, by name, have not done so for 1991.
- (4) Are copies of such reports available to Assembly Members and if not, why not.

Mr Wood- the answer to the Members question is as follows:

- (1) The Arts and Special Events Grant Program provides funding to the private sector. The organisations specified in the question are non-profit incorporated associations and as such have no legislative reporting requirement to Government.

However, there are reports required by the grant funding-process, both at the time of application and at the acquittal stage. These requirements are that the previous years Annual Report (which includes an audited financial statement) for annual operational applicants or an audited financial statement for project applicants must accompany applications from organisations.

As part of the acquittal documentation organisations are required to produce an audited financial statement identifying the receipt and expenditure of the grant.

- (2&3) I have here a list of organisations funded through the 1991 Arts Development Grant Program. They were required to submit their Annual Report or their audited financial statement through the grant application process. The list also identifies those organisations who have/or have not, acquitted their 1991 grants. Only one organisation has not met the financial acquittal requirements, but has been granted an extension. There is one other organisation which has satisfied the financial acquittal requirements but the artistic requirement remains to be met.

- (4) There is no requirement for ACT incorporated bodies to distribute annual reports; nor is it normal practice for the Arts and Special Events Section to distribute material gained through the application process.

Annual Reports are public documents and can be obtained upon a direct request to the organisation. Audited financial statements are also public documents which can be obtained from the Attorney-Generals Department.

605

25 February 1993

LIST OF FUNDED ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE/HAVE NOT ACQUITTED
THEIR 1991 GRANTS

NAME OF ORGANISATION ACQUITTED/NOT ACQUITTED

Ainslie Village Ltd Yes
Arts Council of the ACT Yes*
Arts Law Centre of Australia Yes
Australian Association for
Dance Education Yes
Australian Chamber Choir Yes
Australian Chamber Orchestra Partially (audited
financial report
received; awaiting.
artistic report)
Australian Childrens
Television Foundation Yes

Australian National
Playwrights Centre Yes
ACT Council of Cultural .
Societies Yes .
ANU Choral Society Yes
Belconnen Community Centre Yes
Blast Magazine Yes
Bronze Works Extension
granted until 31/3/93
Canberra Choral Society Yes
Canberra City Opera Yes
Canberra Contemporary
Art Space Yes
Canberra Jazz Club Yes
Canberra New Music Ensemble Yes
Canberra Philharmonic Society Yes
Canberra Repertory Society Yes
Canberra Stereo Public Radio Yes

606

NAME OF ORGANISATION ACQUITTED/NOT ACQUITTED

Canberra Symphony Orchestra Yes
Canberra Youth Orchestra Yes
Canberra Youth Theatre Company Yes
Canberra Youth Orchestra Yes
Carclew Youth Performing Arts
Centre Yes
Crafts Council of the ACT Yes
Eureka! Theatre Company Yes
Gaudeamus Yes
Gorman House Arts Centre Yes
Havelock House Association Yes

International Theatre Institute Yes

Jigsaw Theatre Company Yes
Kingston-Arts Space Yes
Megalo Access Arts Yes
Meryl Tankard Company. Yes
Migrant Resources Centre Yes
Multicultural Youth Theatre Yes
Muse Magazine Yes
National Association for the
Visual Arts Yes
OConnor Family Centre Yes
Opera ACT Yes
PhotoAccess Yes
Rawil Productions Yes
St Mary in the Valley
Anglican Church Yes
Centre Yes
Skylark Theatre Company w

-

25 February 1993

NAME OF ORGANISATION ACQUITTED/NOT ACQUITTED

Splinters Yes

Stagecoach Theatre School Yes

Strathnairn Ceramic Studio Co-op .Yes

Studio One Yes

Tuggeranong Valley Community

Arts Association Yes

Upfront Community Theatre Yes

Woden Senior Citizens Club Yes

Women On a Shoestring Yes

608

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND PLANNING

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

QUESTION NO 533

**Canberra Theatre Trust -
Performance Statistics**

Mr Cornwell - asked the Minister for the Arts -

In relation to the performance statistics 1991/92 of the Canberra Theatre in the Trusts Annual Report (p. 24) what was the "other entertainment" in the Theatre which achieved 100% capacity.

Mr Wood - the answer to the Members question is as follows:

The ACT Calisthenics Association hosted the 4th National Calisthenics Championships between 11 and 14 July 1991.

609

MINISTER FOR THE ARTS
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

QUESTION NO 534

Arts Grants Program - Jazz Concerts

Mr Cornwell - asked the Minister for the Arts -

- (1) In 1991 and 1992, how many jazz concerts were subsidised by (.a) the ACT Government or (b) ACT Arts Grants Programs.
- (2) How much was the subsidy in each case.
- (3) If no jazz concerts were subsidised, why not. .

Mr Wood - the answer to the Members question is as follows:

- (1) There were no jazz concerts subsidised by the ACT Government directly or through the ACT Arts Grants Program in 1991 or in 1992.

Although no jazz concerts were subsidised in 1991 and 1992, two grants were given in relation to jazz as follows:

- (i) \$2,000 granted in 1991 to the Canberra Jazz Club for the payment of professional tutors for jazz workshops.
- (ii) \$500 granted in 1992 to Nick Cross for professional development.
- (2) see answer to Question (1). .
- (3) Subsidisation is dependent upon applications. In 1991 and 1992, no applications to stage jazz concerts were received.

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION NO 548**

**Canberra Institute of Technology -
Possible Tuggeranong Campus**

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training

(1) Has any consideration been given to locating a campus of the Canberra Institute of Technology in Tuggeranong.

(2) If so, has land been reserved, where has it been reserved and when might the campus be established.

(3) In no consideration has been given to locating a CIT campus in Tuggeranong, why not.

MR WOOD - The answer to the Members question is as follows:

(1) The location of a campus in Tuggeranong was carefully considered during the development of Tuggeranong and land adjacent to Lake Tuggeranong was earmarked as a possible site for an Institute campus. However, in an attempt to bring like functions together and realise substantial recurrent savings, the Institute has made a conscious decision to consolidate on to fewer campuses.

The Callum Street campus was closed and the larger Southside campus was opened in December 1991. This campus is expected to service Tuggeranong as will the Bruce campus service Gungahlin.

(2) Preliminary discussions with DELP have occurred regarding the establishment of an Institute-. complex at Jerrabomberra as a possible joint venture arrangement with NSW TAFE. This complex, if progressed, would service Queanbeyan and surrounds and the southern suburbs of Tuggeranong.

While numerous campuses might suggest a higher level of access by students to the Institute, any such gains are swamped by higher operating costs, inadequate student services and poor educational links. As a consequence, since 1989, the Institute has been actively pursuing a campus consolidation strategy under which fourteen locations have now been reduced to six campuses. A major reconsideration of the strategy will occur during 1993

25 February 1993

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY QUESTION**

QUESTION No: 549

**Canberra Institute of Technology -
Semester and Term Dates**

Mr CORNWELL - Asked the Minister for Education and Training -

(1) For how many days per annum are CIT campuses closed down between semesters.

(2) What are the dates of the semesters in 1993.

Mr WOOD - The answer to Mr Cornwells question is as follows:

(1) The Institute has an official close down from Christmas Day to New Years Day inclusive.

(2) Semester Dates in 1993 are. -

Semester 1 8 February - 18 June

Semester 2 19 July - 3 December

Term Dates in 1993 are:

Term 1 8 February - 8 April

Term 2 19 April -18 June

Term 3 19 July -24 September

Term 4 11 October - 3 December

These dates apply for the majority of semester based courses however campuses may tie. open for 50 weeks in each year depending on coarse scheduling.

612

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION NO 550**

**Cook and Lyons Primary Schools -
Year 6 Students**

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 18 February 1993:

In relation to Cook and Lyons Primary Schools-

- (1) How many students moved on to high school from each primary school in 1993.
- (2) How many from each school at (1) moved on to (a) Government and (b) non-Government high schools.

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

- (1) and 14 students moved on to government high schools from
- (2) Cook Primary in 1993. None went to non-government schools.

8 students moved on to government and 1 student to non-government high schools from Lyons Primary in 1993

25 February 1993

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

QUESTION NO 552

Student Representative Council

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 16 February 1993:

In relation to the ACT Student Representative Council -

- (1) What is the size and composition of this body.
- (2) How often and at what time does it meet.
- (3) How are members chosen.
- 4) What are its terms of reference.
- (5) Can you provide three examples of matters the Council considered in 1992.

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

- 1) The ACT Student Representative Council consists of two representatives of each government high school and college in the ACT.
- (2) The Council meets on request by the ACT Students Union or at the initiative of the Department of Education and Training. In 1992 the Council met once at Departmental initiative. The meeting was held at 4pm on 19 October 1992.
- (3) Members are selected through individual schools representative councils.
- (4) There are no terms of reference.
- (5) The three items considered at the October meeting were:
 - (a) The proposal for an ACT Youth Parliament.
 - (b) A process for the selection of a representative from the Student Council to sit on the Ministerial Advisory Council on Public Education.
 - (c) Operation of future ACT Student Council meetings.

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION NO.553**

Homework Club

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on the 16 February 1993:

- (1) Does this business have the support of the Government.
- (2) How many schools have leased a room in their premises for this Club.
- 13) What charges apply for this leasing.
- (4) As the Club operates for one and a half to two hours after normal school hours, how is school security maintained.

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

- (1) No.
- (2) No premises have been leased by the Department.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.

25 February 1993

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION NO 554**

Florey Primary School - Transportable Classroom

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 16 February 1993:

- (1) Why is an extra pre-fabricated double classroom being installed at Florey Primary School when the school is losing a teacher.
- (2) What is the cost of this classroom, including installation.

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

- (1) A double classroom transportable building was installed at Florey Primary School because enrolments were projected to exceed the schools capacity. The school requires the transportable classroom in order for it to offer its normal curriculum, including an unusually high number of ESL classes.

The school is not in fact losing a teacher, though the possibility was considered at the start of the 1993 school year.

- (2) The cost of this classroom, including installation and associated landscaping was \$144,000.

616

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION NO 555**

**Canberra Institute of Technology -
Purchase Order for Medical Advice**

Mr Cornwell - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 16 February 1993:

In relation to the Canberra Institute of Technology, for what was the \$8,000 expended for medical advice (Purchase Reference No: XPM3021 of Gazette No. 6, 10 Feb 93).

Mr Wood - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

Purchase Order No: XPM3021 was raised as a "period order" for an estimated expenditure of \$8,000 against medical examinations carried out by the Commonwealth Medical Officer to assess individuals fitness for continued duty and also for medical examinations prior to permanent appointment.

25 February 1993

**MINISTER FOR URBAN SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION NO 572**

**ACTEW - Senior Executive Service
Officer Statistics**

Mr Westende - asked the Minister for Urban Services:

In relation to The Canberra Times articles of 20 January and 4 February 1993 in which complaints were made about excessive growth in ACTEW senior executive staff (SES) numbers and costs -

- (1) What is the current annualised cost of ACTEW SES benefits, including indirect costs and what was the cost at 1 July 1988 (ACTEW commencement date).
- (2) What percentage increase has occurred in the period 1 July 1988 to 31 December 1992 and how does this increase compare with the growth in Australia's average weekly earnings in the same period.
- (3) How many senior ACTEW employees are now provided with a private use car at public cost and how many received this benefit at 1 July 1988.
- (4) What is the cost of supply and running these vehicles and what percentage increase has there been in these costs over the period 1 July 1988 to 31 December 1992.
- (5) What was the percentage increase in ACTEW's latest household power and water tariffs and how does that increase compare with the increase in the consumer price index over the period since the last increase in tariffs.

Mr Connolly - the answer to the Members question is as follows:

(1) The total cost of SES officers to ACTEW at July 1988 was \$779,000 for 8 officers. Once the amalgamation of the electricity and water functions was completed and the necessary management support in place, this cost rose to \$1,232,000 for 12 officers at July 1990. The cost at December 1992 was \$1,418,000 for 14 officers. On the basis of cost per officer, there has been a decrease since July 1990 from \$102,667 to \$101,286.

618

- (2) Between July 1988 and December 1992, the cost per Executive increased by 31 % for SES Band 1, 29% for SES Band 2 and 34% for SES Band 3. This compared with an increase in average weekly earnings over the same period of 22%.
- (3) 14 SES officers now receive a car for private use compared with 8 in 1988. All these officers make a contribution towards the running cost of their vehicle in line with ACT Government Guidelines.
- (4) It is estimated that the cost to ACTEW per vehicle for these SES cars is currently \$6,752.60 p.a. Comparable figures for 1988 are not available. However, the Public Service Commission currently costs SES vehicle expenses in its remuneration packages as \$7,500 p.a. compared to \$8,000 p.a. in 1988.
- (5) The most recent increase in tariffs for household power and household water were 5% and 4% respectively. This compares with a CPI increase over the relevant period of 1.9% for Australia as a whole and 2.6% in the ACT

25 February 1993

**MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION NO. 579**

Rent Relief for Private Tenants

MR. CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Housing and Community Services - In relation to rent relief for tenants renting private accommodation -

- (1) How is the rent relief paid and to whom.
- (2) If paid to the tenant, does the ACT Housing Trust receive complaints about rent not being paid and, if so, what action is taken.
- (3) How many such complaints were received in 1992.
- (4) Has consideration been given to paying the rent relief direct to the landlord or agent to prevent such complaints and, if so, what was the decision.

MR. CONNOLLY - The answer to the Members question is as follows:

- (1) Rent relief is paid by cheque to the tenant.
- (2) If landlords or agents provide supporting information that rent has not been paid, rent relief will be ceased.
- (3) Information is not available.
- (4) The cheque, which is payable to the tenant, can at the tenants request be posted direct to the landlord

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION ON NOTICE NO 580**

**Ministerial Advisory Council on
Public Education**

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 24 February 1993:

In relation to the Ministerial Advisory Council on Public Education and specifically the nominee of the ACT Student Representative Council

- (1) Has the position been filled.
- (2) If so, who is the nominee and from where and in what year of schooling.
- (3) How was the person chosen.
- (4) Do the duties of the Advisory Council conflict with education demands and if not, how is such conflict avoided.
- (5) If the position has not been filled, why not.

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

- (1) The position of student representative on the Ministerial Advisory Council on Public Education has been filled.
- (2) The nominee is Ms Cecelia Machan, currently in Year 12 at Stirling College.
- (3) Nominations were invited from all government high school and college students. Nominations were considered by the Committee of the ACT Students Union who made the final selection.
- (4) Ministerial Advisory Council meetings are held twice per term, commencing at 5.30 pm. This avoids conflict with Ms Machans college commitments

25 February 1993

This page is not available in electronic form but it is included in the printed Hansard.

APPENDIX 1:
(Incorporated in Hansard on 25 February 1993 at page 528)

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE ON 24 FEBRUARY 1993

Vocational Training Authority

Mx Cornwell - asked the Minister for Education and Training:

In relation to the Vocational Training Authority (VTA)

(1) What is the current membership and terms of appointment?

(2) Was a recent meeting of the VTA cancelled due to a lack of a quorum?

Mr Wood - the answer to Mr Cornwells question ie:

(1) The VTA consists of ten members comprising the Director of the Canberra Institute of Technology, three persons appointed by the Minister, after consultation with the Trades and Labour Council, to represent the interests of persons undertaking training, three persons appointed by the Minister, after consultation with employer organisations, to represent the interests of employer, and three other members appointed by the Minister. The Chairperson is appointed from the "other" category.

Present members and their terms of appointment are:

Prof M Reynolds Chairperson 13/10/92 - 30/9/95
Mr N Fisher
Mr M Alves
Mr C Haggar
Mr C McDonald
Director CIT
Employer Representative
Union Representative
Union Representative
1/9/89 - 31/8/95 1/9/89 - 31/8/95 22/4/92 - 31/3/95 31././05
Mrs A Murray Other 7/12/92 - 31/8/93

The appointment of three additional members is now underway.

(2) No recent meetings of the VTA have been cancelled due to lack a quorum. However a meeting of the Executive Committee on 1 February 1993 waa inquorate due to the unavailability of the employer representative.