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

Executive Member for Planning, Tourism & Commerce
(William Winton Sanders)

Building Control
Advertising Hoardings
Tourism (including tourist accommodation)
Fishing
Immigration
Land Use Planning & Subdivision
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 and Future Commercial Undertakings of the Administration
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

Brown, John Terence
Buffett, Alice Inez
Buffett, Hon. David Ernest
Christian-Bailey, Bernard Edwin
Gray, Chloe Barbara
Howard, Edward Davenport
Jackson, Gilbert Wallace
Quintal, Gregory Gilbert Francis
Sanders, William Winton
COMMITTEES

STANDING

Business Committee

Mr. President
Mr. W.W. Sanders
Mr. E.D. Howard

Standing Orders Committee

Mr. President
Mr. J.T. Brown
Mr. B.E. Christian-Bailey
Mr. G.W. Jackson

House Committee

Mr. President
Miss A.I. Buffett
Mrs. C.B. Gray

Commonwealth Legislation Standing Committee

Mr. W.W. Sanders
Mr. J.T. Brown
Mrs. C.B. Gray

SELECT

Headstone Jetty Select Committee

Mr. W.W. Sanders
Mrs. C.B. Gray
Mr. G.W. Jackson

Kentia Palm & Norfolk Island Pine Industry Select Committee

Mr. President
Miss A.I. Buffett
Mr. G.G.F. Quintal
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Leave of absence – Mr. Quintal

Con condolences:
  Rita Doreen Appleman
  Charles Adams
  Richard Martin Brown

Questions without notice:
  Absentee landowners – default of payment
  Air fare increases
  Immigration Bill amendments
  Cost of fuel
  Immigration policy – requirement to advertise locally
  Company registration – default in filing annual returns
  Airport upgrading – sale of surplus plan
  Cockpit – proposed establishment of dump
  Point Hunter dump – eradication of flies

Answers to questions on notice:

Papers:
  Financial indications – 7 months to January 1982 Survey compiled by the Brisbane Research Centre
  Report re. analysis of marketing information affecting Tourism Industry of Norfolk Island – Richard Koschker
  Touche Ross Report

Statements:
  Air New Zealand’s – application to operate ‘737’ to Norfolk Island
  Victorian bushfires – Government offer to billet homeless children
  Notice of assent to Public Account Expenditure Act (No. 2) 1982-83

Reports of Select and Standing Committees:
  Commonwealth legislation committee

Notices:
  Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill 1983 – statement
  Eligibility of public servants to stand for the Legislative Assembly
  Public Service (Amendment) Bill 1983
  Estimates Committee
  Customs (Amendment) Bill 1983
  Postal Services Bill 1983

Adjournment:
MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, you will recall that at the last sitting, Mr. Quintal sought leave, and leave was granted, and he is not at this sitting today.

Condolences, Mr. Sanders.

CONDOLENCES

MR. SANDERS: It is with regret that this House records the passing of Mrs. Rita Doreen Appleman who died on Sunday, 28 February 1983, at the age of 57 years. Rita was born in Australia and came to Norfolk some 20 years ago, with her five children, Cherie, Leslie, Rowland (who now lives in Australia), Max (Ruffy) and Shane. Since that time, Rita regarded Norfolk as her home. Well known and liked within the community, Rita had many and varied interests and was an active member of the Quota Club. In October 1979, Rita remarried John Appleman. To John, her children and her family, to her many friends, this House extends its sincere sympathy.

I record that Charles (Lockie) Adams passed away last Thursday night, 24 February 1983, in Sydney. He was about 70 years of age. Lockie Adams completed all of his schooling here and as a young man worked in Yaeman's sawmill in Norfolk Island. During the 2nd World War he joined the Norfolk Island Infantry Detachment and then went to Australia and joined the I.A.F. in which he served for some 5 years. He served in Ocean Island, Naru, and New Guinea. He married Lola Welfare who died approximately 10 years ago. He has within recent years made return visits home to Norfolk Island. Over the past few years, Lockie Adams has been in poor health was looked after and sadly by Nellie Dunlop. Grannie Quintal is his nearest relative on Norfolk Island. To her and other relatives and
his life long friends, such as Eddie Yaeman, this House extends it's sincere sympathy.

It is with regret that this House records the passing of Mr. Richard Martin Brown who passed away on Tuesday, 1 March 1983, at the age of 76 years. Born in Brisbane on 25 July 1906 Mr. Brown came to Norfolk Island some 10 years ago, and falling in love with the tranquillity of the Island has resided here since that time. Mr. Brown was a peace loving person and enjoyed meeting people. He is survived by his wife, who was presently in MacKay, and two daughters Valerie and Janice. To his family and friends, this House extends it's sincere sympathy.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Sanders. Honourable Members as a mark of respect to the deceases, would you kindly stand in your places in silence. Thank you Honourable Members.

PETITIONS

MR. PRESIDENT: Petitions, are there any petitions?

NOTICES

MR. PRESIDENT: Notices, are there any notices?

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE


MRS. GRAY: Thank you Mr. President. It is a question to you Mr. President, is that in order?
MR. PRESIDENT: Maybe if you could tackle someone else first, I will in a short space of time move to the floor of the House and may be it can be directed then, Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Fine, I am happy to do that, yes, I have a couple of questions for you. One to the Executive Member for Finance, if I may put that question.

I would like to ask how many landowners are in default in payment of absentee landowners levy, what amount is owing to the Administration in respect of non-payment of levy, and how many of those landowners have been in default for 5 years or more. In view of the financial situation on the Island, what steps have been taken to recover the amounts outstanding? It is a fairly involved question Mr. President, I am happy should the Executive Member wish to take it on notice.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you. Executive Member for Finance.

MR. HOWARD: I can give a partial answer to the last part, which is, that my impression is that there is very few who have been in default for 5 years or more. Almost none, I know of one or two that I think are in the course of being settled now. At the end of 5 years of being in default, as you would be aware, the law allows — indeed it may require — the Government to place the land on the market and take back-taxes out of the proceeds from the land. That process has never been carried through, I think there is scarcely any people in that category, but I will check on the other ones and let Mrs. Gray know.

MRS. GRAY: Thank you Mr. President.
MR. PRESIDENT: Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Thank you Mr. President, if I may continue, with a question to the Executive Member for Planning, Tourism and Commerce. I would like to refer to the recent air fare increases as announced by Air New Zealand and East West Airlines, and I would like to ask, what consultation took place between the Executive Member and the Airlines prior to the announcements. Given that East West claim to base their air fare increase on escalating fuel costs, is the Executive Member able to ascertain what other air fares were increased at the same time, and to what destinations. And assuming that minimal consultation took place between the Executive Member and the Airlines prior to the air fare increases, what steps does he intend taking to ensure that in future he is given a full detail of and justification for proposed increases. Having regard to the fact that oil prices are falling rapidly, and that Australian airlines must justify fare rises in excess of 5% to the Independent Air Fares Committee, how does he see the effectiveness of that process, and decision, given that a senior airline executive visiting Norfolk Island recently stated that, and a quote 'the I.A.F.C. has no teeth'. Finally, if you accept that the level of tourism is substantially influenced by air fare costs, and that the level of tourist numbers elsewhere in the Pacific is rising steadily, what steps does the Executive Member intend taking to ensure that air fares to and from Norfolk Island are reduced, perhaps maintained at a reasonable level. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: The Executive Member for Planning, Tourism and Commerce.
MR. SANDERS: Thank you Mr. President. With a lengthy list like that I feel sure that Mrs. Gray might have been better off giving me a list of the questions and perhaps I could have given her all the answers. Mrs. Gray will be aware that at the last sitting that I tabled a letter from East West with a photostat copy attached from Mobile to East West of telling them that the fuel increase had been - I think it was 10% - Mr. Brown could you correct me on that please.

MR. BROWN: It was up by just over 10¢ per litre, something like 24%.

MR. SANDERS: Perhaps I could also inform Mrs. Gray that I too have heard over the radio that fuel oil, or oil is coming down, I would be delighted to tell her that I had enough influence to reduce the price of petrol. Is there any other questions Mrs. Gray?

MRS. GRAY: Yes, perhaps the Executive Member would wish to take them on notice, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

MR. HOWARD: Mr. President, I wonder if I could offer a little bit more as a side line on the question that was just asked.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I intervene only because I received yesterday as the current Chairman of the Executive Committee, a letter from East West Airlines which I would have circulated to the other
yesterday, it was part of the reduced hours of Public Service. But the letter is in the works and will get to the other Executive Members. It gives from East West a breakdown of what has happened to oil prices in Singapore, where the oil comes from. What has happened to their overhead costs and return on investment. What the cost of the Norfolk Island airport is in U.S. dollars per U.S. gallon which is what the oil is originally priced at. Then there is a conversion from U.S. dollars to Australian dollars, and finally there is the Norfolk Island Airport cost per litre in Australian dollars and cents. Oil prices have been coming down, this is over a 3 year period that the figures cover, oil prices have been coming down but the value of the Australian dollar against the U.S. dollar has been falling, and that has more than off-set the drop in oil prices, or at least that is how it seems to me from looking at the figures that East West provided. I went through the calculations and the numbers as they gave them up worked out on a calculator, and they did not seem to be fooling us. The price, the value of the U.S. dollar in the past year or so - a year or so ago you could buy a U.S. dollar, but $1.10 of U.S. currency with $1.00 Australian. You can now only buy 95c U.S. with $1.00 Australian. So that decline in the purchasing power of the Australian dollar against the U.S. dollar has had more of an effect than the reduction in oil prices, or so East West tells us, and I thought I should raise that rather then let it hang in the air without mentioning it.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you. There is one other thing that perhaps I would add, for Mrs. Gray. I enquired from Martins Agencies about
with Mobile and the contract has only just been renegotiated. The contract that has just been renegotiated replaced the last one they had which was dated 1981, I think you will find that was why the increase was so great.

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

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Mr. President. Question directed to Mr. Sanders please. Could the Honourable Member advice the House the current situation regarding the Immigration Bill?

MR. SANDERS: Thank you Mr. President. In September when Miss Buffett moved a motion in this House that a letter be written to the Administrator with reference to discrimination, that letter was sent and to date there has been no reply. I would imagine it is still held up in Canberra.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. President. I intend following on with the question on fuel. Mr. Sanders was at a meeting that was attended by Mr. Lionel Freedman, the Receiver and Director of Air Norfolk Island, which he expressed the cost of fuel on the Island is far in excess of other Pacific Islands. He stated that Air Pacific has carried out a survey of the Islands within our region, and the cost of fuel, and he promised to provide the Minister with a result of that survey, and any other member. The Question is, has the Minister requested that list of survey of the Pacific Islands concerning fuel to be provided to the Minister who is responsible for fuel?
MR. SANDERS: The question is, have I got it, yes.

MR. JACKSON: Well have you requested for it?

MR. SANDERS: No I have not requested it, and nor has it been sent.

MR. JACKSON: I have another question which is to Mr. Sanders concerning immigration. Mr. Sanders it has been brought to my notice that some business establishments are not first advertising locally the positions that are vacant, therefore by doing so giving residents the first opportunity to apply for these positions. I am aware that there could be serious unemployment situation on the Island with the two major projects - Anzcan and the airport just about completed, therefore the question is, would you as Minister responsible for Immigration, take the necessary action to make sure that all establishments which I have described advertise locally before filling the positions.

MR. SANDERS: Yes, Mr. Jackson I would be pleased to. I spoke to the authorised officer this morning on this same matter, and I was informed that it has not been the practise that all of these people go through the normal advertising procedures, mainly because of the massive turnover of staff.

MR. JACKSON: Thank you, no more questions.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY Thank you Mr. Jackson, Further questions? Mrs. Gray.
MRS. GRAY: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President. My questions are now addressed to the Executive Member for Administration, Education and Health, and once again it is in the light of the financial situation here on Norfolk Island. How many companies are registered on Norfolk Island, and how many of those companies are local companies. How many of those companies which have not filed annual returns are local companies, and how many companies have not filed annual returns for the past 3 years, and how many of those companies are in default are local companies, and what are the registered offices of those companies and which firms of Accountants act on their behalf. What action is being taken to ensure that the annual returns of companies in default will be filed, and what action will be taken to recover the revenue loses involved?

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President, I am not able to respond to all of those questions in detail. What I would ask is Mrs. Gray to provide me with the detail and I will research them a bit further. I can make this response however. I do have a position statement from the Registrar of Companies which is at the 15 February of this year, and it gives some details of the companies that are registered in the Island, and the number of incorporations during the year. The number of companies that have been liquidated or struck off and the number of companies that remain in on the register. I will table this document, Mr. Acting Deputy President, it does not in fact cover all of the queries that have been raised, but I would be happy to pursue that further. I can say to the House, Mr. Acting Deputy President that the factor of companies, not meeting their obligations in respect of filing arrangements and in respect of payment of fees, is a matter that is being actively pursue by the Registrar of
the registration date was 1 January of this year, and there has been a process of close examination of those who are in default. So I can confirm that that is being pursued. I will table this document at this time and which may provide some information and I would be happy to pursue the other.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY Thank you Mr. Buffett. Further questions. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Again to the Executive Member for Administration, Education and Health. I would like to refer to the advertisement in the Norfolk Islander recently regarding the sale of plant which is being used in the airport upgrading. My question is, has the Government given consideration to the purchase of this equipment, and should the Government not purchase the equipment, could consideration be given to contracting road works and maintenance?

MR. BUFFETT: Could I ask one piece of clarification, Mr. Acting Deputy President, it relates to the sealing and road work arrangements of the equipment that was advertised. Am I right in assuming that?

MRS. GRAY: An advertisement appeared in the Norfolk Islander it was non-specific.

MR. BUFFETT: I am afraid I did not see that advertisement and so I am at a loss, but I can nevertheless provide this information which may be helpful to Mrs. Gray. There have been discussions with the earth moving contractor - that is Kaipara, and his sub-contractor
that whilst that equipment is on the Island, and it is heavy and expensive equipment, that is not normally here, there have been discussions as to whether it could be used in some significant road works, especially of the main artery roads of Norfolk Island, for example. The roads that have been used from the airport through Burnt Pine to the crusher area which has carried a lot of heavy truck movement, and roads from pier to pier, one side of the Island. The basis of that would be that there could be good use made of the equipment because it is going to leave the Island in due course. There has been some preliminary examination of that and it has shown to be quite an astronomical cost. An alternative to that which starts to come upon the question that Mrs. Gray has raised, is that maybe the Government would be interested in purchasing some of the equipment so that it would be able to do similar task but over a longer period of time. Some pieces of equipment are currently on offer to the Government and it is being examined. Beyond that I am not really able to elaborate any further.

MR CHRISTIAN-BAILEY Thank you Mr. Buffett. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Thank you. I would after getting some detail from the Executive Member about whether or not Government has decided to purchase, seek an answer to the second part of my question, which was, should the Government not purchase would consideration be given to contracting road works and maintenance, however that is a question which cannot be answered without the first. May I continue then, Mr. Acting Deputy President. Again referring to the Norfolk Islander and letters to the editor, which referred to the use of Cockpit as a dump.
Will the Executive Member clarify for the sake of those who may have read that correspondence, just whose decision it was to make use of that area as a dump. The suggestion or misunderstanding contained in that correspondence is that this was a decision of the Legislative Assembly, when in fact it was a decision taken by the Executive Member without reference to the Assembly. I seek clarification of that in the House, Mr. Acting Deputy President.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President, the course that has been followed in this is, there has been a need to close the Point Hunter tip and that has a matter that has been pursued in this House. Because of the dump is to be moved from that site it needs to go some where else, and that has been closely examined, by a number of people, and the result has been that there should be use of the Headstone tip to accommodate most of that which was formally dumped at Point Hunter. The areas that would not be, could not be used, or thought could not be used at that time, at the Headstone tip was large burnables, hedges, trees and the like. Some considerable examination of various sites was undertaken, and that undertaking included myself, the Works Supervisor and the C.A.O., the Forester if I remember correctly, people who have knowledge of various parts of the Island, and there was at that time thought that if we had to get out of the Point Hunter area and the large burnable site was still a difficulty, that Cockpit would have to be one of the options, and that was exercised, and I announced that proposal to the House - I think it was at the last sitting - I think that was it. Since that time there has been considerable comment to me, and in fact I should say that in those initial considerations it was not a desire that that should be the site, there was great difficulty in finding
points put to me, put to other members and other members have put them to me, that Cockpit does have many attributes that should not be scard or be brought into difficulty. Since that original process there has been now some further examination of the Headstone area, and I think I can confidently say that there will not be a need now to utilise the Cockpit area. An area further up, still in the Headstone area, not exactly where the shoot is at this moment, there is an area that is presently being prepared that might accommodate - it is felt confident that it will at this time - accommodate large burnables which it is thought might have to be put at Cockpit. If that can be brought to a fruitfull result it would mean that the dumping arrangement will be confined to one area. It will be under better supervision because the person there can move from one side to the other more readily. People who dump only need to travel to the one area, because people do some times have various categories of rubbish in one load. So that is the process that has gone through and the results todate.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY Thank you Mr. Buffett. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Thank you, if I may just continue, regrettably on the same subject. May I ask the Executive Member what provision was made for spaying the area of Point Hunter when the dump was closed in an attempt to eradicate the fly problem which, at the moment, has increased to quite extraordinary proportions in the Kingston area. Anyone who was on Emily Bay yesterday, or even in these buildings I am sure would be pleased to hear what action has been taken. I would suggest the use of a soil fumigant, but if something is in hand, I would be more than pleased to hear about it.
MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President. This is a problem, the flies have been a problem, a) whilst the dump was used as a dump and b) whilst the process of closing it and filling it has been taking place. It is a continuing problem at this time. I have asked that some spraying arrangement be undertaken and in fact the Chief Administrative Officer and the Health Inspector is to come and see me in the morning to further this. We don't have a great deal of equipment to be able to be used in this but there are some private pieces of equipment that has been sought, and some other instances, offered, and that is being pursued to try and solve the problem that does exist there. I should also acknowledge that we have been able to get some earth-fill by courtesy of the Department of Aviation from some surplus arrangement at the airport which is assisting the closing and the filling of the Point Hunter area, so that it will make it a more acceptable area.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY Thank you Mr. Buffett. Further questions Honourable Members. No further questions.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY Are there any questions on notice, please.
Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: I am sure that I do not have to read it out, Mr. Acting Deputy President, I think everyone must know it off by heart now.
who owns the hospital, who should insure it against fire, and who will eventually own the senior citizens units now being constructed. Which gives some idea of the date of the question. Who should insure them when constructed against fire.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President. I will just mention what I mentioned on an early occasion, like when I endeavoured to give an interim response to that. There are a fair few legal tangles, not all of them local, which has had to be embarked upon to respond to that question. I regret that it is not able to be answered just off the cuff and with the flick of a wrist, but there we are. We have entered the tangle of some of the Canberra bureaucracy, and I regret that and it is not able to make a definitive response at this time.

PAPERS

MR CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to table the financial indications for 7 months of the year through the end of January, which copies have been circulated to members. I will not comment a great deal except to say that the results again were very disappointing. The average drain on the revenue fund, the average loss for the first 6 months of the year was about $42,000 a month. The Chief Administrative Officer and Branch Heads were hoping that in December and January things would pick up as those are among the better months of the year ordinarily, they did not pick up in December, they got worse. The loss for January was $55,000
Revenue Fund. Expenditure through the end of January continued to be held down to the budgeted amounts, the problem is simply that revenue is not coming in, referring to particular items during the month of January - customs was far lower than the monthly average we had hoped to meet during the year, liquor bond had a below average month-based on expectations for the year. Postal and philatelic revenue, once again very low, $28,000 for the month as against target on the average 4 month of $100,000. I table that report.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY Thank you Mr. Howard.

MR. JACKSON: I note that report Mr. Chairman, and ask Mr. Howard a question, regarding what is the balance left in the Revenue. If we have used in the first 7 months $309,00 and we started the new year with just on $1,6million that leaves a considerable amount in the Revenue Fund. The question is, would Mr. Howard state to this House what is the balance of the Revenue Fund, as at present.

MR. HOWARD: May I ask clarification from Mr. Jackson, does he mean the usable amount in the Revenue Fund?

MR. JACKSON: It has been explained Mr. President that we have drawn from a working fund some $309,00 in the last 7 months. Now if that is all that has been used, plus some others for education Mr. Howard should know and explain to this House what is the actual amount left in the Revenue Fund.

MR. HOWARD: I wonder if Mr. Jackson could answer my question and tell me what he wants to know.
MR. JACKSON: Mr. President I am not here to answer questions by Mr. Howard, I am not the Finance Member, Mr. Howard is the member and I posed the question to him and if he does not wish to answer it, well that suits me. But for some information in a courtesy way, I ask that question, I expect some sort of an answer.

MR. HOWARD: I gave a long long answer to the same question exactly at the last meeting. It appears to have gone over Mr. Jackson's head, I will give it again. In the total Revenue Fund at the beginning of this year there was about $1½ million thousand of dollars of assets in money. Not all of those are ours to spend, some of those are Trust moneys, some are those funds are tired up in businesses, that if we want to continue operating we have to leave in those businesses, we cannot take away the working capital involved in the Post Office, Bond Store and have the Post Office keep functioning and have the Bond Store keep functioning. Some of that money you have to have tired up in those enterprises. The spendable amount of money that we had at the start of this financial year was about $1 million. We have now consumed three hundred of it, and have about seven hundred spendable now. Mr. Jackson may not like that answer but those are the simply financial facts.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY Thank you Mr. Howard.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Chairman. To take the question a little further, now Mr. Howard has opened it up. I see here in Mr. Howard's auditors account of the Revenue Fund as of 30 June 1982, we had in interest bearing deposits at the Commonwealth Bank six hundred thousand dollars. We had in interest bearing deposits in the
Now if Mr. Howard explained to the House that we have used, and we only have left in the Revenue Funds, some seven hundred thousand dollars, there must be more has been spent than what he has indicated here in the past seven months, which he indicated that we have drawn from that fund some three hundred and nine hundred thousand dollars.

MR. HOWARD: I guess that is a question. It would save everybody's time if Mr. Jackson would listen to the tape of the last meeting where we went through this same thing. Mr. Jackson, I think

MR. JACKSON: Here goes

MR. HOWARD: I think that is dis-courtesy of Mr. Jackson, Mr. Chairman. If he wants information I will provide it, but if he wants to shout and herang that is a different matter and I don't think that is in order. Mr. Jackson still apparently is having difficulty understanding something that many people have difficulty understanding because they are uncustomed to understanding financial statements. What he is referring to is the balance sheet as of the 30 June 1982, prepared by Hungerford, Hancock and Offner. The balance sheet includes two kinds of things. It includes what you own and it includes what you owe. To find out what you are worth you have got to subtract what you owe from what you own. You can't just look at what you own and say, I am rich, you have to take into account what you owe to other people and what money is tied up in ways that you cannot get at right then. We had at the beginning of this year about million dollars of spendable money that we could drain before we got into trouble paying our bills. If we had spent all of that million dollars we would then from that moment have trouble paying our bills from then on. If we had spent a million
and half dollars, which the Revenue Fund shows is the total grand balance, we would also have had to shut down the Post Office, shut down the Bond Store, retracted all of our stamps from Crown Agents in England, we would have had to cripple our principal earning sources, we would not have any money in the Bank to pay the daily bills, we would not have any money to pay the fortnightly salaries. The million and half that you see on that sheet was not for spending Mr. Jackson, it was the total worth on the balance sheet but you have to deduct the money that we owe to others and you have to deduct the money that is tied up in various undertakings, as long as we run those undertakings. There have been many statements made, one made by the Public Service Board which was reported in last week's Norfolk Islander. I have it here and I will quote it. Public Service Board said in a written press statement to the Norfolk Islander, in which the Public Service Board felt that the members of the Public Service deserved commendation for adjusting to the reduction in money available for wages and salaries in the way that they did. I agree with that, I support that comment of the Public Service Board. I think that Public Service officers have responded well in a very difficult situation, but the comment of the Public Service Board said, "is observed", said the Public Service Board's press release further "that in taking this course Public Servants are doing so despite the general opinion that no justifiable need exists for such measures to have been taken by the Government".

Mr. Jackson's comments at the last meeting, and his comments here today, Mr. Buffett made similar comments at the last meeting, are that we have tonnes of money in the bank. We have no worries, we are loaded, the money is just bursting out the doors of the bank and I am trying to tell you that that is not so. If you look at
and understand what they say, we have not got anywhere near as much money as people would like to believe. We now have a margin, a spendable margin of about $300,000 - we have done about 30% of our spendable money so far this year, I think that is worrying and I think continually talking about how big the total balance is in our balance sheet is mis-leading people, it is making them think that we are rich, when we are not, it is making them think that they need not worry because there are tonnes of dollars in the bank, and all that is just fooling people, it is kidding them, it is giving them a false sense of security that is totally unwarranted.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President, there was some remarks - there has been a notice of noting the paper - am I right?

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Yes.

MR. BUFFETT: So it can be debated. Some remarks have just been attributed to me which have said that I have said that money is bursting out of the doors of the bank and we are loaded. I would like to make it quite clear to the House that I have not used such words, that is not the situation at all. I have certainly made some remarks, and people can look at Hansard and find out what the exact words were. They were not those words. I do recall however, that I was quoting figures that were in fact quoted by auditors, or an accounting firm which related to the Revenue Fund, which as I understand it, is what Mr. Jackson has been referring to. I too would be interested to have a categoric statement as to how the
that relates to the statement that has been lodged by the Executive Member for Finance at this sitting.

MR. HOWARD: I can give a comment on that. First of all let me confirm that I did not mean to say that Mr. Buffett had used the very words that I was uttering. What I was trying to say is that I think that was the impression that has been given to many people upon the Island. Mr. Buffett from recollection did say that according to Hungerford, Hancock and Offer's account of the Revenue Fund, at the beginning of this financial year, we had about a million dollars and a half in the Revenue Fund. That is a misleading figure because it is not usable. As to the state of the Revenue Fund at the 1 January, I am sorry but I do not have that yet. The Accountant has prepared figures through the first six months of the year in the new form recommended by Hungerford, Hancock and Offer and discussed with the House several months ago. The Accountant has not yet provided some of the essential papers that are part of that six monthly accounting. He has given me, and I have circulated to all members the profit and loss statements for the undertakings and for the Administration. He has not yet provided us with the balance sheets and you need to be able to see the balance sheet to understand the full picture. As yet that information has not been forthcoming. It will be a little bit different, I am sure, to what has been seen in these monthly financial indications sheets because they are quick rough estimates to give us an early picture of what the trends are. They are not audited figures, they are not precise figures, they should be very close, but I expect the six monthly balance sheet, when it is available, will show something different than the financial indications will show. I believe they will show that the Revenue Fund was depleted in the first six months more than
the financial monthly indication sheets have shown. But as soon as I have those from the Accountant of course I will circulate them.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Thank you Mr. Howard. Further debate. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Thank you Acting Deputy President. I would just like to put a question to the Executive Member for Finance. The financial indications sheet shows that the major short fall in revenue earning is in the area of philately - does he have any comment to make on that as to what steps may be envisaged to rectify the situation, in the long term.

MR. HOWARD: I am glad to have an opportunity comment on that. I have just had the benefit of a couple of long meetings with the Revenue Manager and Mr. John Van-Emdem who is the head of International Philatelic, sorry, International Postal Marketing - a U.S.A. company which is our North American agent and which is also the North American agent for a number of outstanding postal issuing authorities including Australia Post. They also represent the Dutch Mint and for a long time they represented the British Mint - they are repudiable first class people. Mr. VanEmdem has given the Revenue Manager and me a broad description of what has been happening in the philatelic world in the past year and a half. His analysis, in simple terms of what has happened to us, is this. First of all the philatelic world - not just for us but for everyone - has been going through what he describes as the worst depression since the great depression of the 1930's. He says there are stamp dealers going out of business every day. There have been stamp
new. He said of the dealers who have been buying stamps, they have been buying fifty sets of a new stamp rather than their former order of five hundred or a thousand. There are many living hand to mouth and this has been going on for about eighteen months. Secondly, he points out that in last financial year we had the benefit of one of those postal issues that suddenly takes off, which was the Royal Wedding issue. People all over the world fell in love with Princess Diana and wanted to collect those stamps, not only ours but ones issues by other countries, and sales of those stamps were superb they were absolutely wonderful. Mr. Van-Emdem says, such a stamp with sales of that kind comes along only once in awhile— once every three or four or five years, something of that kind, and there is no way in the world you can plan to have a particular issue as successful as that each year, you cannot do it. He said to us the stamp world is one that has its ups and downs anyway. But he said, following on a year which you had one of those wonderful bonanza stamp issues where money just poured in, you have got to expect to go down the following year, you cannot hope to top that kind of a year in the following year. He said when you add that to the effects of the world wide depression in philatelic sales that exist anyway, I think Norfolk is doing pretty well. Mrs. Gray has asked what is being done to correct the situation, and the answer is that very little will be done to correct this situation quickly. The reason that very little will be done to correct this situation quickly, is that the only quick fixes in the philatelic field endanger the reputation of the issuing authority. If sales are down, sure you can bring out another couple of extra issues and flog them off, and you may sell them and you may improve your income in that particular year. That is a quick fix. The collectors of the world say, we
own policies in being the member with executive responsibilities for post office and philatelic sales, my own policies, with the guidance of the Philatelic Committee and with long conversations with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Postmaster, with the former Revenue Manager with the present Revenue Manager are that we should go steady as we are going. Our issuing policy I think is about the level it ought to be and I think it would be dangerous to increase it, to issue more stamps. I think it would be dangerous to increase the value of our stamps in the hope that we could get more money for each piece of paper. We have been, I way we, the Revenue Manager, has been examining carefully and hard a number of opportunities for improving our marketing processes. We have gone through a tremendous improvement in the philatelic bureau here on Norfolk Island as a result of a study done by Ken Wright from formally of Crown Agents, last year. The philatelic bureau is, last I knew, up to date where as previously it had been some months behind in filling orders, and that lateness in filling orders was hurting our reputation, it was irritating stamp collectors. That position has been corrected, to the best of my knowledge. I think we must wear a downturn, I think that any efforts to do a quick fix are going to - the people of Norfolk Island will pay dearly for in years to come, and I am against it. I would be happy to answer more on that point if Mrs. Gray is interested, but there is a general picture.

MRS. GRAY: Mr. Acting Deputy President, yes I would like to take it further, but I really believe it gets down to a discussion on philately rather than a financial indications, therefore I shall desist.
MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President, if I could continue just a question on the philatelic lines, and ask through you, Mr. Howard has made a couple of statement regarding marketing in recent times with philatelic here. May I ask Mr. Howard how the sales, the Norfolk Island sales here reflect what you say about the agents purchasing habits. Are you sufficiently up to date on philatelic to know, to answer that?

MR. HOWARD: No, I have not got figures that are broken down to that fine detail. One of my beliefs is that as the accounting function in the Administration gets settled down with the new Hungerford set of accounts set of keeping the books, and gets accustomed and easy with those, and it is no longer a new strange thing, I think we will be able, as a Government, to break down in considerably finer detail various parts of the Administration and see how they are going. I think it would be tremendously useful for example if we had the philatelic bureau here on Norfolk as a separate thing and see how it was going, what our costs were there, what our direct sales by the Bureau were. I think some people believe that our philatelic sales comes from the Philatelic Bureau here, they don't. Our stamps sold around the world by I.P.M. in North America, by Crown Agents in England, by Australia Post in Australia by our Philatelic Bureau here directly to mail customers. In other worlds our Philatelic Bureau here is one of a number of bodies around the world that are selling Norfolk Island stamps. I don't have detailed information on exactly how that is going. Most of the Philatelic Bureaus business here is with individual collectors who like receiving their stamps directly from the country that issues them, and get an extra satisfaction from doing that, and one of the
handle those orders carefully and attractively and neatly with
tender loving care and collectors have responded to that. But they
are mostly individual collectors and people who would rather not
but from dealers so we do not get much picture that way as to what
is happening to dealers and we have to rely on people like Mr. Van-
Emdem to purchase.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you, could I just ask another question?
Regarding also your statement as far as quick fix solutions are
concerned, how then do you equate that with the - is it a contract
so far with Seven Seas, Readers Digest, off short subsidiary of
Readers Digest, what has taken place? Does that not bring us along
term disadvantage in favour of a short term solution.

MR. HOWARD: I had hoped, and believed that that kind of
relationship with Readers Digest was going to be the beginning of
something which would increase the number of collector of Norfolk
stamps in Australia which would be a new area for marketing our
stamps without issuing more issues, and which would be a healthy
continuing addition to our philatelic success and revenues. I am
sorry to have to tell you that that deal, as near as I can tell,
has simply collapsed. The Seven Seas people have written to us saying
that they have changed their mind about some things, and they talked
about doing a very odd kind of a deal where instead of producing
a year album for the year 1982, they wanted to leave it until the
middle of this year and have an album for 1982 and half of 1983.
Well that does not make sense, it is a silly idea, and I don't know
whether they got tangled up in internal problems in their own company
or what happened, but that I am sorry to tell you has now become
the possibilities, not this year, but in future years of issuing our own annual year book of stamps. The Revenue Manager has enquiries out to a couple of places that do such things with good style and good quality. It is too soon to comment on that but we are exploring it. I should also - on the subject of disappointing news - tell you that I think I mentioned it in the House a couple of meetings ago that I was - I had written to the Pitcairn Island Administration to see if we might possibly become part of their philatelic distribution operations. I have just in the last week or so had an answer back saying that they get along fine with their present agents, thanks very much they will keep us in mind, but no thanks right now. So we are trying but there are a couple of tries that did not work out.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Thank you Mr. Howard. Further debate Honourable Members.

MR. HOWARD: Sorry, ...

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: There being no further debate - the question is that the paper be noted. Those of the opinion say aye.

Aye
Those of the contrary, say no.

The ayes have it.
Any further papers Honourable Members. Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of reports - the first one I would like to take as an example.
Norfolk Island Residents and their attitudes towards Island management and development and tourism, done by Dr. Owen MacCarthy and Bill Collier from the Brisbane College of Advanced Education. The second one is an analysis review of marketing information effecting the tourism industry of Norfolk Island done by Richard Kosker. I would like to table both those reports.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Thank you Mr. Sanders. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I have another paper that I would like to table Mr. Chairman, which is the Touche Ross Survey of Remuneration to the Norfolk Island Public Service to residents on Norfolk Island who are not in the Public Service but whose remuneration is determined overseas - which would include people like O.T.C. and Met Office and the banks and so forth, and residents of Norfolk Island who were not in the Public Service and whose remuneration is determined locally. I have copies here for all members. I don't propose to discuss it in any way today until members have studied it, but I table that report which has been long awaited. It cost us $8,000 of public money to get it, and in the reading I have done of it I think the money was well spent. The comparisons are detailed and interesting. There are some shading of interpretations that are still not entirely clear in my mind which I hope to clear up in conversations with the Administrator, but I table that report and I will hand copies to members right now.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Thank you Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, I will also provide a copy for
MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Any further papers Honourable Members?

STATEMENTS BY LEAVE

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Any statements by leave Honourable Members.
Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The weekend before last I went to New Zealand to have conversations with the management of Air New Zealand on their intentions regarding the air service to Norfolk Island. For the benefit of others I will read this letter, it is from Air New Zealand addressed to me. 'Further to our discussions this morning this is to provide you with some background relative to Air New Zealand's desire to operate Boeing 737 on a permanent basis between New Zealand and Norfolk Island. On 10 November 1982, we wrote to the Australian Department of Aviation for an amendment to international airline licence No. 204 seeking the authorisation of a Boeing 737. As part of that application we specifically sought urgent approval for the April 1983 operation of six return services to cater for a Rotary convention at Norfolk, for which the organisers were pressing us for confirmation. A letter of 10 November was followed by additional communication on 8 and 20 December 1982. The approval for the special flight for the Rotary convention was received on 31 December, there has been no further advice from the Department of Aviation regarding our on going application for 737's. Early in January the New Zealand Ministry of Transport advised us that the support of the Norfolk Island Government would need to be conveyed to the Australian Department of Home Affairs and Environment. Air New Zealand shares
to Norfolk Island. The total New Zealand outbound market is of course severely depressed but we believe that two 737's a week will service the present market and provide adequate capacity for growth over a considerable period. The Boeing 737 is a small jet by world airline fleet standards, it is ideally suited to serve communities of the South Pacific, such as Norfolk. Presently Air New Zealand operates 737's from New Zealand to Arpia, Fiji, Hobart, Noumea, and Tonga. Additionally both Air Pacific and Polynesian Air Lines chose the 737 aircraft type as being appropriately sized for their areas of operation. Within New Zealand the 737 serves locally community wherever airport facilities and traffic demand warrants. Air New Zealand is dedicated to serving the South Pacific territories on a permanent basis and maintaining safe efficient competitive and economically viable operations. It is to this end that we seek to introduce 737's to Norfolk Island with our obvious benefits to the Norfolk Island community, the travelling public and the operating airline, with the use of 737's. When compared with the F27, the 737 has several advantages, some of which are -
1) it is more comfortable by virtue of being larger;
2) it is faster over that distance by significant margin;
3) it is less susceptible to disruptions to the service due to weather conditions;
4) it has a significantly better cargo carrying facility;
5) because the Boeing 737 is a larger and more efficient aircraft than the F27, economically viable operations can be sustained at a lower load factor than that required on the F27;
6) because of the benefits in 5) above, it will be possible to provide for some seasonal variations in pricing indicator for sporting groups, or convention movements which can be used to
Since publication of the schedule for the Rotary services to Norfolk, we have received several enquiries from sporting or allied organisations for group movements of around 100 people. In our discussions you advised us of some local fears that 737 will be environmentally disruptive to the Norfolk Island residents. In our experience and other Pacific territories where the airport is often close proximity to residential housing, there has been no adverse reaction to the aircraft movement, and certainly Air New Zealand seeks to enhance the appeal of the Pacific islands through the provision of modern efficient transportation links with New Zealand and the main tourist routes. We hope the above assists you in achieving the support of the Norfolk Island Administration for Air New Zealand Boeing 737 services. The present down turn in traffic to Norfolk will take sometime to arrest, but we expect that approval for an aircraft of 737 size will place a significant role in the return to positive growth for the Norfolk Island tourist industry.'

It was signed by Peter Emsley, Route Manager for Trans-Tasman.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to table that. I also have another letter that I received about half an hour before this meeting. It is from Airlines of New South Wales, the letter is also addressed to me. 'It is the intention of Airlines of New South Wales to apply for a federal airline licence to operate between Brisbane and Norfolk Island and to this end we respectively request the support of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly. Airlines of New South Wales will be introducing Fokker Fellowship F28,1000 jet aircraft this year and anticipate having our first aircraft fully prepared for over water operations by June. It is this aircraft that we would devote to serving your community. As you will be aware we have many years experience in operations to island communities, and have been operating the services of which you have heard in the past.'
New South Wales for 48 years. In recent years the considerable amount of involvement with the island took place when we anticipated introducing DeHavilland Dash 7 aircraft on the route. Unfortunately the aircraft was not acquired, but a Fokker F28 aircraft is a positive acquisition, and ideally suited to providing Norfolk Island with the best possible service. We are aware that East West Airlines have made application for the Brisbane/Norfolk Island licence and has sought your support. We believe that such a monopoly situation would be ultimately disadvantage to the Island. With Airlines of New South Wales servicing Norfolk Island through one of your major gateways, with competitive equipment overall standards would be kept high and the Island would have access to a substantial holiday marketing resources of the Ansett group. We feel that we have something very positive to offer Norfolk Island and would very much appreciate the opportunity to submit our case to the Assembly. I look forward to hearing from you.' Signed by John Hutchinson, General Manager.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILLEY: Thank you Mr. Sanders. Further statements, Honourable Members.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILLEY: Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: I move that the papers be noted, Mr. Chairman, and if I may make a comment on both papers that have been tabled. Mr. Chairman it clearly demonstrates that the last letter that Mr. Sanders read out from New South Wales Airlines, it clearly demonstrates that there is two airlines, East West, New South Wales Airlines are prepared to accept the position where the Norfolk Island airstrip has been upgraded to take certain aircraft. When
mentioned that it will be upgraded to a degree of medium jet. Now we have two airlines that has compiled with the two alternative planes that was recommended, and the one was the Fokker 28,4000 and the other was the BAC146. It is interesting to note that two airlines has indicated that they are prepared to carry out the obligation that the strip is being upgraded to, what degree it has been upgraded to, but unfortunately the other party, that is the New Zealand airways are wishing to fly in planes of a larger volume, such as, the 737, and I take that note that others are interested in using our airport, and the island as a tourist destination using the planes for what the airstrip has been upgraded to. It is just a point on that direction that I wish to take part in on the two papers that has been read by Mr. Sanders.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Thank you Mr. Jackson. Further debate members.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think Mr. Jackson has jumped the gun. At the last sittings of this House, this House resolved that the Department would be asked to undertake an enviromental impact study of Norfolk Island. I would imagine after receiving that report we should then know whether 737 are viable or not.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Thank you Mr. Sanders. Further debate. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Just a question if I may, to the Member assisting the Executive Member for Tourism in Aviation, the type of aircraft, the F28,1000 is that the same type of aircraft which
MR. BROWN: No, the F28,1000 is slightly older aircraft, it does not carry quite as large a load but its performance is basically the same. My understand is that Airlines of New South Wales are taking delivery of a number of F28,1000 aircraft from Airlines of Western Australia, who are themselves replacing the 1,000 with 4,000 series. It is quite a good aircraft.

MRS GRAY: If I may Mr. Acting Deputy President, I suppose the basic question is whether or not the aircraft is suitable to do the job.

MR. SANDERS: Perhaps I could reply to Mrs. Gray. I would imagine that the airlines would have some indication themselves whether they thought it was viable. I doubt that they are going to seek Mrs. Gray's opinion to find out whether she thinks it is suitable.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Further debate Honourable members. There being no further debate the question is - that the paper be noted. Those in favour say aye

Aye

To the contrary - no

The ayes have it.

Further statements by leave, Honourable Members. Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President, Honourable Members will know of the recent devasting bush fires in Victoria and South Australia and will know of both the offers of the Norfolk Island
fires, and the communities donations organised by the Lions Club of Norfolk Island. A response has been received from the Premier of South Australia in response to the offer to arrange billeting of homeless children, and I will read that cable. "Reference your telegram of assistance in billeting homeless children. We have been able to cope with accommodation problems, but I sincerely appreciate your very kind, generous and prompt offer of assistance."

J.C. Bannon, Premier. Mr. Acting Deputy President a response hasn't been received at this time from the Victorian Premier, but I am inclined to think that Victoria too will by this time have solved their accommodation problems. The Lions Club appeal with lodgements being made at the Westpac Bank here in Norfolk Island, this morning stood at $3,921.00 and I would like to make some commendation to the Lions Club and the community for their speedy and meaningful response to assist those who are in need in Australia at this difficult time.

MR CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Thank you Mr. Buffett. Are there any further statements by leave, Honourable Members?

I have report that I have received from His Honour The Administrator the following message. "That on 18 February 1983, he assented to the Public Account Expenditure Act No. 2 1982/83 and the Public Account Expenditure Act No. 3 1982/83."

Presentation of reports from the Standing and Select Committees. Are there any reports. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Only a verbal report Mr. Acting Deputy President from the Committee investigating extension of Commonwealth...
legislation. To the effect that a Bill for an Act to establish a national crimes commission has been received by the Committee over the Christmas period, and in fact the Bill has been passed and was assented to on Christmas eve 1982. The other Bill which has arrived is the Human Rights Bill of 1982, and members wishing to site or copy those papers may do so at the offices of the Clerk. That is all.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Thank you Mrs. Gray. Are there any further reports.

NOTICES

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Notice No. 1 Mr. Howard, to present a Bill for an act to amend the Legislative Assembly Ordinance 1979.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am not able to introduce the Bill, but I seek leave to make a statement of where it stands and what the situation is.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Is leave granted, Honourable Members?

Aye.

Proceed Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: The Bill that I had hoped to table today is a Bill to introduce and make lawful the cumulative voting system. Immediately after the referendum when a strong majority of the community said they wanted the cumulative voting system, I started
work to bring forward a Bill. The matter was not in any of the portfolios of any of the three Executive Members. I took the initiative because I wanted to see the decision carried out under law. The voting system is not either a Schedule 2 or Schedule 3 matter in the Norfolk Island Act, therefore it is one on which although the Assembly may pass the Bill, it must have the approval of the Commonwealth Government whose senior cabinet ministers sitting as the Executive Council of Australia advise the Governor-General to assent to such a Bill. Because the subject was one on which the Assembly, and the Commonwealth Government needed to reach agreement, the Department of Home Affairs asked the Attorney-General in Canberra to draft the new Legislative Assembly Bill. When the Attorney-General's draft of the Bill was received, it had what appeared to me to be several minor flaws and two major aspects that appeared to me to be unwarranted by the cumulative system in the form that had been described to us by the electoral office, and in the form that the electors here had adopted. So I queried those particular matters. There appeared to me to be some reluctance or resistance or unhappiness from the Department of Home Affairs in their responses to those enquiries, but nonetheless responses did come back. Since then the electoral office in Canberra and the Attorney-General have examined both those two major matters that seemed important to me, and it has now been confirmed that those queries that I made were valid and that corrections in the Attorney-General's original draft were in order and would be acceptable to the Commonwealth. From the very beginning of this legislative drafting process, the drafts have included some provisions that have nothing directly to do with cumulative voting system, but were sound improvements in the electoral law generally. That is of course
through a Bill on a particular subject you look around to see what tidying up can be done at the same time, you look around to see what problems you have had in recent years, what else you would like to fix while you are dealing with that particular subject. As correspondence and telexes when backwards and forwards between here and the Department in Canberra, shaping the Bill up gradually, one such proposed improvement in the electoral law was put to the Department for their consideration. Very briefly I will talk about it in a minute, it was a suggestion that it might be fairer on Norfolk Island to allow people with temporary entry permits who have lived here for two years or more, and who intend to stay if they can, to have a vote. We were concerned with getting the new voting system into law as quickly as we could and so with the Administrator's help a question went over to the Department asking whether that additional legislative reform would be included in the Legislative Assembly Bill, would it delay matters, would it hold up the Bill. We got back an extraordinary reply from the Department. The reply said that this idea of reforming the electoral law so as to allow people who have lived here for two years legally and expect to continue to live here if they can, the idea of allowing them to vote involved what the Department referred to as major policy implications and they felt the major policy implications were so great that the whole thing had to be referred to the Department of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, and had to be referred to the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, and say said, yes it could well delay the Bill to include that kind of provision. The objection and the problem that they seem to be raising with that particular idea of allowing two year residents to vote seemed to be that the right to vote should be based on more than simply how long you have lived in a place. Well it was never the intention of the
vote just because they lived here for two years. The intention was that if they were British subjects, if they were over the voting age of 18, if they had a temporary entry permit and were here legally and had been here legally for two years, and if they intended to continue living here, then with all of those qualifications then we thought, I thought, other Assembly members felt similar, that it was a great injustice in allowing those people to vote. Today we have had another extraordinary reply, just this morning, another telex back from the Attorney-General in Canberra which starts out by saying this proposed provision to allow two year residents to vote "has nothing to do with the main purpose of the Bill". I find that an almost unbelievable objection from the Attorney-General's Department which in its own first draft to the Bill included a provision that had nothing to do with the main purpose of the Bill. The Attorney-General seems to me to be saying, you can get confused you are trying to talk back and forth with telex which can get garbled and which you can misunderstand, often face to face you can sought things out. But based on what they have said on their correspondence and their telexes the Attorney-General seems to me to be saying that it is not acceptable to have more than one improvement contained in anyone Bill. That is rubbish, that is baloney, that is just stupid legislative procedure. All over the world in every proper law making body, anywhere in the world when you go through the procedure of introducing a new Bill on some important subject, you look around and see what other improvements you can tack on and put through at the same time. It is only common sense. What the Attorney-General seems to be saying to us is, no you can't do that, that is not law, that is not cricket. I am astonished at that answer. That answer is so extraordinary to me that I have to tell you that
a number of other proposals for change in the draft Bill at this stage. Some of them seem to me to be things that the Attorney-General simply did not think about when they did their first draft of the Bill. Today's telex also refers to the need now for further consultation again with the electoral office, and the subject on which they think there needs to be control with the electoral office is something worth sharing. They are talking about a situation where a voter makes a cross on the ballot, and he puts the cross only particularly inside the box, where it is suppose to go. They say, since the Returning Officer is no longer to be given a discretion to accept or reject individual votes, it appears that the new section should comprehensively set out the situation in which a ballot paper is to be informal. It appears to me that this point should be specifically raised with the Australian Electoral Office for their consideration. We are talking about whether the tail of a 'X' sticks out the side of a box or something and that requires going back to the Australian Electoral Office to find out what they think about it. I have tried, I assure you above and beyond the call of duty, I have tried as hard as I can try, and I am bound to say with support, with strong support from Mr. Buffett, from Mr. Sanders and others on the Assembly, with support from the Administrator to press ahead with this Bill to enact the cumulative system of voting in a way that is acceptable to Norfolk Island, and to Canberra. I have tried as hard as I can do to do that as quickly as possible. I had hoped, and believed that it would be ready for this meeting today, it isn't. I am sorry to say that the replies we are getting from Canberra are confused, they are confusing to us, they are complicating, they are delaying. I hope that the tone and the content of these replies we are getting from Canberra do not
reflect any deliberate or even unconscious wish to delay or getting a new voting system, to delay or having a new election, or to delay the introduction of sound proper electoral reforms. I have to say that at the moment I think I sniff a mouse and I hope that whiff will quickly go away. At the moment it seems clear to me that considerable more discussion with Canberra is necessary for an agreed acceptable Bill can be put to the Legislative Assembly. I think it has waited too long now, I don't like the idea of one more day's delay, but it is clear that there is going to have to be more delay. I am distressed and angered by that delay but there it is. I am the current Chairman of the Executive Committee and I did not have a chance to talk with either of the other two Executive Members before this meeting, but I would like to propose that if the time is suitable for them that we meet as an Executive Committee in a special meeting at 2.00pm tomorrow and get stuck straight into this latest telex from Canberra and find out what we can do to straighten it out and get it back on the rails. I would like for the benefit of members, for the interest of the community to make a few comments on the shape of the Legislative Assembly Bill as it stands now. This is not the way I expect it will be introduced but I think it should generally be the way it will be introduced. The Bill proposes, in its present state, as I said, an extension of the voting right to people who hold temporary entry permits who are British subjects, who are 18 years or more of age, and who are able to satisfy the Administrator that they intend, if they are allowed to do so, to continue living on Norfolk Island. The Attorney-General has questioned that particular business of the Administrator making that determination. I feel certain that whoever in the Attorney-General's Department has been looking at it, is just did not take the time to make himself aware that that same judgement
Ordinance. If a person applies to be a resident, he needs, the Administrator may give him residency if he meets certain conditions. One of those conditions is if the person intends to continue to reside on Norfolk Island. So that there is strong clear precedent for that particular judgement to be made by the Administrator in another important Norfolk Island law. The voting procedure proposed by the Bill, first of all abolishes the old proportional representation system, and then it describes the cumulative procedure of voting with the following main details. First of all, that an elector is to be entitled to as many votes as there are vacancy to be filled in that particular election. Secondly, the elector must use all the votes to which he is entitled. Thirdly, where there is more than one candidate to be elected, an elector must vote for more than the one candidate. Lastly, where there are more than four candidates to be elected, an elector can give up to four votes to anyone candidate but cannot give more than four votes to any one candidate. I do not believe that there is any problem with Canberra about those basic points in the cumulative voting system. The phraseology for the Bill as it now stands was drafted by the Attorney-General and it appears to me to be in order, and there is no problem on that central question of what the system is. The next part of the Bill defines what makes the ballot informal, and the things that would make a ballot informal would include in the present draft - first of all, not using all the votes to which the elector is entitled, secondly failing to vote for more than one candidate where there is more than one candidate to be elected, thirdly attempting to give more than four votes to anyone candidate, and lastly attempting to use more votes that the elector is entitled to. There are a number of other matters in the present draft which has been worked out with a lot of effort, which can be considered to be electoral reforms. for example, it is proposed in the draft, and this
them at all. It is proposed to make it an offence to tamper with a ballot that has been marked by a voter, or to tamper with the ballot box. So that should be an offence, and it should be a very serious offence, and the Bill poses that there be a fine of $2,000 or six months imprisonment if someone fiddles with the ballot or fiddles with the ballot box. Another number of other offences and fines in the existing electoral law are proposed to be increased by various amounts. I will not go into detail on those now, but I can give you an illustration. If someone marks someone else's absentee ballot illegally and sends it in, at present the fine for that is $20, it is proposed that the fine be $1,000 — or three months in jail. If someone hinders a scrutineer from entering or leaving a polling place, at the moment the fine is $4. It is proposed in the Bill, in its present form, that the fine be $500 or a month in jail. Those are heavily increased fines and they reflect the fact that an honest protected voting process is essential to descent government. There is another reform in the law which is that instead of including as part of the law all of the various forms that are needed in an election, for example, the form of the ballot, the request for an absentee ballot, the form of letters sent to a person who is thought not to have voted, the form on which a person gives a reason why he did not vote, forms of that kind, have in the past being included in the law itself, in the Ordinance. It is proposed to have those included, not in the Ordinance but in the Regulations which can be made by the Administrator. That means, if as time goes along we can see improvements to be made in those forms, they can be easily made without amending the whole law and seeking the Governor-General's assent. Going back to the business of extending the voting right to people who have lived here for two years, and intend to continue living here, if they are 18 years and over and they are British subjects. My own feeling is that once
impossible for me to imagine any reasonable grounds on which a reasonable person could object to it. I am very deeply concerned that there appears to be all kinds of smoke-screens and sand being thrown in the air over on the Canberra end, on that particular change. I think that if that liberalisation in our voting requirements were made, it would bring our law a little bit closer to the Australian kine of voting requirements, ours would still be more strict than theirs, but they would not be as strict as they are now, and I think if Australia objected to that sought of liberalisation in our voting law it would be a scandalous thing. I hope that that won't work out but we will have to wait and see. As I said, the situation is very untidy now we are going to be subject to more delays, not because of anybody in this room. I hope the Executive Committee when it meets tomorrow, assuming we can meet tomorrow, will get stuck straight into getting the thing on the rails as quickly as we can.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President. Mr. Howard says he is amazed that Canberra, and to use his words "he sniffs a rat", I beg your pardon, I take it back, "he sniffs a mouse".

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Miss Buffett if you wish to debate, I must ask that this statement be noted.

MISS BUFFETT: I am sorry, please may I ask that this statement be noted. Thank you.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Debate. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Well if Mr. Howard sniffs a mouse, so do I. It is my opinion that this matter brought forth to us today of which
regarding the inclusion of more electors than is at the moment included in the Bill, is a totally new matter, and quite outside of the matter that is being dealt with in the present Legislative Assembly amendments, to try and expand an electoral number of people in a situation as untimely as this, can only, to me, reflect unhealthy motives.

MR. HOWARD: Point of order, Mr. Chairman. There is a Standing Order saying, that no member shall reflect on the motives of other members.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Miss Buffett will you withdraw that remark.

MR. HOWARD: I would like Miss Buffett to withdraw that remark, if she would.

MISS BUFFETT: I will withdraw it, if it is your wish Mr. Chairman.

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, it is Standing Order 62, and I would like Miss Buffett, if you would ask her to withdraw without reservation.

MR. JACKSON: We have two Chairmans - Mr. Howard's one.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Miss Buffett will you desist from making those remarks.

MISS BUFFETT: Yes certainly. I disagree with
MR. BROWN: Further point of order.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Standing Orders 62 - reads, all imputations of improper motives and all personal reflections on members shall be considered highly disorderly.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President. Are the words 'I further disagree' are they wrong. I have said that and I have been called to order. Is that wrong, to further disagree. I don't think so.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: No.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you. May I go ahead.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Yes.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you. The Legislative Assembly Bill which has been withdrawn or can't proceed today, by Mr. Howard as he has said earlier has had absolutely no mention of expending the type of electors to enroll. I whole heartedly agree with the Australian Attorney-General's Department, as I am sure everyone else must, it was never the question. In 1968 on 4 December, a referendum was put to the people which Mr. Howard seeks in going ahead with consulting the Assembly, I have not been consulted on the matter. There have been no meetings called upon this matter. Mr. Howard has taken it in his hand to go ahead and reform all the electoral laws, it is ridiculous. The figures in the 1968 referendum reflect that 440 people voted against - only 214 for, with 13 abstentions, totally 667 electors, do with an electoral matter. I'm afraid I can't.
should permit British subjects being Australian, to visit Norfolk Island, make their homes on Norfolk Island, being enrolled as electors on Norfolk Island, be eligible for election to the Norfolk Island Council on the same conditions as persons born in Norfolk Island are permitted to visit Australia, make their homes in Australia and be eligible for election in the House of Representatives in Australia. There is a very high percentage of electors tossed that out, so Mr. Howard has come into this meeting without any notice, whatsoever and decided to reverse the whole situation, and criticise the Australian Government for having done so.

MR. BROWN: Point of order Mr. Chairman.

MISS BUFFETT: I must register my amazement.

MR CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: What is your point of order Mr. Brown?

MR. BROWN: The matter to which Miss Buffett is referring Mr. Chairman is irrelevant to this discussion. Miss Buffett is referring to a referendum, which involved amongst other things, the question of immigration, it is quite irrelevant to this discussion.

MISS BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President, the matter I do not accept as irrelevant, even though Mr. Brown does.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Miss Buffett would you please confine your debate to the statement.

MISS BUFFETT: Yes right. I believe that Mr. Howard has acted improperly