SECOND NORFOLK ISLAND
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

HANGARD

Eighth Sitting
(4 August 1982)
Executive Member for Administration, Education & Health
(The Honourable David Ernest Buffett)

Surface Transport  
Roads, Footpaths & Bridges  
Street Lighting  
Water Supply  
Electricity Supply  
Drainage & Sewerage  
Garbage & Trade Wastes  
Primary Production  
Slaughtering  
Domestic Animals  
Pounds  
Pests & Noxious Weeds  
Recreation Areas  
Cemeteries  
Forestry & Timber  
Fire Prevention & Control  
Quarrying  
Prevention of Nuisances  
Noxious Trades  
Gases & Fuels  
Firearms  
Explosives  
Places of Public Entertainment  
Museums, Memorials & Libraries  
Boarding Houses & Hotels (food & beverages)  
Foodstuff & Beverages  
Trading Hours  
Markets & Street Stalls  
Hawkers  
Radio & Television  
Telephone Services  
Coastlines, Foreshores, Wharves  
Lighterage  
Registries & Rolls  
Social Services  
Education  
Health  
The Environment  
Culture & Traditions

Executive Member for Planning, Tourism & Commerce
(John Terence Brown)

Building Control  
Advertising Hoardings  
Tourism (including tourist accommodation)  
Fishing  
Immigration  
Land Use Planning & Subdivisions  
Air & Sea Transport (other than Lighterage)  
Legislation Planning  
Future Planning  
Commerce

Executive Member for Finance
(Edward Davenport Howard)

Revenue Raising  
Public Monies  
Postal Services  
Customs  
Liaison with the Public Service Board  
Retail Price Index  
Bond Store & Future Commercial Undertakings of the Administration
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

President  -  The Honourable David Ernest Buffett
Deputy President  -  Mr. William Winton Sanders
Acting Deputy President  -  Mr. Bernard Edwin Christian-Bailey

Brown, John Terence
Buffett, Alice Inez
Buffett, The Honourable David Ernest
Christian-Bailey, Bernard Edwin
Gray, Chloe Barbara
Howard, Edward Davenport
Jackson, Gilbert Wallace
Quintal, Gregory Gilbert Francis
Sanders, William Winton
The Assembly met at 2 p.m. The President (Hon. D.E. Buffett) took the Chair and read the Prayer.
CONDOLENCES

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Chairman sadly there are seven condolences.

It is with regret that this House records the passing of Donald Thomas on 1 July 1982 at his home on Norfolk Island, aged 53 years. Don was born in Otahuhu, New Zealand in 1928 and educated at Tauranga and Wesley Colleges. He spent much of his youth at Mount Manganui where he learnt his love of sailing and golf. As well as fathering his own family he was a father to Jenny, the daughter of his wife Lois. Don first came to Norfolk in 1966 on his way to Australia and returned with Lois in 1972, leaving again in 1976. They returned in 1979 to help Don convalesce after an illness, and later Don was well enough to run his small business. Golf was his passion and he was a popular member of the Norfolk Island Golf Club. To his wife Lois, to his children Cheryl, Pauline, Shane and Gary and their families and to Jenny and her family and to his mother Lily, this House extends its sincere condolences.

It is with regret that we record the death of Colin Squire O'Donnell who passed away on 6 July 1982 while holidaying here on Norfolk Island. He was 72 years of age and an ex-Serviceman serving with the 30th Battalion 8th Division, becoming a prisoner of war on the Burma Road. To his wife Kathleen, son John, daughter Jill and other members of his family, this House extends its sincere condolences.

Mrs. Margaret Von Rieber Andre passed away in Norfolk Island on 24 July 1982 aged 75 years. She was visiting Norfolk Island with her husband at the time of her untimely death. Mrs. Andre was born at Mount Gambier, South Australia, and she and her husband had a farm at Millicent. Mrs. Andre's two sons were able to come to Norfolk for the funeral. This House extends its sincere sympathy to the family of Mrs. Andre.

Edna Katherine Bailey passed away at the Norfolk Island Hospital last Saturday evening 24 July. Mrs. Bailey was born on 8 March in Auckland some 87 years ago, and was one of seven children of Ann and John Roberts - Netta, Mabel, Win (the late Mrs. Symonds of Norfolk Island), Gladys (one time resident of Norfolk Island) all deceased, and Allan of Auckland, and George in the United States of America. She married Tom Bailey of Norfolk Island in Auckland. She and Tom, who was a member of the then
Pacific Cable Board, now O.T.C., lived in Fiji for four years where their only child Marie was born. They came to live on Norfolk Island in 1930, firstly out at the cable site at Anson Bay and then at 'Greenacres', the Christian (Tom's parents) family home in Queen Elizabeth Avenue. Tom died in 1962. An outstanding example of cheerfulness in any adversity, Edna Bailey never had a bad word for anyone. A conversation with her always left one with a feeling that everything would be alright. She was an indefatigable worker for tourism all the years she was on Norfolk, preparing suppers in the old Tourist Bureau, helping daughter Marie in preparing morning teas, afternoon teas and doing all sorts of cooking and preparations for tourists which Marie had been operating for many years. A member of the old Dramatic Society, she also performed in many of the Society's activities at Rawson Hall up until the early 1960's. Gardening was her forte and she had a great love of good music. This House extends its sincere sympathy to Marie, to Allan and George and their families and to many relatives on Norfolk Island and on the mainland.

Austin (Cup-a-tea) Buffett passed away in Australia on 21 July 1982. Austin Buffett was born on Norfolk Island on 6 December 1908, the son of David Buffett and Susan nee Quintal. He was brother of Moresby, Gilbert, Florrie and Valerie. Austin Buffett worked with wood and had a shop in earlier times in the Island in which he made furniture and souvenirs of Norfolk Island wood. In later years he went to live in Australia where he has been until his untimely death. This House extends its sympathy to his relatives and friends.

It is with regret that this House records the death on 16 July 1982 of Kenneth Bruce Currie in Tauranga Hospital, New Zealand aged 46 years. Ken was born in Thames, New Zealand and in his younger days he enjoyed athletics, rugby and game shooting. In his later years his main pleasures were fishing and camping with his family, and travelling. He worked as a mechanic with Fletcher Constructions for 14 years and prior to coming to Norfolk Island 18 months ago, owned a kiwi fruit orchard. He and his wife Beatrice moved to Norfolk Island on purchasing Bligh Court. Ken was a member of the Norfolk Island Lions Club and will be sadly missed. To his wife Beatrice and his children Christine, Karlene and Bruce, this House extends its sincere sympathy.
Mrs. Helen Amelia Thomas, more affectionately known as Titta, recently passed away in Sydney. Mrs. Thomas was born in Norfolk Island on 5 September 1903, the daughter of Rose and Heasty Quintal. She married firstly George Wilson (Simon) Menzies and subsequently Joe Thomas. Having two daughters Mrs. Gwen Bergagnin and Mrs. Nancy Adams, both living in Norfolk Island, by her first marriage, and a daughter Rosemary by her second marriage. Mrs. Thomas was much loved by her daughters, her grandchildren and great grandchildren who are all represented here in Norfolk Island. The House extends heartfelt sympathy to her many relatives and friends.

Thank you Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Sanders. As a mark of respect Honourable Members I would ask if you would stand for a moment in silence.

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members you will know that the Rt. Hon. Sir Zelman Cowan relinquished his appointment as Governor-General of Australia on Wednesday 28 July 1982, and upon that occasion greetings and best wishes were extended to Sir Zelman and Lady Cowan by myself on behalf of Members and of Norfolk Island. Sir Zelman Cowan has responded by letter, and I would like to read his letter of response to the House: "Dear Mr. President, I write to express my thanks to the Norfolk Island Government, Members of the Legislative Assembly and residents of the Island for your good wishes to us, we remember our historic visit to Norfolk Island with great pleasure and we hope that it will be possible to come again. Kindest regards, yours sincerely".

On Thursday 29 July 1982 the Rt. Hon. Sir Ninian Stephen took up appointment as Governor-General of Australia and warm congratulations have been sent.
MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR -

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members I would now like to advise you of a message from the Administrator concerning the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill 1981. I will make mention that it is a matter that is later reflected in the programme but because of its importance I will handle the matter at this time.

I firstly advise that the Administrator has written a letter dated 2 August 1982 in respect of the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill 1981 and I advise his message: "I have been informed by the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment that on 22 July 1982 His Excellency the Governor-General withheld assent to the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill 1981. Attached pursuant to section 24 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979 is a message stating the reasons for the withholding of assent. As you will be aware, section 24(2) of the Act provides that the message shall be laid before the Legislative Assembly at its next sitting. Yours sincerely R.E. Trebilco, Administrator."

I additionally quote to Members the statement of reasons for withholding assent. I read it in its entirety: "Norfolk Island Act 1979 - Statement of Reasons for Withholding Assent to the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill 1981 Pursuant to Section 24 of the Act. The Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill 1981 was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 4 November 1981 and was reserved by the Administrator for the Governor-General's pleasure. The Governor-General withheld assent to the proposed law on 22 July 1982 and this statement of reasons is furnished in accordance with section 24 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979. The proposed law provides for a change in the method for the election of Legislative Assembly Members from a system of Proportional Representation to a block voting commonly called First Past the Post system. Assent was withheld from the proposed law on the grounds set out in the following paragraphs: (a) in relation to clauses 4 to 11 of the proposed law it is the Government's view that it is not desirable for elections to the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly to be conducted under a block voting system because such a system of voting would not provide adequate means of ensuring fair representation; (b) the remaining provisions of the proposed law, clause 3, seeks to repeal a spent section of the principal Ordinance relating to
the 1979 election. Clause 3 does not warrant a separate enactment. Dated 2nd August 1982."
Those documents Honourable Members are laid before the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

CARRIAGE OF MAIL

MR. PRESIDENT: Questions without notice. Are there any questions without notice. Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. President I have a number of questions but the first two I will direct to Mr. Howard who was Chairman at the last Executive Committee meeting.
The first question is has plans for the carriage of mail via Brisbane been considered and discussed by the Executive Committee and if so, what is the result or decision taken concerning this matter.

MR. HOWARD: Yes it has been considered, it looks as though the Island could get not only a more frequent mail service but save $14,000 a year on present figures if our mail to Australia were sent to Brisbane rather than to Sydney. The Administration has got in touch with Norfolk Island Airlines and asked them if they would make a firm proposal for doing this and the proposal is being awaited.

MR. JACKSON: Following on that question, has the situation of delays been fully examined concerning the changing of mails going from Norfolk to Sydney and then going to Brisbane.

MR. HOWARD: The whole proposal has not been fully examined.

MR. JACKSON: Well then has any final determination been given concerning this.

MR. HOWARD: No, as I said in answer to the first question, no.
WORKERS COMPENSATION

MR. JACKSON: The next question Mr. President concerns workers compensation. Has the possible need for workers compensation legislation been considered and discussed by the Executive Committee and if so what is the result or decision taken concerning this matter.

MR. HOWARD: The answer is that it has not really been discussed by the Executive Committee. It is a subject that has been brought by the Chief Administrative Officer. The question that he has raised is not whether there should be workers compensation for Administration employees, because there is right now, it is not embodied in any law but workers compensation is paid by the Administration as a matter of administrative procedure, the Chief Administrative Officer has raised the question whether it would be better or not if there were a law dealing with it rather than having it handled by administrative procedure. The Legal Adviser is preparing a list of pros and cons on the question, the Executive Committee has not yet had it, when it comes we will look at it. The only other thing I should add is that I do not think there is any suggestion that there is inadequate coverage or that people who are injured in their work for the Administration are not being compensated, it is simply a question of whether the procedure should be one that is based in a separate law or whether it should continue as it is now.

MR. JACKSON: May I add that I am happy to hear that information because there has been doubt in the minds of even lighterage workers whether they are covered by workers compensation.

MR. HOWARD: Point of order Mr. Chairman.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What is your point Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: That was not a question that Mr. Jackson just asked, it was a bit of a speech, I will take it as a question and reply to it. I do not think there is any reason, taking Mr. Jackson's comment as a question, I do not think there is any reason that anybody in the Administration needs to be concerned as to whether they are protected in the event of
accident, they are, that has been a decision I think unanimously supported by all Members of the Assembly. I think there was suggestion in Mr. Jackson's statement or question that people were worried about something. If they were worried then they have not been properly informed.

MR. JACKSON: I am glad that Mr. Howard has cleared the air for anyone who has worried.

TOURIST BUREAU HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

MR. JACKSON: The next question is to Mr. Brown who holds responsibility for tourism. The survey conducted by the students from Brisbane Mr. Brown, were you satisfied with the co-operation given by the residents interviewed.

MR. BROWN: Mr. Jackson my understanding is that the vast majority of the people who were interviewed were pleased to have the opportunity to put forward their thoughts and their points of view. There were I understand a small number of people who chose not to participate in the survey, that was their right if they so chose. It is in some ways a shame because it will mean that the thoughts and the ideas of those people will not be known to us. The students managed to complete something in the vicinity of 70% of the interviews which they wanted to complete. The remainder of the households who have not yet been interviewed will hopefully receive during this week a shorter form of questionnaire for completion and posting directly to the College of Advanced Education at Kedron, again if they so desire. If they choose not to do so well that is their right. The present position with the survey is that all of the survey forms done to date have been computerised and the computer print-out of the results of all of those forms has been completed, it is my understanding that all of the forms have at this stage been destroyed, and Dr. McCarthy the Dean of the College is presently booked to come to Norfolk Island on 15 August with view to presenting the results of the survey and his report on the survey on the 16th as earlier indicated.
MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Mr. Brown could you explain then why did the change take place not to interview all households or all residents when an announcement was made in this House that they would all be interviewed.

MR. BROWN: It is simply a question of the interviewers running out of time Mr. Jackson. The interviews had initially been expected to take in the vicinity of 25 to 35 minutes, it was found however that the cooperation of those who were being interviewed was such that interviews ranged anything from half an hour up to two hours, and there was a deadline for all the students to return to Brisbane, so we did not manage to do the whole Island.

MR. JACKSON: Because of assurances given in this House that secrecy would be the most paramount procedure in the survey, did any local residents take part in the questioning of residents.

MR. BROWN: Do you mean did anyone from Norfolk Island carry out interviews.

MR. JACKSON: From Norfolk Island yes.

MR. BROWN: Not to my knowledge.

EXTENSION OF AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING

MR. JACKSON: I have a further question to Mr. Brown concerning the airport. Mr. Brown have negotiations with the Department of Housing and Construction taken place regarding the extension of the terminal building at the airport and if so were local builders given the opportunity to participate.

MR. BROWN: Mr. Jackson perhaps I should take that as a question on notice and obtain a detailed reply for you, I do not have that information at hand but it is my understanding that the Department of Housing and Construction certainly hoped that local builders would tender and certainly hope that they would tender successfully.
MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman could I add something to that question, is that in order or not, I think I can shed a little bit more light on it.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I have personal knowledge of one local building firm that is at a matter of fact tendering and obviously was invited to do so, whether there are others I do not know but I know of one.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I could perhaps also assist. I know of another building crowd that has also tendered.

POSITION OF ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICER

MR. JACKSON: I have a few more questions and I direct these questions to the Executive Member for Administration, Education & Health. The first question is Mr. Deputy President, could the Executive Member confirm whether there is a vacancy in the position of Assistant Government Medical Officer created by the present incumbent's resignation.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy President there has been a formal letter of resignation received in respect of the position of the second Government Medical Officer at the Hospital, yes.

MR. JACKSON: Could the Executive Member advise how it is proposed to fill this vacancy.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy President the Chairman of the Public Service Board has advised me that advertisements are being placed in the mainland press to recruit a replacement in that particular position of Government Medical Officer, when I say mainland press I refer to Australian and New Zealand press.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Buffett. Mr. Jackson.
MR. JACKSON: Mr. Deputy President could the Executive Member advise whether consideration has been given to the desirability of inviting Dr. Sexton or Dr. King to fill this position before considerable expense is incurred in advertising the vacancy on the mainland.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy President I have answered as I did earlier and that indicates that the matter of determining how recruitment is carried out is a role for the Public Service Board in co-operation with the Chief Administrative Officer, and obviously they are going about that task. It is not a matter that I have personal oversight of as the Member for Administration, Education & Health, however I am quite happy to pass on to the Chairman of the Public Service Board any suggestion that may be had by this House either collectively or individually.

MR. JACKSON: Could the Executive Member confirm then that Dr. Sexton has indicated a desire to return to the Island to fill the present vacancy.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy President I am aware that Dr. Sexton does have an interest, he in fact has been on the telephone to me and I have informed him as best I can of the procedures that I have also outlined to the House this afternoon so that he may be aware of what the situation is and any participation that he would wish to make in filling that position.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Buffett. Any further questions.

NORFOLK ISLAND AIR SERVICE

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Thank you. A question to the Executive Member responsible for tourism, John Brown, asking what action has he taken to initiate discussions with airlines and the Department of Aviation to ensure the best possible air service for Norfolk Island. The question is based on a motion passed in this House at the 16th of June sitting.
MR. BROWN: Mr. Deputy President I have in fact had discussions with all of the airlines presently servicing Norfolk Island. During the last week in fact I travelled to New Zealand where I spoke with Qantas and Air New Zealand, I travelled to Sydney where I spoke with East-West and I spoke with Norfolk Island Airlines in Brisbane. Whilst in Sydney I also spoke with aviation developments and I made preliminary arrangements to speak with two of the other larger airlines, but I am not in a position to report any progress at this stage.

REGISTER OF STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS

MRS. GRAY: This is directed to the Executive Member responsible for education. Is any record kept of students academic or technical achievements once they have left Norfolk to carry out further education, if not, will the Executive Member give consideration to establishing a register so that in the future persons born and educated on Norfolk may be contacted with a view to them returning to fill positions in private enterprise and public service areas which require or could use their knowledge and skills.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy President it occurs to me that there are two areas in which this might be done and I am not able to state categorically whether it in fact is done in either of these two areas. The first area of course is the records that are kept at the School. It is my understanding that it is probably not kept there. After a student leaves the School it is my understanding that the records of their academic achievement, their academic records, in fact follow them in whichever School they might appear, certainly if it is in the N.S.W. Education Department's ambit of control. I am not too sure whether that extends from the secondary level to either technical or tertiary level, maybe it stops at a certain level, I am not familiar enough to give an off-the-cuff answer to that but it does occur to me that that may be one area to explore as to whether a formal registration of these facts are kept. The second of course relates to areas in which Norfolk Island persons may have been awarded bursaries or scholarships, because a record of their achievements need to be provided to determine whether or not their
bursary or scholarship is continued, and so there may be some registration of these facts in that area. Apart from those two areas I am not really aware where such records may be kept. I can undertake to examine in further detail those two areas to see whether it first of all exists or whether there is an avenue to so record this information.

PURCHASE OF PROPERTY ON NORFOLK ISLAND

MRS. GRAY: A final question Mr. Deputy President, and I am not sure whether this one should go to the Executive Member responsible for Administration or to John Brown as the Executive Member responsible for Immigration, so I will say will the appropriate Executive Member please take steps to cause a gazette notice to appear which warns purchasers of property on Norfolk Island that such purchase does not entitle them to residency or residential permits of any kind. Perhaps consideration may be given to ensuring that persons investing in Norfolk in this fashion are aware of the provisions of the laws in force at this time. I understand there has been a case of extreme hardship. By all means buyer beware but lets make some provision that he is made aware, it is a small gesture to possibly prevent anguish.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mrs. Gray, Mr. Brown would you reply please.

MR. BROWN: Thank you Mr. Deputy President. I am only aware of the one problem Mrs. Gray, and if it would assist to prevent the problem recurring I would certainly be happy to prepare a gazette notice advising prospective purchasers. I do understand that most of the estate agents on the Island are quite responsible in their dealings with prospective purchasers. All of the agents to whom I have spoken in relation to this matter have said to me that on all occasions they point out that the mere ownership of property on Norfolk Island does not entitle one to immigration status. As I have said if the gazette notice will help prevent the problem recurring I will happily do it.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Brown. Mr. Christian-Bailey.
AIR NEW ZEALAND SERVICE

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Thank you Mr. Deputy President. Two questions directed to Mr. Brown the Executive Member for Planning, Tourism and Commerce.
Can the Executive Member tell me whether Air New Zealand proposes to continue operating the Norfolk Island service using their current F27 aeroplanes after the airport is upgraded.

MR. BROWN: I have had some discussions with Air New Zealand during the last week and in fact I have discussed this matter with various members of the Air New Zealand staff over perhaps the last three or four months. Air New Zealand is keen to operate the boeing 737 aircraft if at all possible, however they are aware that the recommendations of the Select Committee into Tourism did not support the operation of a 737 aircraft, they are aware that the airport is not being upgraded for 737 aircraft but rather for what is consistently being called medium jet aircraft, however they do believe that the Department of Aviation would be willing to allow them to operate up to twelve return flights per year using the 737 aircraft probably at peak periods. Members will recall that when the upgrading of the airport was originally being discussed, the people of Norfolk Island were led to believe that there would certainly be an Environmental Impact Statement prepared before any move was made to introduce 737 aircraft and undertakings were made to the Government of Norfolk Island that the Government of Norfolk Island would be fully consulted in the event that there was an application to operate some other form of aircraft, such consultation has not taken place at this stage and my understanding is that the Department of Home Affairs is presently considering the question of whether in fact they would require the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement before advising the Department of Aviation as to their attitude. Subject to that, Air New Zealand proposes to continue to operate their existing F27 aircraft.

MR. JACKSON: Following on that question if I may Mr. Deputy President.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson.
MR. JACKSON: Mr. Brown you stated that the residents of Norfolk Island were led to believe that a feasibility study would be taken before 737's enter the run, wasn't an assurance given to the people of Norfolk Island.

MR. BROWN: I regard it as an undertaking.

MR. JACKSON: An undertaking, yes well I would like to correct that just in case the wrong impression might go over the air that we were led to believe.

MR. BROWN: I am certainly not promoting the introduction of 737 aircraft.

MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Christian-Bailey.

**ADDITIONAL SHIPPING SERVICE**

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: My second question Mr. Deputy President is to Mr. Brown again.

I understand that Mr. Jackson on your behalf has been looking into the possibility of another shipping line to service Norfolk Island, has he met with any success.

MR. BROWN: Mr. Jackson has now supplied me with a list of carriers who he feels may be able to provide a service to Norfolk Island and I am in the course of writing to each of those carriers to enquire whether they would be interested and in the event that they show interest to commence discussions with them.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are there any further questions. Miss Buffett.
CARRIAGE OF MAIL

MISS BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy President I direct this question to the appropriate Member for mail carriage, is that Mr. Howard is it. How is mail carriage catered for, is it by annual tender or contract for longer.

MR. HOWARD: As near as I know it is like many things on Norfolk, very informal, I do not think a contract even exists. I do not think that there is a carriage of mail contract that exists so far as we are concerned, I believe that the mail that East-West carries, and I think Norfolk Island Airlines carries some second class mail in some circumstances, but I think that is all done as though it were ordinary air freight, it is not given the special status that mail is usually given when it is carried as contract mail.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you. Can I follow on with another question in that direction, still directed to Mr. Howard. In that case Mr. Deputy President would the invitation to furnish a tender for the carriage of mail have only been offered to Brisbane airlines or has East-West as well been offered to tender again. From a previous statement I gathered that Brisbane airlines have been invited to put forth a proposal for the carriage of mail to Brisbane, has that invitation been extended as a fresh application invited from other airlines as well or only to the Brisbane airline.

MR. HOWARD: I think it is probably over-formalising it to say that Norfolk Island Airlines has been invited to tender, it is not a tender situation. Norfolk Island Airlines over a period of time has said that it would be happy to carry mail to Brisbane at a given price. The Administration assumed for a long time that that would be more expensive than what we are paying East-West now, it seems for some curious reason that the numbers were being read upside down or something and as a matter of fact what Norfolk Island Airlines said they would be willing to carry it for would save us a great deal of money. Once that was realised we then arrived at what the situation is now, not that tenders have been invited but that, to put it in simpler words,
the Chief Administrative Officer has said to Norfolk Island Airlines exactly what do you have in mind, can you let us know how you would go about it if you were to go about it, it is not an official invitation to tender. Once we get that information back, there may be next steps, at that point there might be a tender invited, I do not really know.

MISS BUFFETT: Can I put another question then, in view of that situation could I ask that the Executive Member give consideration to making East-West Airlines aware of the situation of competitive mail carriage which they were not before, and give them the opportunity in view of their past service of at least competing openly.

MR. HOWARD: Yes I certainly think that it would be quite unreasonable of us if suddenly one day we said to East-West your finished as from tomorrow and had said nothing to them up until that point. I would guess that if Lisle Snell is not listening at the moment and has not got some kind of a message going off to Sydney for East-West that he ought to pick up on what he is doing. On the other hand the carriage of mail to Sydney has not been the best in the world, it really has not, and it has recently been made more expensive by East-West saying we need more money and making that request retrospective, which seemed a bit odd to me to tell you the truth, and I do not feel that we are deeply obliged to East-West for having done a fantastic job and that we should stay with them forever.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Howard. Any further questions without notice.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

BOARDING HOUSES

MR. BROWN: Mr. Deputy President the first question appears to stand in my name, from Mr. Jackson. He asks would I please state the number of boarding houses which have been occupied during the last six months by persons other than visitors and have solely for that reason been unavailable during that time to
accommodate visitors; and (b) the total number of permitted beds for visitors in (1) all boarding houses; and (2) the boarding houses referred to in (a) above.

There is not at this stage Mr. Jackson such a thing as an accommodation or bed register from which this information can be quickly obtained but the Chief Administrative Officer has researched the question for me and has provided me with this information. He says that approximately 182 beds are currently being used by persons other than visitors. He says that the total number of registered beds in all boarding houses is 1,363. He says that the total number of registered beds in the boarding houses referred to in your first question is 231. So you will see that although 182 beds are being used, there are 231 beds provided in the places which are being used.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Brown. The next question on notice is a question from Mr. Jackson to the Executive Member for Administration, Education & Health.

TELEPHONE SERVICES

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy President question No.22 does stand in my name. The question asked by Mr. Jackson of me is this - Will the Executive Member advise the House of the present state of telephone communications on Norfolk Island and in particular on the following matters, (a) the present state of repair of the Exchange, the number of existing available lines and its capacity for new lines; (b) details of any existing arrangement with O.T.C. for the use of O.T.C. lines including (1) whether such arrangement is temporary or permanent and if temporary, its duration; (2) whether in the event that such arrangement is temporary if it will be necessary to deprive existing telephone subscribers of a telephone service and if so, whether the Executive Member is aware of any hardship that would be so occasioned; and (c) details of any proposal or plans for improvement of the telephone service both in terms of increased availability of the telephone service and in terms of improvement of the quality of service to existing subscribers.

My response to that question Mr. Deputy President is this - The
questions do raise and bring to light an undertaking of the Administration which will shortly be probably involved in a fairly major overhaul and I will endeavour to answer as briefly as possible the in some cases complex questions that are raised. (a) the present state of repair of the Exchange taking into consideration its age and amount of traffic it handles is very good. The maximum number of public subscriber lines which may be connected is 775, currently 667 subscribers are connected, leaving 108 free lines for which there are currently 114 applications in hand. From this information you will deduce that the existing capacity of the Exchange is already exceeded by subscriber applications. In response to part (b) there does exist an arrangement with O.T.C. whereby O.T.C. have been extremely generous in lending twelve pairs of cable to the Telephone Undertaking for 12 months. The 12 months expires in December of 1982 at which time the eight subscribers connected to the Exchange via those pairs of cable will be without a telephone service. The continued service to these subscribers depends upon either the Telephone Undertaking being able to install and bring into service their own cables prior to December or some totally revised arrangement with O.T.C. which will not be possible until their own equipment requirements for the area are known and their decisions are taken in that matter, and when that stage is reached there may be room for some participation by the Norfolk Island Telephone Undertaking. I should say in response to the question that one of the subscribers connected via those borrowed cables is a medical connection and the loss of this service could provide some hardship and I elaborate by saying that a medical connection is a connection made as a matter of priority for medical reasons on receipt of a recommendation from the Government Medical Officer. In response to the third part, (c) for some time now, in fact since 1979, investigations have been in train to provide for the upgrading of the telephone service on Norfolk Island. Any telephone planning needs to cover two basic areas Mr. Deputy President, firstly the Telephone Exchange and secondly the External Plant, that is the line reticulation etc. When it did become apparent that the Anzcan Cable which is an O.T.C. operation, would offer additional telephone opportunities in the Island, liaison was established with O.T.C. to examine the existing Exchange and to set out some options for its
future operation. O.T.C. did greatly assist this assessment and in fact some decisions were taken based on O.T.C. recommendations. However, more recently it has become more appropriate for us to seek the co-operation of Telecom Australia, an organisation which specialises in telephones. We have been able to negotiate the seconding of one of their officers to Norfolk Island to have direct oversight of what is recognised as a technical specialist field, whereas previously the Undertaking had been coupled under the technical supervision of the Electricity Undertaking. Upon all of this happening some additional options for the Telephone Exchange are being prepared and attention has been drawn to the equally important area of external plant, those two areas that I referred to as being necessary to take into account in any planning for the Telephone Undertaking. Final reports on these aspects are not yet available to me but will be in my hands shortly. If accepted the availability of the service will be increased and the quality of service to existing subscribers will be enhanced taking into account the proposed availability of STD or ISD.

POLLUTION/CONTAMINATION OF WATER RESOURCES

MR. BUFFETT: The next question also stands in my name Mr. Deputy President. The question is this, asked by Mr. Jackson of me Mr. Deputy President - Has the Executive Member received any report or reports in respect of pollution or contamination of water resources on Norfolk Island and if so will the Executive Member inform the House of (a) the nature and extent of any pollution or contamination of such water resources disclosed by any such report; (b) the nature of any risk to health created by any such pollution or contamination; and (c) what remedial measures if any, are proposed with respect to such pollution and contamination.

Mr. Deputy President I have within the past few days received a draft report on this matter. The nature and extent of pollution or contamination of some water resources reported upon are quite extensive. Recent use of more sophisticated testing methods than previously so confirms some earlier assessments that the problems could be long standing and evidence a general worsening of the situation to the
present time and this does need to be arrested. Testing has been carried out as early as 1966 and at intervals since. Proposals to remedy and prevent pollution have recently been made as follows, and I would like to emphasise this so that Members of the House and the community will know that some effort has been made to cover this situation. Firstly in May 1980 we had a report by Goldfinch and Cross in which a water supply and sewerage scheme was proposed for Norfolk Island, a copy of the scheme has of course been made available to Members of the Assembly. In April of 1981 we had a report by Fitzgerald and Falkland which proposed a piped sewerage scheme from the more densely populated area of the Island where the natural resources now find it no longer possible to entirely cope with the waste material in an ecological sense. Except to vary the proposed outlet for proposal of waste I did recommend to the Government on 29 March 1982 that the principles of this report, that is the Falkland and Fitzgerald report, be accepted. Consideration of this recommendation was deferred until various bodies were first consulted and this was done during April of 1982, consulting with the Tourist Bureau, the Committee of the Accommodation Proprietors Association and the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and I will say at this time Mr. Deputy President that these discussions were most helpful. The general principles of the Falkland and Fitzgerald report were endorsed by these organisations except for their reservations about the outlet proposal which I have earlier said did not have endorsement either from myself or anybody else in Norfolk Island for that matter that I am able to ascertain. On 27 April 1982 I reported the result of these consultations and again recommended to Government four recommendations, firstly that the proposals developed by Messrs. Fitzgerald and Falkland be endorsed in principle subject to the issues raised under the heading 'Interactions' which was one matter that addressed the outlet. Secondly the sewerage scheme envisaged in the Fitzgerald and Falkland proposal be implemented as a matter of priority and it was indicated that this was also supported by the Commonwealth Department of Health and the Government Medical Officer. The third recommendation was that the disposal of effluent down bore holes be phased out by December 1982; and finally there be increased supervision of effluent
disposal practice at all tourist establishments. The result of those recommendations was acceptance of recommendation three which related to the disposal of effluent down bore holes to be phased out by December 1982 and acceptance of recommendation four which is that there be increased supervision of effluent disposal practices. In respect of recommendations one and two which covered endorsement in principle of the Falkland and Fitzgerald sewerage proposal, consultative comment was to be sought, and this has been done from the firm of Gutteridge, Haskin and Davies Pty.Ltd.

The draft report I referred to earlier Mr. Deputy President I plan to have before the Executive Committee next Monday at which time any further detail will be available to Members.

That completes those that stand in my name Mr. Deputy President.

PAPERS

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Papers. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you. There are several papers that I want to present Mr. Chairman.

I have just in the past day or so received from the Accountant the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year just ended and I would like to hand copies of it to Members if I may now.

In summary because expenses continued to be held down in the second half of the year, 1981-82 finished just barely in the black, bearing in mind that we had to pay two years of education expense in the one year and in what I have just said I consider that the previous years expense really should not come out of this years money but out of previous years money and therefore should be deducted from the Revenue Fund which represents savings we thought we had made in previous years, and that the year just ended should bear only its own education costs. On that basis we ended the year with a surplus of about $40,000.

Total revenues for the year were $3,413,214, higher than ever before. Expenditures, including two years of education, totalled $3,681,774. I will not go into more detail now, the figures that I have circulated
do not include statements for the Lighterage Undertaking, the Electricity Undertaking, the Bond Store, those will follow as soon as they have been prepared.

I want to thank the Accountant and his staff for getting these into our hands so quickly. I will not discuss them further at this time but I would like to table that paper.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Howard.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX

MR. HOWARD: There is a second paper that I would like to table Mr. Chairman. Earlier in the year I had discussions on Norfolk Island with Mr. W.G. Houstein who has been retained by the Government to prepare and supervise the preparation of a retail price index for Norfolk Island which it is hoped will be completed and ready for operation and use sometime in the first half of next year. In the course of my talks with Mr. Houstein I put to him a series of questions about what a retail price index really is and how it really should be used, thinking that his expert opinion on those questions would be useful to us. I have now had a paper from Mr. Houstein with answers to the questions that I put to him. I have circulated it to Members of the Assembly for their consideration, I do not propose to introduce it as a matter for debate today in any way, I think it is a helpful paper, I intend to make copies of it available to the Public Service Board for their consideration but wanted to table it in the House first, and I table that paper.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

PUBLIC WORKS LEVY

MR. HOWARD: The next paper is related to the public works levy Mr. Chairman. The last public works levy period ended on 14 May and applications for exemptions from that levy payment had to be filed with the Administration by 18 June. That deadline has now come and gone.
I had understood that the names of all those who were exempted had to be published in the Government Gazette. On the basis of advice from the Legal Adviser I now believe that that potential invasion of peoples privacy is not necessary to do but instead I make a copy of the list of those exempted formally available to Members of the Assembly by tabling it now.

**REVIEW OF ASSEMBLY POWERS**

**MR. HOWARD:** The fourth paper that I would like to table Mr. Chairman is a letter written from me following the Executive Committee meeting on 26 July relating to the forthcoming review of the Assembly's powers with the Commonwealth.

The first round of discussions with the Commonwealth should be held during the second half of September. Between now and then we will be preparing material for our submissions to the Commonwealth and the Executive Committee has agreed to divide the responsibility for the various subjects among the three Executive Members, and I would like to report in tabling this paper that that division of items among the three Executive Members goes as follows - Mr. Brown will be responsible for preparing the background information and the submissions that we will be making on powers concerning land, concerning air and sea transport, concerning corporate affairs and concerning commercial relations between Norfolk Island and New Zealand; Mr. Buffett will be preparing the background for and the submissions on powers concerning social services, **health**, education and the electoral system; I will be preparing the background information and the submissions on the subject of revenue raising, on possible issuance of coins in Norfolk Island, on relations with the South Pacific region, and on the 200 mile economic zone. The Commonwealth asked us for preliminary comments on these twelve matters and as Chairman of the Executive Committee meeting on 26 July, I wrote a four page letter to the Administrator outlining our preliminary position on those twelve matters, that is what I wanted to table, I think I said I have circulated copies to Members of the Assembly for their information but I think it should be part of the formal records of the House and I table that.

Those are all the papers that I have.
MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Howard. Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy President, I have asked the Clerk if I could have this back, in fact I passed my copy to him because I thought that it might have been intended for him instead. May I raise a query in respect of the financial statement Mr. Deputy President. I am not too sure whether I heard correctly and I just wanted to have the two positions clarified to me.

The expenditure items on this paper total $3,681,774 and the revenues total $3,413,214, which quickly gives a deficit for the year of $268,560 or thereabouts. Mr. Howard was explaining one factor which was that if you take into account the education expenditure which was rather abnormal in that year you would end up with a credit balance within the vicinity of $40,000 and I see that situation, however I just wanted to make it clear in my own mind and I did so by examining these, that the actual figures nevertheless show a deficit of something like $268,000 odd in the actual figures that are before us.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Buffett.

MR. HOWARD: There is a question implied in that which I am happy to answer. I think there is perhaps a different way of looking at those same facts which is to say, and these are figures that I did not give, at the beginning of the year the total Norfolk Island Revenue Fund was $1,757,085, at the end of the year after paying all the expenses of the year including two years of education, the balance of the Revenue Fund as we went into this new financial year was $1,488,524. Yes, in terms of movement in the Revenue Fund we are down $270,000 I think, because we went into last year carrying with us money that we owed for previous education that we had not yet paid. But what Mr. Buffett says is technically correct, yes.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Howard. Any further papers.
Mr. Brown.
TOURISM

MR. BROWN: Mr. Deputy President might I table the tourist figures for the months of June and July of this year; a summary of tourist figures for the 12 months ending 30th June this year; and a copy of the accounts of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau for the year ending 30th June 1982.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are there any further papers. Statements by leave. Have Executive Members any statements. Mr. Howard.

STATEMENTS

EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN CUSTOMS DUTIES

MR. HOWARD: I would like leave to make a statement about the preliminary effect of changes in customs duties. Shortly after the new Customs Bill passed the House, I sent a circular letter to a number of merchants on the Island asking if they would be kind enough to give me answers to some questions about what they expected the new duties would do to their pricing. As a result of that invitation I have had a number of replies back from merchants, I think and hope that more are coming following the arrival of this current ship from New Zealand. The answers so far have been very helpful and very interesting. From the replies that I have seen so far it seems quite clear that the general practice on Norfolk Island when there are changes in prices from suppliers either up or down is not to re-mark stock that is on the shelves with the new price but to wait until the old stock has been sold and then as it is replaced with stock that you actually paid the new price for you then alter your selling price at that time. That is a bit of an old fashioned method of doing accounting; it is less and less used in Australia. In Australia as a rule in the grocery world at least in Australia as soon as a suppliers price goes up the stock on the shelves is marked up instantly. The
pattern that has been followed on Norfolk works to the advantage of the public, or at least it has so far. As prices have gone up and up and up it means that the merchant is continuing to sell what he has in stock for the lower price that he paid for it rather than immediately bunging on the new higher price. In the case of reduced customs duty that will mean that we do not get the benefit in many cases immediately, just as we did not get the penalty immediately when prices were going up. From the answers that I have had so far it seems clear to me that on the whole merchants on the Island are doing the right thing and will be doing the right thing in response to the new customs duties. The first retail operation that concerned me quite naturally was the government liquor store and it seemed to me that the Government should set the proper example and I think the liquor store has done so. It did not immediately mark down prices as it in the past has not immediately marked up prices when there was a rise in suppliers costs, but as new stocks have come in they have been put on the shelves at the lower prices and some of the effects already in operation at the bond store are that, I will cite four examples - Johnny Walker Red Label ordinary size bottle used to be $6.55 it is now down to $5.95; the 1 litre size of the same thing used to be $9.55 it is now down to $8.65; Glava Liqueur used to be $7.20 it is now down to $5.50; Ouzo used to be $4.30 it is now down to $3.50. There is a notice on the wall in the liquor store setting out what the bond store's policies are in passing on lower prices and I think the store has set a good example. I would like to give a few examples of what is happening in some of the other shops around town who have told me what they are going - in the ABC Hobby Shop a ladies divers quartz watch used to be $131.50, in the future that watch will be $119.50; at Foodlands where duty is now applicable on some items and has been reduced on some other items, there have been the following typical reductions; Glad garbage bags used to be $1.81, they are now down to $1.75; Clinic Shampoo used to be $1.50, it is now down to $1.43; 1.5kgs of soap powder used to be $3.99, now there is duty on soap the price has gone up to $4.11; salt used to be duty free, it now carries a duty, the price of salt has gone up from 70cents to 73cents; mortein aerosol used to carry no duty, it used to be $2.60, it has now gone up to $2.69. In the case of the Trading Post, some items have had duty reduced on them and the prices have come down,
cordial used to be $1.05, now it is 97cents; baby powder used to be $2.00, now it is $1.94; a battery used to be 28 cents, now it is 27 cents. Some items have gone up because duty has been applied to them for the first time. Muesli used to be $1.65, it is now $1.70; a can of baked beans used to be 45cents it is now 47cents; a bottle of tomato sauce used to be 74cents, now it is 77cents; a packet of corn flakes used to be $1.05, now it is $1.09. There have been some items on which duty has been applied for the first time, sugar and cream are two examples, on which the cost has actually come down because the suppliers costs have reduced. Sugar used to be 89cents, now it is 88 cents, cream used to be $1.50, now it is $1.30. Still in the case of the Trading Post, greeting cards and paperback books and a number of other stationery items have now had applied to them a 6% duty for the first time, their prices will stay as they have been. I get the additional comment from the Trading Post that the savings to them in the simplified customs duty means that on most grocery lines they are now able to operate with a lower mark-up than they used to have to take.

In the case of Barretts, most prices will be coming down as new stock comes in, examples are, eau-de-cologne used to be $13.80, in future it will be $13; night cream up until now has been $14.50, as new stocks go on the shelves it will be $13.65; shampoo will have duty on it for the first time, it will go up with new stocks from $2.10 to $2.20.

Cigarettes - generally on the Island the price of cigarettes, for a carton of 200, has varied depending on the brand barring I think a few exotic brands, from $6.80 a carton up to $7.20 a carton. It looks as though the pretty well standard new price on the Island as new stocks come in will be $4.90.

I think these answers so far suggest that the commercial community is as a matter of fact moving down its prices where it can because of changes in duty and where new duties have been applied for the first time the increases are being applied responsibly, in the case of - and I go back to the Trading Post - the average of the increase in the grocery lines that I mentioned was a rise of 3½% in the retail price. I present that preliminary result from the information that I have sought from the commercial community and I think I have got to say to those who have responded so far, good on you, you are doing the right thing.
MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes Mr. Jackson, are you moving that the statement be noted.

MR. JACKSON: I will move that it be noted, and I have just one question, a simple question, Mr. Howard did you do any shopping in Burns Philps at all.

MR. HOWARD: Sure, I shop at Burns Philp all the time.

MR. JACKSON: It appears you do not have any price variations from there. You did the other two.

MR. HOWARD: In answer to that, I will get to what I think Mr. Jackson is asking. I shop in Burns Philps all the time. The figures that I just gave are not figures based on shopping I have done, this is based on replies that I have had from merchants who responded to the enquiry that I sent. I have had a response from Burns Philp, I did not quote it in the figures because the person who responded from Burns Philp generally was whinging about the whole world and he said by the beginning of next year it is going to be 10% flat instead of 6% flat, well that is his view and if he wants to express it, fine, but it was not very helpful to me in my understanding of what merchants are doing. The principal thing that they said on price changes was that they would need to wait until the next ship came in, then they would know more. I hope I will hear something more useful from them in due course.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Howard. Any further debate. The question is that the statement be noted.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have to report that I have received messages from the offices of the Administrator as follows: that the Administrator has reserved for the Governor-General's assent the Criminal Law

NOTICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Notice No.1 appearing in Mrs. Gray's name.

MRS. GRAY: Thank you Mr. Deputy President. I would like to give notice of my intention to move at the next sitting of this House the following motion, that is this sitting - That this House, aware that major decisions in respect of telecommunications services on Norfolk Island and between Norfolk Island and elsewhere must be made in the very near future, requests the Executive Member responsible (a) to make a statement to the House as soon as possible detailing the present position and the options that are now available for consideration and (b) subsequently to present to the House for approval his proposals in respect of telecommunications services on Norfolk Island and between Norfolk Island and elsewhere.

The Executive Member has brought forward information in reply to Mr. Jackson's question on notice and I would like to read a letter received by a telephone subscriber here on Norfolk from the Manager of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission of Australia, in support of my motion - "Dear Sir, Thank you for your letter of 3rd June regarding ISD and telex facilities. It will be necessary for modifications or perhaps replacement of the existing Norfolk Island telephone exchange before ISD could be made available on the Island. The exchange is owned, operated and is the responsibility of the Norfolk Island Administration. The Norfolk Island Administration is presently studying options based on information provided by O.T.C. and Telecom. In the short term semi-
automatic facilities could be provided when the cable project is operational, meaning overseas subscribers could dial direct, with the Norfolk Island operator having a capability of dialing overseas for the Island subscriber. An estimate of when this could be available is largely dependent on the Norfolk Island Administration's response. It is anticipated that one of the three Norfolk Island cable sections could be operational in the first quarter of 1984. Telex would be technically feasible at the same time. The price for this service has still to be estimated by our marketing branch and I have forwarded your letter to that branch and I will endeavour to extract an early response." The letter I repeat is signed by the Manager of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission of Australia here on Norfolk Island. I think Mr. Buffett has already itemised a deal of the information which has come forward, I seek merely to support a full investigation into the situation as it stands and as we hope it might be.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mrs. Gray. Is there any debate. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Yes I would like to add a thought on it which is that I hope Mr. Buffett as he is assembling proposals on this thing will take some steps to have an independent look, not necessarily through O.T.C., at a development which is taking place very rapidly in many countries in the world including Australia which is independently operated telephone line based services which give people access to information banks and also to communicating with other subscribers to those systems elsewhere in the world, in some cases being able to communicate with anyone who has a telex for a fraction of the cost that telex normally costs. Now it may well be that we could take advantage of the availability of that kind of service, I am happy to give Mr. Buffett a suggestion as to where he might pursue that kind of information, it is catching on very rapidly because it saves people lots of money.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Howard. Any further debate.

MRS. GRAY: A question to Mr. Howard. I think there is a name, if I can call it a product name for that facility, can you recall it.
MR. HOWARD: There are, depending on the country, dozens of different names. There are about four such services, they compete with each other in Australia. They are based on the fact that a computer can spit words out faster than a telex machine by far and you can if you subscribe to one of these services shoot a lot of words in fast and they can play them back over a telex fast at the local place. There are big savings if you get into it.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any further debate. Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Just if I may Mr. Deputy President to acknowledge what Mrs. Gray has said and what Mr. Howard has said and that I would be very happy to have especially the detail Mr. Howard has foreshadowed available so that it can be included in the collation of options that we will in due course need to consider.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Buffett. Any further debate. There being no further debate the question is that the motion be agreed. Question - put

Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson to move the motion appearing on the paper in your name.

MR. JACKSON: Isn't there one before me.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I'm sorry. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman there were two notices on the notice paper in my name, I would like to withdraw them both because neither one can effectively be put until the Governor-General has assented to the Customs Bill which he has not yet done. I have no reason that there is going to be any real delay but until that has been done those two motions cannot sensibly be put and I would like to withdraw them.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Howard. Mr. Jackson we are now down to Notice No.4.
BOARDING HOUSE LICENCES

MR. JACKSON: Thank you Mr. Deputy President. I move the following motion: (a) where a person is licensed as the proprietor of a boarding house under the Boarding-houses Ordinance 1953; and (b) the boarding house in respect of which he is so licensed has been occupied during the last six months by persons other than visitors and has specifically for that reason been unavailable during that time to accommodate visitors, that person has ceased to use the premises as a boarding house, and directs the Executive Member responsible to cancel in each such case the registration of a person so registered in accordance with the powers vested in him under Regulation 7(1)(c) of the Boarding-houses Regulations.

Mr. Deputy President we heard this afternoon in answer to a question that I raised leading up to this motion, certain places available on the Island within the tourist accommodation sector that in my opinion are not operating according to the terms of the motion that I have before the House, therefore Mr. Deputy President I state that I am aware that certain tourist apartments that hold registration for licensed tourist beds or units are not specifically carrying out their terms as licensed tourist operators thus denying others who may wish to enter into the tourist trade the opportunity of doing so. In the report of May last year of the Select Committee inquiring into tourism, we find that the number of licensed beds to accommodate tourists for payment were the following: we have 29 blocks of holiday apartments with a total of 704 beds; we have 6 hotels/motels with a total of 486 beds; we have 9 guest house lodges with a total of 132 beds, giving us a total of 1,322 beds available to be let to tourists for payment. Some of these apartment owners may argue that because of the decline in tourists over the past six months they have been forced to take in temporary entry permit holders. Well Mr. Deputy President as far as I am concerned it is not good enough, they cannot have it both ways, especially when we have others who are eager to enter into the tourist accommodation area and are prepared to stick to the rules if they are licensed specifically to accommodate tourists, especially now when there is a freeze on the erection of such tourist apartments. Further,
I consider those who are chopping and changing around and exploiting the system should forthwith have their licences cancelled. I commend the motion.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Jackson. Is there any debate. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Yes, I have got a couple of reactions to it. I do not have a copy with me but from memory the Select Committee on Tourism recommended elsewhere in the report that where people with boarding house licences were not taking in tourists that those licences should not be continued but that any reduction in the number of licensed beds that was accomplished that way, should not be considered as a pool to then be re-parcelled out to others but should be considered a permanent reduction. The Committee's view was that the Island had more than enough tourist accommodation at the time. Bearing that in mind I have got a couple of concerns about the motion. The downturn in tourism has put accommodation houses in a squeeze, some more than others, and that squeeze was something that was not foreseen at the time the Select Committee on Tourism did its study, it is a set of circumstances that has arisen since then and it seems to me it is a set of circumstances that needs to be looked at and thought about and it may be that there is sense in what Mr. Jackson is proposing, there may not be sense in it, I am not certain, I think it is something though that wants to be thought about and examined in a lot of different lights, and on the basis of just a very few remarks that Mr. Jackson has made, I do not feel that it is wise that the House adopts a motion saying that the House directs the Executive Member to do something, I think it is something that he ought to have a think about and perhaps come forward with recommendations but I do not think the House at this point is well enough informed to direct the Executive Member to take that kind of action. The second concern I want to express about the motion is that it does not accomplish what I think Mr. Jackson says he is after. What he wants is to take the licences away from people who are not using them for tourists and reallocate them to others who want in, I do not think that passing that resolution would undo the instruction that has been given to the Building Board by the last Assembly that no more applications for additional tourist accommodation are to be considered.
I think if he wants his resolution to be effective it would need to include some decision that that instruction to the Building Board is removed or is changed now and I think that needs to be thought through as well. I am not saying that what he is proposing or what I think he is driving at is either a good thing or a bad thing, I am not sure, I do not think we have enough facts but I am hesitant to lunge in and vote on such a motion when we know as little as we do.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Howard. Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Howard has brought to light a very pertinent question debated in the First Assembly on the situation of a freeze and the recommendations of the Select Committee inquiring into tourism. There have been many proposals of how other units should be channelled out. Certain recommendations by the A.P.A. has come before the Assembly and they have recommended that those who are operating tourist apartments now should be given the first opportunity to extend, well I do not consider that appropriate while there are others here on Norfolk Island who have long standing applications, some going back nine years, to build units or flats, one such application is now before the Building Board, I do not know what will take place but I can well imagine with the decision by the Assembly that a freeze should be taken on establishing any further apartments, and we find there are people here on the Island sitting on licensed tourist beds and using it for other purposes, they have every right to use it for whatever purpose they wish, but while there are others who are prepared to enter the field they should not be allowed to sit on it. Some have applications and have not even commenced building. There are others maybe within our immediate surroundings who hold units that are not being used for what they are specifically designed for. Therefore I think it is impertinent that these people should sit and wait to see the results of whether there is going to be an upturn in tourists and deny the people who wish to enter the field and these people have indicated that they are prepared to play the game. I am very proud of the ones who are specifically letting their apartments to tourists only and who do not chop and change around like others on the Island do, some have been
chopping and changing around over a number of years. I only ask in this motion for the Executive Member to examine the six months prior to this motion. We are all aware that some of the apartment owners who are licensed for tourists have been taking in temporary entry permit holders over the years and denying the right for Norfolk Islanders to enter into the field, therefore I do believe the motion is designed to meet certain needs. When we look at a further section of the Select Committee's report we find that if the 1,320 beds are occupied for 70% of the year, would accommodate 37,530 tourists, now surely there are sufficient licensed beds on the Island for the ones exploiting the system to have their licences taken off them. When you look at the report of the Select Committee if all the beds on the Island were occupied for 70% of the year they would take in the enormous amount of 37,500 tourists, therefore I think in itself the ones not conducting their apartments in the manner that they are designed for, for the purpose of taking in tourists well they should have their licences immediately terminated.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Jackson. Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Jackson mentioned that there are applications in for tourist accommodation, it seems to me that in the past persons who have done the right thing, some of them were turned down and persons who went ahead without permission and built flats were allowed to go. There were three Norfolk Islanders who applied to build units in 1976, all three were turned down. They did the right thing, they put in an application and was refused. I do agree though that there is an acute accommodation shortage on the Island, we know that, I know that certain persons cannot get suitable homes to live in at present and rent is going up all the time and because of the downturn in tourism I wonder if a person who does not have tourists in his units, whether if when he can get a local person to take one of his units if it would be right to say to that person right you are not allowed to earn any living at all, and just have your accommodation for tourists. I do not know how the law runs or whether there is a law regarding this or not.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Quintal. Mr. Howard.
MR. HOWARD: The law is badly in need of being written so it is clear and understandable. It is a tangled law and it is the result of a lot of fiddling done with it from time to time over the years. Mr. Jackson has referred four or five times to the people that he says are exploiting the system and his word implies that they are naughty people, that they are doing something that they should not, I think that is unfair to them. The change that created this situation was that up until about a year and a half ago there was only one law to do with accommodation and that was the Boarding-houses Ordinance, and it required any boarding house to be licensed for a certain number of beds, it did not matter whether the accommodation was for tourists or for people who ordinarily were living on the Island. What the change in the law about a year and a half ago did was to take residential accommodation right out of that law, and in effect it said if you are letting to tourists there are certain requirements you need to meet, if you are not letting to tourists we do not mind what you do, over to you, open go. It removed the necessity for a residential boarding house to be licensed. Now I do not see in that anything that says that somebody who is letting to locals is exploiting anything. It seems to me in a time of business shortage they are doing the sensible thing, if you have empty rooms and you can let them to somebody who needs them, you ought to do so, I do not think they should be treated as anti-social people or people who are trying to pull a swifty or trying to damage the Island or trying to gouge something out of somebody, I do not think that is the case at all and I do not think we ought to allow those people to be tarred with bad words, I do not think they deserve it. My main point about the motion is supported by what Greg Quintal said, which is that there are some hard questions to answer here, there are some hard things to be thought through that the Select Committee on Tourism did not think through because this downturn in tourism did not exist at that time. I think the Executive Member for tourism and the Tourist Bureau, people interested in tourism, the A.P.A., ought to think about this situation at the moment and I think we ought to reason it through before we start passing motions directing the Executive Member to do something. I could support the motion, as I say what Mr. Jackson is driving at may make sense, it may not, it is not clear from his motion whether it is a good idea or not, and if his motion rather than directing the Executive
Member to do something, asked the Executive Member to take these things into consideration and make recommendations, I would be happy to support it, but I do not think we know enough yet to give directions about what is to be done.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Deputy President. It is my opinion that with Mr. Jackson's motive for this motion we have a couple of problems, I can see both ways, but I support Mr. Jackson's intention that if a person or people have apartments or beds that are licensed for tourist occupancy and they have made it normal practice for quite some time - Mr. Jackson has only asked for six months - to accommodate only temporary entry working people rather than tourist holiday makers, I feel that it is unfair to preclude someone who wants to come in and build good standard places, perhaps some of these people are not interested in upgrading for competing on the normal tourist accommodation scale, but I will support this motion until further legislation is done on the matter.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Miss Buffett. Is there any further debate. Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Deputy President, Mr. Howard has made some allegations, if he intends voting against the motion well that is his own right. In no way did I want to tar anyone within the tourist field. There are two types, two situations of buildings on this Island, Mr. Howard has skirted around the issue, and quite numerous ones have converted dwellings around their houses or sheds or whatever into accommodation apartments for temporary entry permit holders, no permit, no licence and no application is needed to take in local people or temporary entry permit holders, but to enter the field of tourist accommodation, to take in persons for payment, you need to satisfy the Building Board or have a clearance before you can build to take in tourists, so there is a difference. Mr. Quintal could have gone ahead and built as many apartments he wished to take in locals but if he wished to take in tourists it was a different thing. Therefore in
answer to some of the people who have spoken against this motion, I commend the ones who are taking in temporary entry permit holders and locals but I do not believe that they should sit on their licences now when there is a definite decline in tourism and wait and see what is going to happen in the future. Anyone can alter their house, nearly all the new homes going up now are making some provision, and many of the older ones have some provision, to take in temporary entry permit holders, some are registered as tourist apartments, but you have to have a licence to take in tourists and meet certain criteria, this criteria does not extend fully to ones who take in locals or temporary entry permit holders, so therefore there is a difference and the difference that I am trying to bring to notice here in this House is that the ones licensed for tourists are sitting on it and chopping and changing around and taking in temporary entry permit holders and locals whenever it suits them and therefore blocking anyone else from entering the tourist trade.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Jackson. Mr. Christian-Bailey.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I agree with the sentiments behind Mr. Jackson's motion, however this is a very complex question and I feel in all fairness it should be looked at in depth by the Executive Member concerned or in other words the motion adjourned and a proper study be made of it and it be brought back to another sitting of the House.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Christian-Bailey. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: I agree with Mr. Christian-Bailey Mr. Deputy President, it is a complex question. I also agree with what Mr. Jackson is trying to do, I do not necessarily agree that this is the way to do it, I do not think cancellation of a licence is in order based on accommodation being offered on a long term rather than a short term basis, because that is what it boils down to. There are problems involved and I appreciate the difficulty experienced, which has been experienced and which will be experienced by those wishing to build new accommodation, but I do not believe the mere fact of taking in locals or people on temporary entry permits or whatever, should be a reason for cancelling a licence to
accommodate tourists. There are other factors involved and I would like to see those investigated.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Were you moving an amendment Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: I am not moving an amendment, it was suggested by Mr. Christian-Bailey, he did not move it.

MR. JACKSON: I would be happy with an amendment if it would speed this up.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I have a further comment on the motion. I think I said earlier that I thought that what I think Mr. Jackson was driving at may well be a good thing, I do not think we know quite enough yet. One thing that I am certain is an unfair thing if we were to do it and I think we have got to be fair as an Assembly, lets suppose that we were to agree in principle that if somebody really is going to be in the T.E.P. accommodation business and not in the tourism business that they are not entitled to licensing as tourist accommodation, lets suppose we agreed on that. There are some people who have licences now who have been taking permanent residents, I do not think it is fair, I think it would be absolutely unfair of us in this one meeting of the House suddenly to say bang you have lost your licence. I think at the very least if we wanted to do that the very least we could do to be fair would be to say to those people we do not think that is right of you to be taking in locals on a permanent basis and also claim that you are in the tourist business, will you make up your mind, will you pick one or the other, if you want to go back to being a tourist house go back to being a tourist house and you can keep your licence but if you do not want to go back you are going to lose your licence. What this motion says is cancel the licence right now and I think that is too hair-trigger, I think that is too fast, I do not think it would be fair.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Buffett.
MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy President I am not sure whether you are accepting the motion of adjournment by Mr. Christian-Bailey or not.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Christian-Bailey did not actually ask. Were you wishing to speak Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Well if that is not the case and we are still talking about it, maybe there is some middle ground that we could examine in this matter. I think we are all acknowledging that there are some difficulties, especially those that have been mentioned by Mr. Jackson which we all have concern for, I detect however that there is some difficulties with the actual wording of the motion which some Members may find a bit difficult to actually agree totally upon although they may acknowledge that some of the factors that have been mentioned are very sound ones. I might say for my own part that I acknowledge that some of the difficulties that have been mentioned by Mr. Jackson and especially some of those that have been mentioned by Mr. Quintal in respect of some long-standing applications, some of quality as far as the proposed work that I have been given to understand, have not been permitted to progress along the track to actually being built and yet on the other hand we find that the number of beds that have become available to those who are in the tourist industry by one means or another have infact increased, and there are some difficulties sometimes to understand how that has actually taken place. I think if there is some difficulty in accepting that we go out bang and do something immediately, that maybe we should examine some of these words to maybe amend them so that it can give some examination of the question and resulting upon that examination some action can be taken. If we look at the motion which is No.4 on the notice paper it says (a), (b) and then there is a following paragraph which commences "that person has ceased to use the premises as a boarding-house, and directs the executive member responsible to cancel...". It is my interpretation that that is some of the difficult area that is being experienced in the Chamber at this time, in other words it is directing the Executive Member to cancel, that means almost forthwith, and I interpret that as being experienced as a difficulty with some. Maybe if I could suggest to Honourable Members that we put some words such as this - "requests
the Executive Member to examine this question of cancellation in each such case". I suggest that to the House if that would assist us to meet some middle ground.

MR. JACKSON: And wipe out the paragraph underneath (b).

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are you moving that as an amendment Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: I am happy to do so if it would help the situation Mr. Deputy President.

MR. JACKSON: Would you read the amendment again.

MR. BUFFETT: Yes it would read this Mr. Deputy President - "that person has ceased to use the premises as a boarding-house, and requests the executive member to examine this question". That constitutes the change. It might be difficult for people who are listening but Members who have their notice paper in front of them can see the words.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Yes Mr. Deputy President can I question here, I am trying to negotiate too as you will realise, can I question then the alteration 'requests the executive member to examine', well it does not necessitate a negotiation if we leave it at examine. If we request the Executive Member to negotiate with the owner whether he is going to take the option of coming back into tourism or is going to stay at...

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Miss Buffett the suggestion was that it be examined not negotiate, to examine.

MISS BUFFETT: I was wondering if you would permit any discussion a little further just to see if that can be rounded off, would that be alright.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any further debate. Mr. Jackson.
MR. JACKSON: Mr. Buffett's amendment appears to be cut off, blunt, if we are throwing amendments around to suit the situation, if we inserted "that person has ceased to use the premises as a boarding-house, and requests the executive member to investigate and consider and prepare a report for a proposal for consideration and approval at the next Assembly meeting".

MR. BUFFETT: I am happy to adjust my amendment to accommodate that, or in fact to withdraw mine and allow Mr. Jackson's to be so inserted.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All those in favour of the amendment of Mr. Jackson's.

MR. QUINTAL: Chairman can we hear the amendment to the amendment again please.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson could you repeat it.

MR. JACKSON: "requests the executive member to investigate and bring a submission for consideration and approval before the next Legislative Assembly".

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There being no further debate, all those in favour of the amended amendment.

MR. BUFFETT: Let me withdraw mine Mr. Deputy President so that it does not confuse the issue. We now have Mr. Jackson's amendment to this motion.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Buffett. All those in favour of the amendment.

Question – put
Motion agreed to unanimously

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

Question - put

Motion agreed to unanimously.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A KENTIA PALM AND NORFOLK ISLAND PINE INDUSTRY

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Notice No.5. Mr. Jackson to move the motion appearing on the notice paper in your name.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Deputy President I move the following motion - "that this House, being of the opinion that the submission circulated to members by Mr. J.B. Huckstep in respect of the establishment of a Kentia Palm and Norfolk Island Pine industry on Norfolk Island contains proposals worthy of further investigation and consideration, asks the executive member to prepare a report on the proposals contained in the submission for consideration and approval by the Legislative Assembly". Mr. Deputy President there has been a lot of questions asked within the community because some members are aware of the letter or submission that Mr. Huckstep has circulated to each Member of this House, and no doubt copies have been made available to exporters and others within the community, and I notice a letter in front of me from Mr. Mark Hayes who has made some assessment of the proposed submission by Mr. Jack Huckstep, and I do believe that a motion of this nature should be properly aired and the best way that I would consider airing this submission by Mr. Huckstep is to read it before the House so that the public can hear Mr. Huckstep's proposal, it does not mean that I agree with it, it does not mean that anyone agrees with it. Mr. Huckstep's letter says - "Dear Members, please find below some personal thoughts that may help towards establishing a viable secondary industry for Norfolk Island based on Kentia and Norfolk Island Pine seed. These are just rough outlines of what might be achieved after the necessary enquiries and evaluations are made. It may also be that the whole idea is impractical for any number of reasons. I must stress however that whatever comes out of this it should be nothing less than a full feasibility study involving the co-operation of the Australian
Government on the basis that they will be helping us to help ourselves, similar to the same type of assistance they give to other South Pacific Islands in establishing a primary industry. I further feel that canvassing of local importers opinions may not necessarily in itself give a true indication of the potential of this industry owing to the traditional thinking and practices influencing any move to expand and further develop the industry. I do know that one buyer in particular would prefer to buy plants rather than seed but this supplier on Norfolk Island is not particularly keen to be involved in this aspect of the business. Figures supplied regarding amounts of seeds etc are from one exporter only and are only approximate. Now Mr. Huckstep goes on in fine detail on what he proposes as an alternative revenue earning for Norfolk Island and he states - "The palm seed industry is currently exporting from Norfolk Island approximately 400 bushels of kentia palm seeds annually with a return to growers of approximately $200 per bushel. The seed count per bushel varies between 3,000 and 5,000 and taking a middle line of 4,000 per bushel the return is 20 cents per seed. It is the intention of this paper to suggest a feasibility study of the banning of seeds for export and replacing it with the export of seedlings. If seedlings were worth $2 each and there are 1.6 million seeds in 400 bushels then the export potential of farm seedlings would be 3.2 million dollars. The study should enlist the assistance of the Commonwealth Government to investigate the marketing and transportation from Norfolk Island together with quarantine regulations to various countries of export. To ensure that no-one was disadvantaged the change-over could be as follows. All overseas buyers could be notified that in the first year only 80% of the crop would be exported as seed, the remaining 20% would be planted on Norfolk Island. The second year only 60% of the crop would be exported as seed and the remainder planted. The third year 40% exported and 60% planted, and so on. This change-over period would give the buyers fair time to reconstruct their operation and give interested people on the Island a chance to establish themselves in the business of growing seedlings. Distribution of seeds could be by way of lot or similar, to persons who can prove they are capable of successfully operating a venture with due regard to anyone already involved in this business and seed prices could be set at current values with provision for normal increases such as the market could stand. The Legislative Assembly could appoint a Board to administer the project and the Board
would be the sole distributor of the seeds etc. No one person or group should be allowed to monopolise the situation. Finance for persons wishing to enter this venture could be by way of interest free loans provided by the Commonwealth Government provided that the applicant can meet any criteria that may be set down by the governing body. The Administration itself could become a grower using seeds off Government property and rearing them within the confines of the Forestry Department thus creating more positions for local people in the Administration. An export duty could be levied on each plant say at a figure of 10 cents each which on 1.6 million seeds would return $160,000. The whole concept if realised would (1) create another field of employment for local people particularly the younger generation; (2) create another area of business for those interested; and (3) create another source of revenue for the Administration together with more job opportunities within the Administration. In the event of the plants reaching a saturation point on the market, it can then be cut back and more seeds released. A similar programme could be started with pine seeds.

Now as I have indicated Mr. Deputy President, by placing this motion before the House to have the Members discuss it, does not in any way involve me in support for it at this stage and in no way may I add now does this proposal interfere with the present system where exporters of palm seeds engage pickers to harvest their seeds or will it disadvantage anyone who operates the system at present, and in no way would I support a scheme that does this. I would not support a proposal or a scheme that takes away the rights of an individual who after an examination of this submission, still wishes to market their seeds anywhere on the world market wherever they can get the best returns, and they should be allowed to continue to do so.

Now when we look at the motion we see that it contains the words - "contains proposals worthy of further investigation and consideration, and asks the executive member to prepare a report on the proposals contained in the submission for consideration and approval by the Legislative Assembly". No doubt the Members have their views on it, I have mine. At present I have stated until it has been further examined it is not my intention to support it, although I placed the motion for debate and I would move further towards that motion at the end of debate, until the whole thing has been aired and a full investigation is brought
before this House. Therefore Mr. Deputy President I leave it to the others for their comments.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Jackson. Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: I think Mrs. Gray had her hand up before me.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yours was up higher Mr. Quintal, you have the call.

MR. QUINTAL: Mr. Chairman I feel that Mr. Huckstep should be thanked for the letter that he has written, I think anyone who thinks up an idea of an alternative industry for Norfolk Island is on the right track. With the ever decreasing tourist industry and not knowing its future I feel that a secondary industry is most necessary for Norfolk. Mr. Huckstep says that if seedlings are worth $2 each, this would be I take it, what the grower would get, and there are 1.6 million seeds in 400 bushels which is an average amount per annum, that is how I read the letter, he does not say that but I think it is around 400 bushels per annum that the growers send away from Norfolk Island. The export potential of palm seedlings suggested by Mr. Huckstep would be 3.2 million dollars - that is a lot of money and would help the economy of the Island considerably. We all realise the need for a second industry as I have said before and there must be many other seeds or plants that could be exported if we could find a market. New Zealand sells $9,000,000 worth of flowers to Japan every year. I have a newsletter from Turners Growers stating this. Another item is bean seeds. A small packet of bean seeds has approximately 80 seeds and the price of the packet is 60 cents, some of them are broken and some of them have a very poor germination rate. Most of the seeds would be half the size of palm seeds, so accordingly the figures given by Mr. Huckstep of the palm seed he says varies between 3,000 and 5,000, this would mean then that the bean seeds would be between 6,000 and 10,000 seeds which would return a sizeable income for a bushel of bean seeds. I really support Mr. Huckstep's views on some of the items he has mentioned. He mentions finance for persons wishing to enter this venture could be by way of interest free loans provided by the Australian Government provided
that the applicant can meet any criteria that may be set down by the
governing body. In the past the Commonwealth Government has never
supplied interest free money or loans to any industry on Norfolk Island
to my knowledge but it might be that it was never asked for. At one
time when Norfolk experienced a flood, around about 1936 and farmlands
were washed out, the Australian Government did lend money to certain
distressed persons, whether it was interest free or not I do not know
but I do know that all but one person paid the money back. I would
support any move for a secondary industry for Norfolk Island but not at
the cost or hurt of any person who has shown initiative, planning, good
thinking and hard work and in some cases spent huge sums of money and
risking the loss of money spent. I am referring to three particular
persons. I do agree with Mr. Jackson when he says in his motion "worthy
of further investigation and consideration", and that is what I would
like to wait and have, and that is investigation and consideration.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Quintal. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Thank you Mr. Deputy President. I would like to take up
the point in Jack Huckstep's letter in which he suggests the assistance
of the Commonwealth Government, seeking that to investigate marketing
etc. To the best of my knowledge this investigation has been done and
was or should have been forwarded to His Honour the Administrator from
the Department of Home Affairs and Environment towards the end of 1981,
it was certainly proposed, whether or not it came forward or not I do
not know. Also a report to the Lord Howe Island Board by the N.S.W.
Forestry Commission of N.S.W. which was dated January 1980 is available,
no doubt the Executive Member will be given access to those reports.
The Commonwealth Bank Manager also, Norm de Chastel, has indicated that
he is more than willing to conduct further investigations through his
organisation to assist any enquiry and Gerald Goudie has indicated that
he supports the idea of Gilbert Jackson's motion and wishes to be
included in any discussions which may take place. One of the problems
he sees is the monopoly on seed which currently exists and further the
Australian quarantine regulations which should be investigated. Jack
Huckstep mentions the distribution of seeds by lot to local producers,
and that perhaps is a step to be considered. Jack Huckstep raises the point of export duties, and Members will be aware of a letter from Mark Hayes which made protest at the suggestion that a tax be levied on the export of seeds and seedlings. Mark says, and I quote from his letter - "with an extra tax added for export we will find we will just not be able to compete with other nurseries". Mark also claims that nurseries in Australia and New Zealand are given sales incentives rather than the other way about and he points out that duties payable on the raw materials required by this industry he thinks, and rightly so in my opinion, that that is a fair enough contribution. If and when we succeed in getting the economy back on to its feet the first step, to me anyway, would be to support in whatever ways are found most effective primary production on Norfolk, whether it be for local consumption or for export, this is certainly an isolated community, imported foodstuffs have become so expensive that we must surely give consideration to the support of production here and once some degree of economic and political stability for Norfolk Island is established, the number one priority in my mind is the support of primary industry. This is probably confined to meat and dairy produce and associated fodder production and hopefully an expanding market garden and fruit producing area. If I may just in closing refer to Mark's letter of 4 July, in the second last paragraph he says - "I personally feel that the Government's time would be better spent in establishing a free trade, no import, quarantine and number restrictions, between Australia and New Zealand to open up off season markets". That should about as a result of an enquiry as suggested by the motion put by Mr. Jackson, and I would just like to throw in there too that there is some information floating around which I cannot pin down which suggests that Brazil is about to flood the market in kentia palms; the United States of America is also into cloning; so if those two can be tracked down as well as part of this enquiry it would be a good thing.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mrs. Gray. Mr. Christian-Bailey.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Thank you Mr. Deputy President. I fully support Mr. Jackson's motion. I think any move to develop industries for Norfolk Island should be looked at and I would support a feasibility study.