SECOND NORFOLK ISLAND
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

HANSARD

First Sitting

10 February 1982
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>Page 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oaths and Affirmations</td>
<td>Pages 2-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election of President</td>
<td>Page 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election of Deputy President</td>
<td>Page 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address by the Administrator</td>
<td>Pages 6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address by the President</td>
<td>Pages 8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condolences</td>
<td>Pages 9-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petition</td>
<td>Pages 11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Offices</td>
<td>Pages 12-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointment of Chief Administrative Officer</td>
<td>Pages 31-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Sitting Day</td>
<td>Page 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjournment</td>
<td>Page 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjournment Debate</td>
<td>Pages 39-41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLERK: This meeting, the first of the Second Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, is convened pursuant to the following notice which appeared in the Norfolk Island Government Gazette dated 3rd February 1982:

"I, Ian Ewen Hutchison, Deputy Administrator of Norfolk Island, in pursuance of section 40 of the Norfolk Island Act 1972, do by this notice convene a meeting of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island being the first meeting of the Second Assembly to be held at the Legislative Assembly Chambers on Wednesday 10th February 1982 commencing at 3.30 in the afternoon. Dated this 3rd day of February 1982. Ian Hutchison, Deputy Administrator."

I now invite the Church of England Chaplain, The Reverend Mr. Kitchin to read prayers.

REV. KITCHIN: Ladies and Gentlemen, the Assembly Prayer. Almighty God we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessing upon this House, direct and prosper its deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory and the true welfare of the people of Norfolk Island. Amen.

CLERK: I have received a Return to the Writ for the election of the Legislative Assembly held on 27th January 1982. By the endorsement on the Writ it is certified that the following Members have been elected:

David Ernest Buffett
Gilbert Wallace Jackson
Edward Davenport Howard
John Terence Brown
Alice Inez Buffett
Chloe Barbara Gray
William Winton Sanders
Gregory Gilbert Francis Quintal
Bernard Edwin Christian-Bailey
CLERK: I lay the Return on the table. The Deputy Clerk will now approach each Member in turn so that they may make and subscribe the oath or affirmation of allegiance and the oath or affirmation of office.

DEPUTY CLERK: Mr. Buffett, please take the Bible in your right hand and read the oath as set out on the form.

MR. BUFFETT: I David Ernest Buffett do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law, so help me God.

I David Ernest Buffett do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, so help me God.

DEPUTY CLERK: Mr. Howard, please take the Bible in your right hand and read the oath as set out on the form.

MR. HOWARD: I Edward Davenport Howard do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law, so help me God.

I Edward Davenport Howard do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, so help me God.

DEPUTY CLERK: Mr. Brown, please take the Bible in your right hand and read the oath as set out on the form.

MR. BROWN: I John Terence Brown do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law, so help me God.

I John Terence Brown do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, so help me God.
DEPUTY CLERK: Mr. Christian-Bailey, please take the Bible in your right hand and read the oath as set out on the form.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: I Bernard Edwin Christian-Bailey do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law, so help me God.

I Bernard Edwin Christian-Bailey do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, so help me God.

DEPUTY CLERK: Mrs. Gray, please read the affirmation as set out on the form.

MRS. GRAY: I Chloe Barbara Gray do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law.

I Chloe Barbara Gray do solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island.

DEPUTY CLERK: Mr. Quintal, please take the Bible in your right hand and read the oath as set out on the form.

MR. QUINTAL: I Gregory Gilbert Francis Quintal do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law, so help me God.

I Gregory Gilbert Francis Quintal do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, so help me God.
DEPUTY CLERK: Miss Buffett, please take the Bible in your right hand and read the oath as set out on the form.

MISS BUFFETT: I Alice Inez Buffett do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law, so help me God.

I Alice Inez Buffett do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, so help me God.

DEPUTY CLERK: Mr. Jackson, please take the Bible in your right hand and read the oath as set out on the form.

MR. JACKSON: I Gilbert Wallace Jackson do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law, so help me God.

I Gilbert Wallace Jackson do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, so help me God.

DEPUTY CLERK: Mr. Sanders, please take the Bible in your right hand and read the oath as set out on the form.

MR. SANDERS: I William Winton Sanders do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law, so help me God.

I William Winton Sanders do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, so help me God.
ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

CLERK: The next business is the election of a President of the Assembly. Are there any nominations please?

MR. JACKSON: I move that Mr. David Buffett be elected as President.

CLERK: Mr. Buffett do you accept nomination?

MR. BUFFETT: I accept nomination.

CLERK: Is there any further proposal? The time for proposals has expired. I declare that Mr. Buffett has been elected President.

MR. PRESIDENT: I wish to thank the Members of this House for the great honour that they have bestowed upon me by electing me President of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MR. PRESIDENT: The next item of business is the election of a Deputy President, and I seek nominations for the office of Deputy President of this House. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: I move that Mr. Sanders be elected Deputy President.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders do you accept nomination?

MR. SANDERS: I accept nomination.
MR. PRESIDENT: Is there any further proposal? The time for proposals having expired, I declare that Mr. Sanders has been elected Deputy President of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly, and Mr. Sanders I offer you my congratulations on being so elected.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you Mr. President.

OPENING ADDRESS BY HIS HONOUR THE ADMINISTRATOR

MR. PRESIDENT: Your Honour the Administrator may I welcome you to this Chamber and invite you to deliver the opening address.

ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. President, Honourable Members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, my wife and I are delighted and privileged to be with you today on this beautiful Island and under such auspicious circumstances, for it is indeed an Island possessing all the natural charm and beauty so picturesquely described in historical works and where the people whose warmth and friendliness are justly renowned. Today is particularly important, being the day on which the Second Legislative Assembly is sworn in, ushering in yet a further period of government by the people of Norfolk Island and representing a further step along the road to increased self determination.

From the day that the Norfolk Island Bill became law under the title of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, the people themselves of Norfolk Island have formed the Legislative Assembly with the responsibility for the running of the Island's affairs to the greatest practicable extent. It was also stated at that time that the Australian Government would review arrangements over the ensuing five years and would increase the scope of the Legislative Assembly's power as may be appropriate. The Australian Government has already agreed to a measure of increased devolution of power and will seek to continue to devolve suitable additional powers during this forthcoming term. I am sure such measures will
go a long way towards meeting the aspirations of both Governments.

In reviewing some of the more major issues during the term of the First Assembly I do so only to highlight areas of significance and marked progress. I have no doubts the forthcoming term will present issues equally as challenging, yet I feel sure they will be tackled with equal firmness and will be resolved in the most practicable fashion. During the period around 80 Bills were introduced, of which 67 have been passed into law.

The Social Services Act of 1981 set up a Norfolk Island Social Service Board to consider and make recommendations to the Executive Member concerning claims under the law and concerning the exercise of any power by the Executive Member or by an authorised officer under the law. The Board can also furnish the Executive Member with reports or recommendations concerning social welfare on Norfolk Island. Many statutory powers previously vested in the Administrator are now vested in the Executive Member. Ordinance Revision (Executive Members) Acts have given effect to this in respect of 31 pieces of legislation. The funds accrued in the Revenue Fund as at 30 June 1981 stood at around $1.3 million, with revenue for that year exceeding $3 million for the first time. The budget for this financial year provides for revenue of $3.35 million against an expenditure of $3.6 million, with the shortfall coming from funds accrued in the previous year.

Quite apart from their involvement with the formal meetings, Assembly Members have been involved in discussions with Ministers, Commonwealth Government Officers and other officials on several matters of vital concern to the Island - the 200 mile economic zone, research into domestic fishery, the upgrading of the airport, a new quarry site, water and sewerage issues, the Anzcan Submarine Cable, Kingston and Arthur's Vale Management Plan, management of Philip Island and Mount Pitt Reserves, and the South Pacific Commission representation issue. The Assembly appointed
a Select Committee in 1980 to enquire into Norfolk Island tourist accommodation and related matters. Some restructuring of the Public Service was undertaken and the Assembly resolved in 1980 that a Consultant should be appointed to carry out an indepth review of the structure and organisation of that Service. More recently a Consultant was appointed to undertake a Consumer Price Index study which when completed should provide a valuable management planning aid to both public and private sectors. As I have said, the issues debated have been many and varied, those in the forthcoming term will prove no less so.

When His Excellency the Governor-General administered the oath of office to me in Canberra he recalled how much he enjoyed his visit to Norfolk Island and his meetings with the people. He recalled in particular his great pleasure in attending the opening of your First Legislative Assembly. He has been most interested in the progress made to date and he did ask me to convey to the people of Norfolk Island his good wishes for the future and his continuing interest in the progress of the Island. The Minister, Mr. Ian Wilson, expressed similar sentiments and asked would I pass them on.

It remains but for me to say how honoured I am to be here today. My wife and I look forward to a period of enrichment of understanding and of contributing to the aspirations of both Governments during our tour. We express to the President and to Members of the Legislative Assembly our very best wishes for the effective discharge of their challenging responsibilities. We wish for the people of Norfolk Island prosperity for the future and the attainment of personal and collective goals.

MR. PRESIDENT: Your Honour on behalf of the House I do express appreciation to you for addressing us this afternoon. This is your first occasion of being formally present in this House and I extend to you a warm welcome on such an occasion and to Mrs. Trebilco who accompanies you.

In the wider sense I also wish you both a warm and sincere welcome here in Norfolk Island. The Members wish you a happy and
rewarding stay here, during which time you will perform the role of assenting to Norfolk Island legislation and acting upon Executive Council advice in a Governor type capacity and also perform the role as the Australian Government's representative in Norfolk Island.

This Assembly does recall with pleasure the presence of His Excellency the Governor-General at the inauguration of the First Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island and that was in 1979. We know of his professional standing as a constitutional lawyer, and are indeed honoured that he continues to show an interest in Norfolk Island in the manner you have conveyed to us this afternoon. Thank you Your Honour.

Honourable Members the House will be suspended for two minutes whilst His Honour the Administrator withdraws from the Chamber.

CONDOLENCES

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I call on condolences. Are there any condolences Mr. Buffett?

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy President. I regretfully record three condolences at this sitting of the House this afternoon.

Firstly I mention Jules Cecil Churchill Laing, son of the late Edward Barron Laing and Selina Laing. Jules Cecil Churchill Laing passed away on Norfolk Island on 5th January last. He was aged 81 years. Jules was born on Norfolk Island and spent the major part of his life here. He was a sportsman of quite some repute, excelling in golf, football and bowls, infact I understand Mr. Deputy President but for a broken ankle, Jules would have represented New Zealand in an All Blacks team to tour England in the early 1920's. He worked on the Island as a butcher, a baker's assistant and a member of the whaling company and in latter days
as a member of the Administration Works staff. At the outbreak of World War II, Jules joined the Norfolk Island Militia. He did not enjoy good health in recent years, being hospitalised on a permanent basis for twelve months prior to his passing.

To Jules' wife Cassie, to Jean and Delores, their relatives and their many friends, this House does extend its sincere condolences.

I also mention Graham Douglas Laing, Mr. Deputy President, affectionately known to all as Hippo, Graham Douglas Laing passed away on 27 January aged 63 years as a result of a heart attack suffered whilst swimming at Emily Bay. Hippo was born in New Zealand but did all of his schooling on Norfolk Island when the Laing family moved here. He joined the Australian Infantry Forces and went overseas during World War II, spending four years in a German prisoner of war camp. On his return to Norfolk Island he married Frances Snell who predeceased him last year. Frances and Hippo lived at Anson Bay where he farmed, cropping beans and he ran cattle on his land. On his retirement from farming they finally settled at Ball Bay. Hippo loved fishing, swimming and gardening. He was a man of gentle nature, respected by all who knew him.

To his daughter Susan, his brother Monty and his relatives and many friends, this House does extend its sincere condolences.

I mention John Douglas Patterson, Mr. Deputy President. John Douglas Patterson, known to all as Pat, aged 57 years, was killed on 7 February as a result of a tragic accident which occurred whilst Pat was clearing land with his bulldozer. Born in New Zealand Pat first came to the Island in 1945 as a member of the Works Maintenance Unit of the Royal New Zealand Airforce. On discharge from the airforce, he returned to the Island to live permanently and he married Emily Vina Quintal in 1952, and there were three children of the marriage, Allan, Maureen and Marilyn. Originally self employed as a carpenter and farmer, he subsequently
worked with the whaling company during its operations in Norfolk Island. He was a member of the old Advisory Council from 1957 to 1960, and a staunch active member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Norfolk Island. At the time of his death he was self employed, clearing land.

To his children, to his sisters and brother and relatives and many many friends, this House extends its sincere condolences.

That concludes the condolences for this meeting Mr. Deputy President.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased I would ask all Members to stand in silence.

Thank you Members.

PETITION

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are there any petitions please?

MR. JACKSON: Yes Mr. Deputy President. I present the following petition, and I will read the terms of the petition which was signed by 477 residents.

It is addressed to the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island.

"We the undersigned residents of Norfolk Island respectfully request the Members of the Legislative Assembly to note the following matters:

1. That we desire that there be appointed by the Legislative Assembly a permanent and recognisable Head of the executive government, with genuine executive authority;

2. That in view of his level of support of 311 first preference votes or 39.2% of votes expressed by the voters at the election on January 27th, 1982, David Buffett is in our opinion the only logical candidate for appointment to such an office;
3. We are aware that the Legislative Assembly has the authority to make such an appointment immediately.

We the undersigned accordingly respectfully request that the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly should immediately appoint David Buffett to be Head of the Executive Government of Norfolk Island with genuine executive authority."

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are there any notices? No Notices.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The next item of business is to determine the number of executive offices and their respective designations. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Mr. Deputy President I move that pursuant to section 12 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979 there be three executive offices and these offices have the following designations - Executive Member for Administration, Education and Health; Executive Member for Planning and Tourism; and Executive Member for Finance.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any debate?

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Deputy President I seek leave of the House to move the following amendment to the motion, a copy of which has been circulated to Members:

I move that the motion be amended by adding the following paragraph:

"(c) The Executive Member for Administration, Education and Health be the Chief Executive Member, with the additional designation of Chief Minister."

May I speak to that amendment.
MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Deputy President this amendment will provide three things. It will provide the Executive Government of this Island with a recognised Head. Every Organisation must have a clearly defined Head of its executive. Upon acceptance of this amendment the serious deficiency of being without a Chief Executive will be remedied. This amendment will ensure the wishes of the community are met. These wishes were expressed in a petition to this House which I presented and tabled earlier at this meeting. I am sure that Members of the Assembly elected on the policy of honouring the views of the electors will recognise and agree on this point. I remind the House I stated the terms of the petition to which 477 persons subscribed. This amendment will also provide the opportunity for one or two of the Members of this House to honour their election undertaking to support David Buffett as Chief Minister in the Second Legislative Assembly.

Gentlemen I commend this amendment.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate? Yes Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you. I would like to start with an apology to our invited guests and to people listening that a meeting that ought to be a formal ceremonious installation of a new Assembly, has been turned into an occasion for a dispute.

In addressing the amendment that has been proposed I want to cover two aspects of it. One involves a factual review of some recent events that bear on the wisdom of the amendment, the other is a brief consideration of the job that lies ahead for all of us Members.

In a public statement published last Saturday Mr. Buffett referred to the new Government structure that was going to be proposed today. He said, "I have become aware that there is much confusion about how this proposal was formulated amongst
Legislative Assembly Members, and confusion as to what the proposed appointments really mean. I consider I have an obligation to clarify these matters to electors and other residents of the Island and to let you know of the efforts I have made, which in some cases were not permitted to be much", he said, "and the stand I have taken in the decision leading to the proposed appointments". He then said "I understand that...", and he referred to a series of secret meetings which were held and which he found disturbing. That particular point is an important one and it bears on the question of whether it is suitable that we consider giving him the designation of Chief Minister. I have been one of many people on Norfolk Island who objected most strongly to the number of secret meetings by which the Island has been governed. What were held were private discussions not secret meetings, they were not Government meetings, the two are totally different. The people in the discussions were meeting as individuals not as a Government body. The discussions concerned individual views not Government actions. No decisions were taken and none could have been taken which were in any way binding on the residents of the Island or in fact even on the people in the discussions. The discussions were held in a private home on the invitation of the owner and not in a Government building. The discussions were entirely different from the secret governmental meetings that have been a black mark on the elected Government here during the past 2½ years, what is more interesting is that far from being secret, the discussions were well known to many people including Mr. Buffett himself. He was told openly that they were being held and was told openly how the discussions had gone and no-one in the discussions had any objection at all to his being kept informed in this way.

In his statement made public last Saturday, Mr. Buffett said that when the full 9 membership gathered for their first meeting in the Assembly rooms, "Mr. Howard immediately came forward and announced that the group of 6 had previously decided that John Brown would chair the meeting, and this he did". If Mr. Buffett had
really wanted to clarify matters as he said he did, he could have done so quite simply by telling the truth.

**MR. JACKSON:** Point of order Mr. Deputy President.

**MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT:** Will you make no allegations against his truthfulness.

**MR. HOWARD:** Thank you. The truth is that Mr. Buffett asked at the meeting who the Members wished to have chair the meeting. Mr. Jackson nominated Mr. Buffett. I then said "David as you are well aware 6 of us have been having discussions about the matters that we will be dealing with this afternoon, we would like John Brown to chair the meeting". Mr. Buffett then asked if this was indeed the wish of 6 Members. We voted by raising our hands. It was an entirely correct and courteous procedure, with a majority casting a vote and the vote being accepted. Any suggestion that there was rudeness or high-handedness is misleading and I think mischievous. The meeting of the 9 Members continued over two days. As a courtesy the Chairman gave Mr. Buffett first opportunity to present his views on all governmental matters he wanted to have known. Throughout those meetings each Member, including Mr. Buffett and Mr. Jackson and Miss Buffett, as well as all the others, were given absolutely full opportunity to put any views they liked. At the end of the meetings there was a vote to choose between two differing proposals. 3 voted for one of them and 6 voted for the other. It was an entirely correct governmental process from beginning to end. Unfortunately the 3 who were disappointed in the outcome seemed not to have been willing to abide by that entirely correct governmental process and they seem to have commenced trying to overturn it through an emotional effort to inflame the residents of the Island. In general I would say it was the view held separately and independently by 6 of the 9 Members that two main principles are to be followed in the new governmental arrangements.
One principle was that Mr. Buffett should continue to hold the highest and most honoured single position, the only full time position, with an already established and very liberal salary, comforts and advantages attaching to it. The other principle that I think 6 Members were individually believing in was that executive power which had become highly concentrated in Mr. Buffett's hands during the last Assembly, should not any longer be dominated by one man. A bottleneck had been created and executive responsibilities were not being handled as well as they should be.

Returning to Mr. Buffett's public statement of last Saturday one now comes to much more important ways in which I believe he has mislead the community. His statement said...

MR. JACKSON: Point of order once again Mr. Deputy President. Is Mr. Howard speaking to the amendment or the motion?

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No point of order.

MR. HOWARD: His statement said that the proposal put forward by 6 Members did not provide for any acknowledged Head of Government, instead there was to be a rotation of the Executive Members to chair meetings of the executive group. His statement reads "in other words my existing role as Chief Minister was abolished". Mr. Buffett said that he considered he had an obligation to clarify matters. Perhaps it would have clarified a great deal if he had told the community that the original proposal put forward by 6 Members was that Mr. Buffett should be President of the Assembly and Chief Minister as well. The 6 believed that executive power should be more widely shared than in the past however and proposed at the same time while Mr. Buffett should continue to be President and Chief Minister, meetings of the executive group ought to be chaired by someone else, specifically Mr. Brown, who has demonstrated over the years that he is as able and fair in chairing a meeting as anyone on the Island. That proposal was not acceptable to Mr. Buffett, he wanted the lot, the
Presidency, the Chief Minister's position and chairmanship of the executive meetings. He was unwilling to share authority more broadly, he would not accept the idea of someone else taking the chair at executive group meetings. Never let it be said that Mr. Buffett was not offered both the Presidency and the position of Chief Minister. It may come as a strange surprise to very many people who have been asked to sign a petition during the past few days that Mr. Buffett was offered both positions, and he rejected the proposal because he could not get everything else he wanted. Let us return to Mr. Buffett's statement of last Saturday. He says "In the proposal of the 6 the grouping of executive responsibilities removed from my portfolio areas of significant authority, e.g. Finance to Ed Howard's executive portfolio, no explanation was given as to how this responsibility could be any more satisfactorily handled than I had already done" he said. Mr. Buffett said he considered he had an obligation to clarify matters for the community, if that is what he wanted to do it would have helped if he had made mention in his statement of the fact that he himself had proposed that change. I have a 2 page proposal by Mr. Buffett which I would be glad to table, which he presented to the meeting of all 9 Members on February 3rd, three days before his public statement appeared. In his proposal finance was not to be in his portfolio but in the portfolio of an Executive Member to be called the Treasurer. He proposed in writing that I be the Treasurer. Three days later he was appealing for public sympathy because of something he himself had proposed. There is no room for dispute about this. Every other Member was also given a copy of that document by Mr. Buffett, but if there is any need to table it for public information, I would be glad to table it here.

There are five specific matters on which Mr. Buffett's public statement was, to say the least, misleading to anyone who believed that he really considered he had an obligation to clarify matters for the benefit of the public. More important than all of those
together, his public statement brought to a light a philosophy toward government which must be a matter for concern and watchfulness. A proper formal governmental process took place and important issues were fully aired and then decided by a formal vote of all 9 elected Members of the Legislative Assembly. Rather than abiding by a proper decision which he did not personally like, Mr. Buffett then abandoned proper governmental procedures and tried to inflame public feelings by making a statement which he must have known was misleading and which was provably misleading in the name of carrying out an obligation to clarify matters. I suppose I do not need to say that I oppose the amendment.

I would like to make a comment, it is relative to the proposed amendment, on the job ahead of all of us. Toward the end of his public statement Mr. Buffett said that he opposes the new governmental arrangement that was being proposed and that he will be independent of his fellow Executive Members. If as one of three equal Executive Members in a three man executive committee, which is what the basic proposal is, if in that role he wishes the new structure to function badly and to fail, he will be able to do much to hamper and disrupt it. I hope he will not. I hope he will do his level best to make it work and I would welcome his public assurance before today's meeting is gone that he will help the entire Assembly get on with the job.

Members will be aware that I have been reading this address from a written text, I do not normally do that, I wanted to make sure that an accurate copy of it would be available. The weekly newspaper which in its editorial last Saturday included a veiled threat to Assembly Members, has a heavy burden of responsibility for publishing misleading and in some cases libellous information. I will make a copy of what I have said available to that newspaper after this meeting.

I oppose the amendment.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate?
MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy President, the first point I make, especially in respect of what Mr. Howard has said, is this, that the proper and formal governmental processes that are required to take decisions in respect of executive offices, lies in this House, in this House Mr. Deputy President, any action prior to that can only be interpreted as making arrangements to bring it to this House. That is the first point that I would like to make quite clear, because Mr. Howard has endeavoured to say that the arrangements that took place beforehand were proper and formal governmental processes. In fact they were not. I have endeavoured to make it quite clear where that lies, and that lies in this House.

I would also like to make this observation, and before I do so I would like to say this. I too regret that we have to regale our guests here at this the first formal session of the Second Norfolk Island Assembly with what is now developing to be a dispute, to use Mr. Howard's words, in which we involve personalities. I too regret that, but I do make the point that I made earlier that the proper and formal governmental processes need to happen in this House where all of the Members can see and hear it and where the public can see and hear it, and the proposals that have been made today both in respect of the executive offices and the amendments in respect of the executive offices, are made quite openly where all can see it, where all can hear it, and where all can discuss it, in this forum, and I think that is important. Now whilst Mr. Howard has said that he regretted this situation before our guests, and I too agree with that, I do note however that he has got about five or six pages already prepared to present today. It does not appear to me that he has really come along here thinking that he too would have a smooth arrangement, but he has come prepared to engage upon a tirade against David Buffett, and you have all just heard that of course. I find it difficult to accept, Mr. Deputy President, that that was not the intention at the outset and the other...

MR. HOWARD: Point of order. Motives of Members should not be questioned.
MR. BUFFETT: What about those that have been made in respect of David Buffett by Mr. Howard.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I suggest you do not make the same allegations.

MR. BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Deputy President. I would like to respond to a couple of points that have been made by Mr. Howard. He has been reading from a prepared text and I have not been able to jot down all of the points which I felt were inaccurate, but I will endeavour to remember some of them, and some of them I have had the opportunity to write down so that I could make some mention of them.

Firstly let me say that in Mr. Howard's address to this House he mentioned that the post of Chief Minister was offered to me. Let me make it quite clear, Mr. Deputy President, that the title of Chief Minister was offered, along with Garbage and Waste Products. Let me make it quite clear that the role of Chief Minister is one to lead the executive government, and let me be quite clear and say that that was not offered, Mr. Deputy President, I think that is something that I should make absolutely clear. I am not after titles, I am after a situation that has a proper situation for Norfolk Island's executive government in which it does have a Head, just as any business organisation in this Island has a Head, somebody runs it, somebody has the executive authority to do so, and I wish to make it quite clear that I think it is a dis-service to the Norfolk Island community for its Government to be without an Executive Head. I know Mr. Howard has said that the post of President of the Assembly we would like to let him have, let me be quite clear and point out that the post of President of the Assembly does not involve itself in the executive government of the Island, and it is the executive government of the Island that I am referring to which I consider should be properly headed. So let me just try and make that quite clear. It was not a matter
of David Buffett being unwilling to share the authority or the responsibility. Let me be quite clear on another point also. I have read policy speeches prior to the election just as everybody else in this community has read policy speeches, and it became quite clear to me that some people in the Island and indeed a good number of the people in the Island wished to see a better arrangement for spreading the executive authority. Previously as you will know there were three Executive Members. We did have a situation whereby one Executive Member prematurely withdrew from the executive office, and of course somebody had to perform those tasks, and we know that the legislation provides that the Chief Minister has the wherewithal to do that, and I did not shirk responsibility, Mr. Deputy President, fearing that people might say that just because a job had to be done that somebody was trying to avail themselves of unauthorised power, that was quite erroneous to say that. It was a matter of having to get a job done and I did not shirk from doing it. Others use that as an opportunity for criticism of course. But I was aware of that, and so in the proposal that I originally put to the group of 9 people, not to 6, I made my proposal to everyone, not initially to 6 people, I made the proposal that there should be a broader spread, and whilst I might not have particularly been greatly enamoured by it, I did list Finance in Mr. Howard's area, if I remember the proposal correctly, and I think that is what Mr. Howard alluded to earlier on. So you will see that it was really an attempt to try and do those things which I read that the community would wish me to do. As you can see from earlier remarks it has been endeavoured to be turned around. In fact much of what has been said has been endeavoured to be turned around.

I would also like to respond to the matter of secret meetings. It was said, if I remember the detail correctly, that it was really a group of individuals grouping together to discuss matters. Of course what has become quite clear, it became quite clear when the group of 6 attended the group of 9 meeting, that what had been discussed amongst that group must have been a
proposal for executive organisation in the Island, and my point Mr. Deputy President, is this - that the executive organisation in this Island is an extremely important matter, it is an important matter which certainly all the 9 Members of this Assembly would be interested in, and the community would be interested in, and I considered it ill-advised on the part of 6 to group together to come to their reasonable conclusions or certainly their general directions, and come along and make a proposal which in fact was staunchly supported by them as I understand it. It was interpreted by me Mr. Deputy President as a fait accompli. I also gather that they had been talking about it for a number of days. I can only guess at that, but I seem to have a fair inkling that this has happened, and of course one must bear in mind that after the group of 6 had tossed this around for a couple of days and come to their reasonable conclusions, it was a real battle for anybody else to enter the lists, in other words the remaining 3 of the Members of the Assembly to endeavour to open their minds to other things that were considered important. That was one of the battles that had to be undertaken also. Mr. Howard mentioned that I had been kept informed. Let me be quite fair and say there were some Members who did advise me of what I interpreted to be some of the proceedings, but told me about them, did not consult me about them, did not ask for my participation, did not ask for participation of the other two Members, but told me what had been decided, now do you think that is a reasonable way of going about the executive organisation or formulation of the executive organisation of this Island - I think not. I really think it has got to come back to the situation of whether you believe me or whether you believe Ed Howard, and I do not wish to pursue the matter having responded and mentioned some of those things at this time.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate? Yes Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: Mr. Deputy President, I feel that this debate
can go on for the rest of the afternoon if it is allowed to do so, and I think it is a disrespect to our guests here this afternoon, and I would like to see this matter dealt with at a further meeting.

MR. BUFFETT: A secret one?

MR. QUINTAL: Point of order.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Would you like the question put for an adjournment?

MR. QUINTAL: Yes I would. Do you wish me to move a motion to that effect? I wish to move that adjournment take place on this matter.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Those in favour?

MR. HOWARD: Can I ask please - is that a motion? If it is a motion, shouldn't it be discussed, shouldn't it be open for debate?

Do I have the call Mr. Deputy President - I appreciate and am sympathetic with Mr. Quintal's feeling that we should be more courteous to our guests, I agree with him. I think the question is a very important one and I think it ought to be decided while we are here and I would not have the slightest objection to having the vote put right now as to whether we accept the amendment or whether we do not. I think it would be better for the Island, better for the Government, if we did not defer the question to another day, but if we stopped arguing and settled it, and have a vote on the question itself.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy President can I point out one practical factor. Whilst we might be arguing about this, in fact
we have got to settle it today. The executive government of old ceases today, at this meeting, and unless it is settled today we will be without an executive government from this meeting onwards. So really in a practical way Mr. Deputy President, I do suggest to Members that we actually get on and settle it, otherwise there will be a gap in the governmental arrangements.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Would you like to suggest that the question be put.

MR. BUFFETT: I suggest that the question be put Mr. Deputy President.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The motion is that the question be put. The question is that the amendment be agreed.

Question - put

MR. HOWARD: Can I interrupt the proceedings? I think there is some confusion in some Members minds as to what we are now voting on. Could it be made clear again that we are voting on Mr. Jackson's amendment?

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We are voting on Mr. Jackson's amendment.

MR. HOWARD: That there be a Chief Minister, and that he be the Executive Head of the Government.

MR. JACKSON: Would you read the amendment.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That the motion be amended by adding the following paragraph - The Executive Member for Administration, Education and Health, be the Chief Executive with the additional designation of Chief Minister.
The House voted -

AYES, 3
Mr. Buffett
Miss Buffett
Mr. Jackson

NOES, 6
Mr. Howard
Mr. Brown
Mr. Christian-Bailey
Mrs. Gray
Mr. Quintal
Mr. Sanders

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The ayes 3, the noes 6. The debate is now on the main motion. Any further debate?

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Deputy President, a question that I have in my mind. My understanding, and I suspect it may simply be a clerical error in the rush that the Clerks have had to put up with in the last couple of days, I do not know. My understanding, and it arose out of a long and I thought at the time cordial and friendly discussion that John Brown, David Buffett and I had a couple of days ago, that the executive title that was proposed for Mr. Brown include at the end of it the word "Commerce", which seemed to us all to be logically tied with tourism. It was omitted from the motion, was it omitted intentionally? Does anybody know? Is there some procedure that the Clerk could advise us on for adding that word. Mr. Buffett tells me that his understanding was that it was to be added.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Would you move it as an amendment?

MR. HOWARD: If I have leave to do so.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is leave granted. (leave granted)

MR. HOWARD: Then I would move that the second executive title be amended by the addition of the words "and Commerce".
MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any debate?

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on the main motion?

MR. HOWARD: Yes, I would like to support the main motion if I may. The main motion is that there be three executive positions and the titles for them have been proposed. The intention is to create a body of three executive members who among themselves will try to agree on what is the best way to govern the Island. I do not think you have to have a situation in which one person is boss of the others. Mr. Buffett and I have occasionally crossed swords in the past, it is never fun for me and I am sure not for him when we do. I am happy to work with him and I hope he can work with me. I think that if we try, the three man executive committee arrangement will and can function for the Island's benefit, and I support it.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate? Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Mr. Deputy President. The present proposal has been arrived at after lengthy discussions between all 9 Members elected to this Assembly. Between Election Day and 2nd February the President held private individual discussions with most of the new Members, perhaps these could be called secret meetings, but to date no-one has questioned their propriety. There were also meetings between 6 of the 9 elected Members. The President was told of these meetings by me and others, he was told of what was discussed and of the general feelings of the Members. He did not ask to attend these meetings despite knowing of them, nor did the other 2 Members.

On 2nd February all 9 Members met. I chaired that meeting.
Two proposals were submitted - one from David Buffett and one from 6 of the other Members. Both proposals were discussed as fully as the 9 desired and the meeting then adjourned overnight for further consideration. During that night there were a number of phone calls from Mr. Jackson to various Members and various Members also spoke with Mr. Buffett by telephone. Following a request from Mr. Jackson and possibly from Mr. Buffett also, a further meeting of the 6 Members took place. This could hardly be called a secret meeting when it took place at their request. The 9 Members re-convened on 3rd February and discussion and debate continued until all 9 Members had said all they wanted to say. This included a meeting between Mr. Buffett, Mr. Jackson, Miss Buffett, Mr. Sanders and Mrs. Gray, which closed its door on 4 of the other Members. There was full discussion and debate following which 9 elected Members voted democratically and a decision was reached by an overwhelming majority. I might say again, that majority took place after some five hours of discussion and debate between all 9 Members. The result of that discussion between all 9 Members is the motion which is before this House today. No new information has been given to me which would be likely to cause my mind to be changed in any way, nor do I believe any of the Members would feel that the democratic decision which the vast majority of them reached on the 3rd of February should change. Having said that Mr. Deputy President, I support the motion.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate?

MR. JACKSON: I am also disappointed at the trend this first meeting of the Second Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly has taken. I think that my name has been used to intone discussions with other Members to come to some clarity on the method of governing Norfolk Island. I am fully aware of the situation that exists at present. The petition that I read out earlier in the meeting clearly indicated the intentions of the amendment that I proposed. It is a sad day that we find ourselves without a recognised Head of Government, with this power now being shared by the three executive members.
MR. HOWARD: Point of order. The question that Mr. Jackson is referring to has been decided. It is irrelevant to the question before us now.

MR. JACKSON: It is a sad day also Mr. Deputy President when we find ourselves in the situation where phone calls at night time to other Members...

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson will you speak to the motion.

MR. JACKSON: I certainly will. I cannot support the motion because I must support the 477 residents who placed their names on the petition and who supported the proposition to at least have one Head of the Government of Norfolk Island.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate? Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: I also excuse myself to invited guests. We are running very far behind time, but I feel that I would like to say that I express grave disappointment and concern at what I consider the retrospective step taken to remove the post of Executive Head from the Norfolk Island Government, and I deplore the method used. I hope that we can all progress further with far more harmony and that the Government of Norfolk Island over the next three years will be of a much better tone. I suppose I am out of order.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate?

MR. HOWARD: I would like as a continuation of that debate to echo Miss Buffett's wish for harmony in the Assembly and I would like it if she could explain what it is she deplores about the manner in which the decision has been arrived at.
MISS BUFFETT: There is no necessity because of the methods used at the previous meetings.

MR. HOWARD: The implication of Miss Buffett's comment is that there is something immoral or illegal or indecent or improper about the method that has been used. Does she feel that way?

MISS BUFFETT: I object to that.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any further debate? There being no further debate the question is that the motion as amended be agreed.

Question - put

The House voted -

AYES, 6  NOES, 2  ABSTENTIONS, 1
Mr. Howard  Miss Buffett  Mr. Buffett
Mr. Brown  Mr. Jackson
Mr. Christian-Bailey
Mrs. Gray
Mr. Quintal
Mr. Sanders

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: 6 ayes, 2 noes, 1 abstention. The motion is agreed.

MEMBERS FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The next item of business is to determine which Member is to fill each executive office. Miss Buffett.
MISS BUFFETT: I wish to move that David Ernest Buffett be chosen as Executive Member for Administration, Education and Health. Am I in the wrong place?

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any debate? There being no further debate the question is that the motion be agreed.

Question - put
Motion agreed (1 abstention)

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Christian-Bailey I believe you are going to move a motion.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: I move that John Terence Brown be chosen as Executive Member for Planning, Tourism and Commerce.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any debate? There being no further debate the question is that the motion be agreed.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: I move that Edward Davenport Howard be chosen as Executive Member for Finance.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any debate? There being no further debate the question is that the motion be agreed.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously
APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The next item of business is to make recommendations to the Administrator on the appointment of a new Chief Administrative Officer and on the terms and conditions of his appointment. Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: I move that it be recommended to the Administrator pursuant to the provisions of the Public Service Ordinance 1979 that John Bruce Gilchrist be appointed Chief Administrative Officer on the terms and conditions circulated to Members.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any debate on this?

MR. BUFFETT: I would like to address the matter, Mr. Deputy President.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy President. This appointment of Chief Administrative Officer in Norfolk Island was advertised in the national press of Australia with a closing date of 23rd November 1981. Members of the Assembly agreed that an interviewing panel consisting of the Acting Administrator, who was at that time Mr. T.F. Paterson, Mr. Howard and myself be appointed, with the able assistance of the present Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. M.A. Bains. Candidates were selected from some 142 applicants for the post and the short list of applicants was also agreed to by the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Five candidates were interviewed by the panel in Sydney on 7th December 1981 and another candidate came to Norfolk Island a week later also for interviews. The recommendation that was made to the Legislative Assembly was that a recommendation be submitted to the Administrator that John Bruce Gilchrist, the name that I have read
out earlier, Mr. Deputy President, be appointed Chief Administrative Officer on the terms and conditions that have been circulated to Members, and I have moved that motion accordingly.

Mr. Gilchrist at present holds an appointment with the National Capital Development Commission in Canberra, with a designation of Director Level 1. As Members of the Legislative Assembly will be aware, the N.C.D.C. (National Capital Development Commission) is a body that is responsible for the building of Canberra. Mr. Gilchrist has served with that authority since 1969. Prior to that he worked for Australian Iron and Steel Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Broken Hill Pty Ltd, from 1954 till 1969. Mr. Gilchrist holds qualifications in planning, mining, surveying, land surveying, and is a member of the Royal Australian Planning Institute. He has attended the course for senior administrative personnel at the Australian Administrative Staff College at Mount Eliza. Mr. Gilchrist is married and will be accompanied to the Island by his wife and three children. Mr. Gilchrist is 43 years of age, and it is expected that he will commence duty on 1st March 1982, consequent or subject to, of course, such an arrangement being endorsed by this Legislative Assembly, Mr. Deputy President.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate?

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Sanders wishes to participate in the debate at this time Honourable Members, so I am taking the Chair so that he might have the facility to do so from the floor. Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: I wish to talk against the appointment. From my point of view I do not believe that we have been furnished with enough information. You make reference to the fact that he is coming here with three children, and yet in the terms of the thing
Mr. Gilchrist receives a very high salary. May I ask the Chair if these children are under the age of 18 years.

MR. PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. SANDERS: We have not been informed, as I am aware, as to whether this was another situation whereby we have a Chief Administrative Officer bringing a wife and three children, is this another permit of immigration? Are they coming here to stay?

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders, I have endeavoured to mention that it is a proposal of appointment for a period of three years - two years - Mr. Howard might prompt my memory. Two years, with the possibility of an extension to three.

MR. SANDERS: Mr. President I was under the impression that the last Chief Administrative Officer was on the same basis, but I believe he is staying. Will it be possible to ask for an adjournment on this so that we can discuss it a little bit - on matters of his salary, the use of a car for his wife - does it wind up as another two car family, one for his wife and the Chief Administrative Officer taking one out of the pool?

I would like clarification on his contract before I would be prepared to agree. His salary, I believe, tax free, is exorbitant. I think that plus all the things that are agreed within the contract, I would imagine his take home salary would be approximately $5,000 or $6,000 less than Malcolm Fraser who is Prime Minister of Australia.

I would like to move that there be an adjournment and that this matter be discussed a little further.

MR. PRESIDENT: There is a motion for adjournment. Mr. Jackson.
MR. JACKSON: I do not support all the allegations that Mr. Sanders has made, however I do agree that there should be an adjournment to a later date for the new Members to consider the situation and for us to have a further consideration on allegations that have been made by Mr. Sanders. If it is possible I would strongly support an adjournment to a later date.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard. There is a motion of adjournment before the House.

MR. HOWARD: Yes, I am talking to the motion that we adjourn debate on the matter. I do not think we should. I wish Bill Sanders had been on the Assembly three or four months ago and could have injected that kind of serious penetrating financial look into the matter at that time. Unfortunately the job was offered on the say so of the previous Assembly, and a man was selected and the offer was made to him and he has accepted. I really do not think we are in a position where we can renege on an offer that has been made by the previous Government and accepted by the man. I think there were a couple of questions that Mr. Sanders put that may need clarification and could be clarified right now, such as the use of cars and so on, but as to the appointment of the man and his salary, I think an offer has been made and accepted and we are honour bound to support it, and I do not think we should adjourn discussion on it.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard you were a member of the panel, would you like to respond to some of those other queries if you are in a position to do so.

MR. HOWARD: No, I am as curious as Mr. Sanders is, as a matter of fact about some of them. The question of the car – it seems to me that if you offer a car to go with the position it is quite reasonable that the Chief Administrative Officer's wife should be able to use that car when he is not needing it. As far
as I am concerned his kids can use it too if they are good drivers. I think it is worth clarifying now, if it can be, the fact that she should be able to use the car when he is not using it, but there should not be two cars involved. He should not be able to draw on the motor pool just because the car that was assigned to him is being used elsewhere. I think that is a question that needs to be answered now. I think it is a good question. I am only saying that the appointment and the salary are things that I think we have to honour, and we should not adjourn on that.

MISS BUFFETT: Mr. President could I ask what is this motor pool that is being referred to. I have not heard anything about a motor pool being brought up, and I have been to all the meetings.

MR. PRESIDENT: There is a question of adjournment. Do you want to adjourn the matter or get on with the matter?

MR. QUINTAL: I really think that if the gentleman has been notified, Mr. President, there is very little we can do about it. I think it is a pity that he happens to have three children, or it is a pity we could not find someone else without children, because we will have to watch our dollars very carefully in the future I would think, and whether the three children would create a burden or not, I do not know. I would like to ask if they are of school age?

MR. PRESIDENT: Yes, two of them are in the senior classes, Mr. Quintal. Senior classes do not present such a difficulty as the junior classes in the school as you will realise.

MR. QUINTAL: I think there is very little we can do about it seeing as the appointment has been made.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson.
MR. JACKSON: Mr. President, after hearing the other Members and realising the fact that the man, Mr. Gilchrist, has been engaged and is only waiting for ratification from this meeting today, I withdraw my support to the mover of the motion of adjournment, and I am certain after clarification perhaps Mr. Sanders will also see that we have entered into the contract. Mr. Gilchrist has been selected out of a field of 143 other candidates and I do believe it would be a backward step to alter any contract that we have entered into.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Christian-Bailey.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: I feel, Mr. President, that we are honour bound to accept Mr. Gilchrist. I would certainly support that Mr. John Gilchrist be appointed Chief Administrative Officer. I think the negotiations that have gone on in the past have been completed.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Christian-Bailey. Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: I feel Mr. President that if this gentleman is worthy of so much money and so many perks and conditions and vehicles, it might be easier if we give the public purse to him and if there is any change, try and run the Government.

MR. PRESIDENT: Any further participation in the debate Honourable Members? There is a motion of adjournment. Those in favour of an adjournment.

Question - put
Motion negatived

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders against. Do you wish to have the House called Mr. Sanders?
MR. SANDERS: No.

MR. PRESIDENT: Right thank you. We still have a motion before the House that Mr. John Bruce Gilchrist be recommended to the Administrator to be appointed as Chief Administrative Officer. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Now that we are back on the main motion, is there some way that you know of that would clarify the point that Mr. Sanders has made about the motor vehicles?

MR. PRESIDENT: The quite clear contract that is attached and has been circulated to Members, is that one car is available to the Chief Administrative Officer and that car can be used by himself and his wife in a family situation.

MR. HOWARD: And if she is using it that does not mean that he can draw on another car.

MR. PRESIDENT: There is one car.

MR. SANDERS: For the under aged children too?

MR. PRESIDENT: We have not talked about anything illegal Mr. Sanders, under aged driving is an illegal matter. Are there any further Members wishing to participate in the debate on that matter? Then I put the question.

Question - put

Motion agreed to

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders, against or abstain, I am sorry. Against. Thank you.
MR. PRESIDENT: The next sitting day Honourable Members.

MR. JACKSON: I move that the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 3rd March 1982 at 2 p.m.

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is that the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 3rd March at 2 p.m. Debate?

MR. BROWN: Mr. President, I would like to bring a matter to the attention of the House.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Brown we are talking about the next sitting day, we are not in the adjournment debate yet. We are talking about sitting on Wednesday 3rd March.

MR. BROWN: I am sorry.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you. I now seek a motion of adjournment. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: I move that the House do now adjourn.

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is that the House do now adjourn.
MRS. GRAY: I do not think that I would like the occasion to pass without a female having at least part of the final say.

MR. PRESIDENT: In my house they always have the final say, whether it happens in this House is another matter to be decided Mrs. Gray. Please continue.

MRS. GRAY: Thank you. There are those on Norfolk who see evil of a group of men sharing a common aim. Members of the Legislative Assembly were elected after expressing their wishes and their hopes for Norfolk Island. The wish to see shared responsibility was common to a number of candidates. That hope is to become reality. It has not been realised easily without doubts and without anguish. For something new to be achieved, something old must go. What has evolved is a new system within the existing framework. We have a body of 9 men, the Legislative Assembly. We have an executive of 3 - not 1 chief and 2 indians - but 3 men equal, to share the load, to share the responsibility equally. The new arrangement does not use familiar terms, the old titles did not fit the new situation. It is hoped that the people of the Island will recognise that. I believe that it is the wish of the majority of this House and certainly that of many of the electorate, that David Buffett head the Government on Norfolk Island. By electing him President of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly the Members have indicated their wish for him to speak for them and thus for the people of the Island. If one accepts that 9 Members of the Legislative Assembly and the machinery that extends both down and out from it is the Government, then the man who heads that Government heads Norfolk Island. That man is David Buffett. There will be shifts of balance within the Assembly, Members being seen to align themselves with one line of thought or another. There are differences within the 9 - these can be put to use, by forwarding representation to all sectors of the community. The Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly seeks
support of the people. There is now a provision for thoughts and ideas to be expressed and discussed, for members of the community to participate in the process of government - this process is called democracy - government by the people.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you Mrs. Gray. I remind Honourable Members that that was the maiden speech of Mrs. Gray in this House. Any further participation? Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Mr. President I wish to say something about pecuniary interest. I would like to bring to the attention of this House my interest as a shareholder in and a Director of Norfolk Island Airlines Limited and Hillcrest Hotels, and the shareholding interest of my family in both companies. I have sought advice from the Chief Administrative Officer and the Legal Adviser in relation to this. The law is set out in section 39(3) of the Norfolk Island Act, which basically requires that a Member not vote on a contract for the supply of goods or services to the Administration or to the Government where the Member has a direct or indirect interest in that contract. The law has no further requirement. However, I shall be going further than the law requires, and I shall enter a discussion with all of the Members of this Assembly shortly, and as soon as possible an announcement will be made in order to put to rest any suggestion or any criticism of myself in this regard. Perhaps I should add that I first, at my own initiation, had the opportunity to discuss this matter with the President on 27 January, it is not a matter which has arisen for the first time today.

Finally I would like to congratulate all of the Members on their election to this Second Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly. I look forward to burying the unpleasantness of the past week and to working together with all of the other Members for the good government of this Island. Thank you Honourable Members.
MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I would just like to say that I am breathless at Mrs. Gray's opening address and I congratulate her on it.

I am pleased that Mr. Brown has brought forward the question of pecuniary interest. It is one that obviously has to be solved. He has, I believe, an extraordinary understanding as people on Norfolk Island go, of the tourist industry, the hotel business and the airline business, and I think that knowledge can be immensely useful to us if he is able to employ it. I am sure he will get the conflict of interest thing solved with the guidance of the Legal Adviser and Chief Administrative Officer and that he will make the kind of contribution in those fields that he is able to make.

MR. PRESIDENT: Further participation in the adjournment debate? There being no further participation in the adjournment debate I put the question. The question is that the House do now adjourn.

House adjourned at 5.05 p.m. until Wednesday 3 March 1982.