

MR PRESIDENT: Honourable Members good morning. We commence with the Prayer of the Legislative Assembly

**Prayer**

Almighty God we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessings upon this House, to direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory and the true welfare of the people of Norfolk Island

MR PRESIDENT: Honourable Members good morning. Before I call upon condolences I just mention that there will be some brief photography work in the Chamber this morning and when that concludes we will be back to our normal arrangements if you could be tolerant of that please. I firstly call upon Condolences

**Condolences**

MR E CHRISTIAN: Mr President, it is with regret that this House records the death of George Allen Bailey who passed away on the 8th April 1992 at the Hospital. George was born on Norfolk Island in 1902, the eldest son of Herbert and Henrietta Bailey. On leaving school he trained as a carpenter/builder and was an excellent tradesman. He married Dorothy Christian at All Saints in 1927. They had four children - Bernie, Norma, Mickey and Len; all married and living on the Island. George enlisted in the Norfolk Island Militia when World War 11 broke out and later served with the Royal Australian Engineers in the Northern Territory. After the war he and Dorothy settled in Woollahra and later at Lane Cove, retiring to Norfolk in 1963. On their return George became a warden at Chapel. Both he and Dorothy were a wonderful example of good Christian people, both to their family and the community. Their home at "Devon" showed George's love of his garden. As for sport George was a keen follower of the Blues Football Team. Since Dorothy's death just on a year ago and after 64 years of marriage George never really recovered from that sadness. To Bernie, Norma, Mickey and Len and their families; to the many relatives and friends this House extends its deepest sympathies. Thank you Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr Christian. Honourable Members as a mark of respect to the memory of those deceased I would ask you all as Members to stand for a period in silence. Thank you Honourable Members. If Members would feel comfortable without their coats today please feel free to take them off

**Leave of Absence**

MR PRESIDENT: Mr George Smith is ill this morning and is departing on the plane this afternoon because of that and he has sought leave. Is leave granted? Leave is granted thank you

**Presentation of Petitions**

MR PRESIDENT: Petitions. Are there any Petitions?

**Giving of Notices**

MR PRESIDENT: Notices. Are there any Notices?

**Questions Without Notice**

MR PRESIDENT: Questions Without Notice. Are there any Questions Without Notice?

MR SANDERS: Thank you Mr Smith. My apologies Mr President. Dear me. I direct this question to Mr Neville Christian and that is, do you propose to make a statement to this House giving reasons as to why there was a recent increase in the IDD telephone charges

MR N CHRISTIAN: Mr President I hadn't intended making a statement in regards to recent increases at this meeting

MR SANDERS: Supplementary question if I may. Is there a proposal perhaps to publish to the public the reasons for doing such a thing

MR N CHRISTIAN: Mr President I can certainly arrange for a notice to be put into the forthcoming weeks paper explaining the increases

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Questions without notice

MR ROBINSON: Thank you Mr President. Also to Mr Neville Christian. At a meeting of this House. In fact on the 6th February 1991 I asked the Minister if volunteers who manned the government launches were insured to which the Minister replied "our insurance programme is still under review". My question remains the same. Are those volunteers insured yet

MR N CHRISTIAN: Mr President that's a difficult question to answer. The insurance programme is still under review. I can say in short though that the situation at the present

would be that if those volunteers in inverted commas were in fact Administration employees and deemed to be in the employ of the Administration at the time if they were accidentally injured they would be covered by insurance but if there were not employees of the Administration at the moment there is no cover for volunteers who would not be classified as Administration employees

MR ROBINSON: Well what have we got in place to prevent some low life litigious lawyer from suing the Government on behalf of someone who has twisted their ankle in one of our many potholes

MR N CHRISTIAN: Mr President I'm not in a position to answer Mr Robinson's question. I realise that it is an important question that deserves a proper answer and I don't know if it is appropriate for me to say that I'll take it on notice for the next meeting but maybe I can either provide Mr Robinson with answers or if he's re-elected he may care to place it on notice at a further meeting

MR ROBINSON: Thank you. Perhaps I should have put it on Notice for this one but I wasn't particularly aware of it until after Questions on Notice has closed. And one last one to Mr Neville Christian, are the profits made on the water assurance scheme going towards further extensions of the scheme or are they going to general revenue

MR N CHRISTIAN: Mr President operating profits from the water assurance undertaking are retained in the undertaking and would generally be used for cyclic maintenance and further extensions to the scheme when sufficient funds have been accumulated, where extensions are warranted

MR ROBINSON: My next question is addressed to Mr Ernie Christian. Do you remember telling this House that the Burnt Pine upgrading would be completed by the end of June and if so do you now intend to correct that statement?

MR E CHRISTIAN: Yes Mr President I do remember quite clearly making that statement. There has been since some holdups, mainly with the undergrounding of the electricity through Burnt Pine and it is not expected now to complete the Burnt Pine upgrading by that date but later on in the year

MR ROBINSON: And also to Mr Ernie Christian is it true that you intend to plant pine trees from the airport through to the first cattlestop and if so, will they need to be topped later on by the airport staff

MR E CHRISTIAN: Mr President there is plans underfoot to plant trees on the opposite side of the airport from the airport gates through to the first cattlestop. They haven't definitely been sorted yet as to what trees and things they are. The thought was that alot of them would be pines to match what is already planted across the other side of the road and yes, I would say, that in keeping with the ones straight opposite they would have to be topped at some later date

MR ROBINSON: Do you think perhaps in that case it would be a good idea if we had a half a pine on our flag as well

MR E CHRISTIAN: No. I like the one as it is Mr President

MR BROWN: Thank you Mr President. I direct this question to Mr Ernie Christian. Can the Minister advise in relation to the school sports oval whether it is a fact that all of the labour and equipment which was provided for that job was provided free of charge

MR E CHRISTIAN: Mr President the bulk of the labour and the bulk of the equipment was provided free of charge

MR BROWN: If I could ask the Minister, is he able to advise what types of labour and what types of equipment were charged for?

MR E CHRISTIAN: Mr President not fully at present but I could bring that forward quite definitely yes. There were odd very small

pieces of machinery which weren't donated but I'm talking of quite smaller pieces. Basically the larger trucks, the bulldozers and things like that as I understand were donated and as I say the bulk of the labour. There were some instances where the likes of laying electrical cable and things like that where that time was charged but I could bring forward a full explanation

MR BROWN: I wish to ask a question in relation to the airport but with Mr Smith away I am not sure whether Mr Ernie Christian might be able to provide a response. Is it a fact that the flight service unit is soon to be withdrawn from the Norfolk Island Airport and if so, are you aware of the consequences if any, of continuation of services by Air New Zealand and Ansett Express in the event that there is no flight service available

MR E CHRISTIAN: Mr President there are alot of rumours and things going around about the withdrawal of the flight service. The Government has had no indication to my knowledge, no definite indication of the time of withdrawal or whether there will be a complete withdrawal of the flight service from the airport. Yes I am aware of the consequences and they could be quite serious consequences should the services be withdrawn. The Minister who normally handles this is in close contact and chasing up the very very recent rumours again that there was to be a fairly early withdrawal but that's about the only reply I can give to that Mr President

MR BROWN: I direct a further question to Mr Ernie Christian and it relates to the Public Sector Review Taskforce. Could the Minister advise whether a final report of that taskforce will be tabled today. In the event that it will not be tabled could the Minister advise on how many occasions the taskforce has met since our last meeting and whether it is anticipated that its work will be completed before the end of this Assembly

MR E CHRISTIAN: Mr President, much to my sorrow, I am not able to p report of that taskforce will be tabled today. In the event that it will not be tabled could the Minister advise on how many occasions the taskforce has met since our last meeting and whether it is anticipated that its work will be completed before the end of this Assembly

MR E CHRISTIAN: Mr President, much to my sorrow, I am not able to present to this meeting today a final report. The Committee has basically met twice since our last sitting of the House. We've run out of time all the way around on it. It's quite a major job the whole thing. It's, I believe, well in hand, but it is going to take some months yet Mr President I believe to bring to complete finalisation. It is hoping to bring, it may not be me bringing it forward, but the taskforce itself is hoping to bring forward partial recommendations as the document is finished. Some of these by the next sitting of the House quite definately

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. This question is directed to the Minister for Health and perhaps the Minister for Finance may be able to help in answering the question as well. With the view that the health scheme is still in terms of years, still in its infancy, I ask the question to the Minister, is it necessary to engage locums to replace the two doctors that are on holidays at present when we enjoy four doctors at the Hospital compared to two doctors previous positions that we utilised in the past

MR E CHRISTIAN: Mr President I could answer that. We have a unique situation with the doctors at the hospital at this stage in that we have two husband and wife teams. Unfortunately when one or the other wants to go on holidays the other one wants to go with him. There's not alot we can do about that, that's the reason for the engagement of the local doctors to keep full staffing of the Hospital as we enjoy it now. Mr President, could I say that we are only paying two, not four doctors, we only pay for two in any case

MR BLUCHER: Thank you. That partially answers the next point I was going to make but the point I was really wanting to make is that, is it necessary to engage the four doctors when we only previously had two and the eighteen bed hospital has not increased, but you have answered that to some degree that you only pay two doctors.

The other question is, are the retired and semi retired medical people on the Island being used to its fullest as locums whilst doctors are on holidays

MR E CHRISTIAN: Yes these people are being used as needed and I think as fully as can be used in the circumstances and to good effect

MR BLUCHER: I have further questions Mr President, shall I continue

MR PRESIDENT: Please Mr Blucher

MR BLUCHER: This question is to the Minister for Community Services and it deals with the upgrading of the airport. Is the Minister aware that the undergrounding of the power through the Burnt Pine area means that the location of any new hospital would need to be in that area and nowhere else on the Island due to the cost of the undergrounding

MR E CHRISTIAN: Mr President that's not quite right. With the present set up of the power it would need the Hospital, would definately need to be or it would be adviseable for it to be in roughly the same area of where it is now. With the undergrounding can come a relatively expensive set up which governments are still discussing which would allow circuiting of the power as I understand it and allow placement of the Hospital in some other areas. Conduits are going to be put in in the present upgrading as soon as we can get it to take place to allow for the possible extension of power in any case

MR BLUCHER: Thank you. Is the Minister aware that there was a comment made during a meeting held in that Burnt Pine area the other day by members with the officers of the electricity undertaking that a comment was made that if that were to take place well then the Hospital would have to remain within the particular area that it is now located

MR E CHRISTIAN: Mr President I am aware of that comment yes

MR N CHRISTIAN: Mr President I believe I can provide supplementary answers if that would be appropriate. Taking on board some of the things that Ernie has said, as members would be aware plans for undergrounding electricity through the Burnt Pine area is fairly well progressed. The cable that is designed to be installed now has a growth factor capability of 100% on current loads of the end. In addition to that a spare duct will be put through the Burnt Pine area for future growth needs to negate re-digging up the road. At the moment the Hospital has its own dedicated electricity service from the power house and if in future the hospital was shifted from an area other than where it is today it may be appropriate that the Hospital consider the cost of the dedicated service to where-ever the new area is as part of the capital cost of providing the new hospital. For instance if the hospital was relocated in Middlegate or something like that the capital cost for cable would be in the vicinity of \$100,000 for a dedicated service to the hospital and if you are talking about spending, I don't know, somewhere between 5 and 8 million dollars for a new hospital it is not an outrageous fee to be included in the capital cost of the hospital project

MR E CHRISTIAN: Mr President if I may I have just received some further information on a question that was asked by Mr Brown earlier and if I may expand on that. Mr Brooksbanks the General Manager of flight services, Civil Aviation Authority intends visiting the Island on the 24th April to discuss CAA's plans or changes to the existing flight service arrangements

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. This is a question that has been dealt with by the Minister for Tourism and I don't know if the Minister for Community Services, Mr Christian, can give me any answers on it but as he has undertaken to answer questions on behalf of Mr Smith, here I go. There has been alot of communication with the Minister for Tourism with regard to the situation of the hire car operators on the Island and I say at this point that I do have some interest in making this statement. I also make it on behalf of those people that are in the industry and they don't seem to have any other spokesmen at this point. The question is has the government undertaken to look into the matter of the closed competitiveness of the accommodation houses and the

competition by the accommodation houses into the field of the hire car operating and is the Minister aware that if the Government has done nothing after all these months that this factor is now on the increase and almost all accommodation houses on the Island will very soon have hire cars to offer to their clients and the hire car operators cannot compete. Is the Minister aware that the hire car operators cannot compete with the accommodation houses in their area in free enterprise due to the somewhat closed freeze on accommodation houses not allowing others to compete in that area and will the Government undertake if they've not already undertaken to do something about it otherwise it will destroy the whole industry

MR E CHRISTIAN: Mr President the Government has been having discussions along about this matter. It's quite concerned about the matter. It's definitely having the accommodation people are definitely having an effect on the other businesses and things which is quite worrying. It is the full intention of this Assembly to do something about it in one way whether the whole accommodation thing should be thrown open to everybody if everybody is seeing that they are the only protected industry on the Island whether it would allow everybody else into it the same as, and deal with it in the same way as the accommodation people are dealing with the rental car system or just what, I'm not certain yet, but there has been discussions, quite strong discussions and the Government is quite worried about the development and the way it's going.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. If I may request that if the President may allow, if thought fit at the appropriate time that this matter be further discussed in the adjournment debate so that members can put forward points of view.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, adjournment debate is available for putting points that you would to Mr Blucher. Any questions.  
Further Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you. This question is to the Minister for Immigration, Mr Christian. Has the Minister taken any action with regard to a letter from a member of the public, a resident of Norfolk Island, with regard to an amendment to 21f of the Immigration Act 1990 and if he has not undertaken or carried out any action on this matter may I with leave of the House, table the letter so that it can be placed officially into the pool and dealt with. I refer, Mr President, to a letter from Palm Court, the operators of Palm Court, Kath Adams-Friend, with regard to a suggested amendment.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, I'm sorry, I'd heard that this letter was around but I still haven't seen a copy of it but I've been making some enquiries as to where it is, but if Mr Blucher would like to give me his copy I can probably do something about it. But I heard it was about, I'm sorry I haven't had a copy.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you. With leave of the House I'll table it Mr President. I understood that all members were circulated with it.

MR PRESIDENT: Does that conclude your questions Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: No, but I'm willing to take a break at this point Mr President.

MR SANDERS: Thank you Mr President. I'll give Mr Ernie Christian a break, just for a second and I direct this one to Mr Neville Christian. And the question is do you propose to insist that seconded officers who have subsidised housing pay a very substantial bond to cover the cost of such things as missing sit-down lawn mowers, furniture ruined, carpets ruined and neglect of property, and surely if these people are used to living in sub-standard accommodation we can find something to make them feel at home.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Neville Christian.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Thank you Mr President. I am aware that we have from time to time experienced difficulties with some seconded officers

leaving a house in a sub-standard state when they vacate the premises and thereby leaving the Administration with a substantial bill to bring the properties back up to scratch. I can't do anything about it too much in the life left in this Assembly, but if re-elected I certainly intend to see that some onus is placed on the seconded officers to leave the properties in satisfactory condition.

MR SANDERS: Thank you Mr President. I feel that Mr Ernie Christian has had a big enough rest. I direct this question to Mr Ernie Christian. Can you inform this House if it is usual to pay a Headmaster \$57,000 tax-free income per year to not teach in a school with approximately as little as 300 students.

MR PRESIDENT: Point of order. Order, order. Yes Mr Sanders, Standing Order 72A precludes specific identification of people who hold statutory or Public Service office. It doesn't mean that it cannot be raised but there are procedures which needs to be followed before it can be raised in that manner and the procedure of course is that strangers be excluded and we discontinue the broadcasting arrangement.

MR SANDERS: Well perhaps Mr President I should apologise for breaching that Standing Order and perhaps Mr Christian could tell us, inform the House as to whether it is usual to have a Headmaster that

MR PRESIDENT: Order, order.

MR SANDERS: that doesn't teach.

MR PRESIDENT: I made it quite clear Mr Sanders about the matter of identification. If you wish to pursue it I mentioned that there are procedures in which you can, but they need to be observed.

MR SANDERS: Is it offensive to refer ...

MR PRESIDENT: It's not a matter of offensive, it's a matter of ...

MR SANDERS: I'm aware of the Standing Order Mr President, if perhaps you could assist me. I'm referring to is it usual to have a person, a teacher, to not teach, does the position of Headmaster mean that there's a difference?

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, If I may say, Headmasters' jobs ...

MR PRESIDENT: Order, go on, let's get it clear, if you want to do it one way by mentioning people, we need to comply with the Standing Orders. If you want to delete all reference to individual posts, then fine, we can proceed, but it needs to be one way or the other. What do you want to do?

MR ROBINSON: Perhaps after Questions without Notice Mr President I could move that Section 72a be taken

MR SANDERS: It's a question I'm looking at Mr President, not a debate ...

MR BROWN: Mr President could I move that as much of Standing Orders as is required be suspended to enable Mr Sanders to ask his question.

MR PRESIDENT: Then I put that motion to the House, those of the opinion to approve that proposal say aye.

QUESTION PUT

MISS BUFFETT: No. Mr President, can I ask a question. Is it, does that mean that 72a not be invoked so that the question ...

MR PRESIDENT: Yes it does.

MISS BUFFETT: I believe that the Standing Order should be upheld and I will therefore vote against that motion.

MR PRESIDENT: Do you wish the House to be called?

MISS BUFFETT: Yes.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, please. Then if the Clerk would please call the House.

QUESTION PUT

MR BUFFETT	NO
MR BROWN	AYE
MR BLUCHER	AYE
MISS BUFFETT	NO
MR N CHRISTIAN	AYE
MR ROBINSON	AYE
MR E CHRISTIAN	NO
MR SANDERS	AYE

MR PRESIDENT: Result of voting Honourable Members. The ayes five the noes three the ayes have it. Therefore so much of Standing Orders are suspended to allow you to raise your matter. Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Mr President, thank you for that. I wasn't intending to debate, it was just a question, and I'll repeat the question if I may. Can you inform this House if it is usual to pay a Headmaster \$57,000 tax-free per year to not teach in a school with approximately as little as 300 students.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, could I say that the arrangements now to my knowledge are no different to what has been previously, that the Headmaster's job covers a wide range of duties and a lot of these are pure and simply administrative. He does teach as I understand it, when and if required, and when he gets the time to do it, but his duties certainly covers a lot of other things apart from straight teaching.

MR PRESIDENT: Further questions without notice. Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: I direct this one also to Mr Ernie Christian. I refer to a recent letter in the local paper where it was alleged that persons working for the lighterage were putting half bags of onions and spuds etc., in their cars and the question is what action have you taken to clear the good name of our lighterage workers.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President I haven't done anything about this as the shipping didn't come under me, but I haven't done anything, maybe Mr Neville Christian ...

MR SANDERS: Will I redirect this to Mr Neville Christian ...

MR PRESIDENT: Do you wish to redirect ...

MR SANDERS; Did you hear the question or would you like me to repeat it.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Would you repeat the question please Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: I refer to a recent letter in the local paper where it was alleged that persons working for the lighterage were putting half bags of onions, spuds etc., in their cars, and the question was what action have you taken to clear the good name of our lighterage workers.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Neville Christian.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, the simple fact of the matter is I've taken no action to clear the names of our lighterage workers because I believe the author of the letter may have written it as a result of pure observation without knowing where the potatoes or half bags of anything ended up. They may well have been loaded into the car and delivered to whoever the rightful owner was and I thought it was somebody expressing through the paper a rather misguided view and didn't intend to take the matter any further.

MR PRESIDENT: Any further questions without notice.  
Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. My next question is to Mr Neville Christian. Has Mr Christian received any reply on certain enquiries that he made about a GST package talked about in the Fight-Back programme of the Federal Opposition.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Thank you Mr President. Research is still being done on implication for Norfolk if GST were introduced in Australia. I'm not able to comment authoritatively on that aspect at the moment, other than to say that with a casual glance it appears with the political things happening in Australia that it's quite unlikely that it will happen.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. I realise that it was a matter of opinion rather than fact Mr President. My next question is to Mr Ernest Christian. Has the Minister been able to ascertain whether all solicitors and lawyers who practise on Norfolk Island is covered by, or a member of that fraternities fidelity fund in order to protect the interest of clients on Norfolk Island.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President as far as I can ascertain all of the practising solicitors do have a covering.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you. The question is has Mr Christian approached those people that are not on the island, that visit the island, has he approached those people to ascertain whether they have or have not got a cover.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Those ones, all of them Mr President, no not as yet, but I have set correspondence in action to ascertain that.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. My next question is to the Minister for Community Services. Can the minister again confirm that the sewerage line extension to the school will not pick up tourist accommodation houses, residences and the tennis club in Queen Elizabeth Avenue, if not was there a considered decision to alter the line direction and for what reasons was this decision taken and by whom.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President Mr Blucher is right the present line up to the school will not pick up those accommodations units and Cheryl Tennis Club or those buildings down that side. It was a decision which was made with discussions between myself, some of the members of this Assembly, the Health and Building Officer, Administration Works area and engineers that made us do what we did. The reason, the main reason for altering the set-up was because of cost and not quite so much the cost in installation, but the cost in maintaining the sewerage line after it was in. If we'd followed the original planning it would have meant pump stations. By going the way we have gone now it deletes the pump stations. These areas, as I said before, Cheryl Tennis Club and those places will be picked up, they will be picked up by and handled by a line which works completely on gravity and thus doing away with the need for pump stations and that's the reason we did it. Overall it finished up far, far cheaper, well it does actually finish up a cheaper installation but it finished up a much cheaper unit to operate.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr President. Well the Minister is aware, and I ask is the Minister aware that those people who are in that area and have those accommodation in those areas, because of perhaps the shortness of funds, that service as of now may never be available to them.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, going back to an earlier statement, I said that we would be running a line up along that area, up behind the Cheryl Tennis Courts and through there to pick up all of that area, so these units that are there and the houses, accommodation units, everything else will eventually come onto the sewer and in the not too distant future.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you. Thank you Mr President. I understand the answer, but the point of my question is there'll be now two lines, two lines must cost something in excess of one line, now had it been the decision to, and I'm trying to correct the question not the statement Mr President, had it been the decision to run one line and place pumping, pumps, along that original line, why should that not be comparable costing on the first estimates rather than having to put two lines in. The question is what is the comparison between one line going up Queen Elizabeth Avenue with pumping stations on it compared to the cost of two lines, one going one way and one going up the other way.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President there would have been more than one line in any case to pick up all the various areas, they would fed back into a pump station which was sited in a different area. The actual footage of piping and things like that which is now laid and intended to lay as against what was originally designed isn't too far different. What it does do basically is cut out the need for the pumping stations and a continued expenditure to maintain those pump stations and make the whole scheme cheaper to run.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, Mr Neville Christian wants to supplement ...

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Yes, I have a few supplementary answers Mr President to Mr Blucher's question to basically assess that the sewer system on Norfolk consists of more than one line and no one line will service all of the areas where sewerage service is needed and quite often you need more than one line and that is in fact what has happened and I think Mr Blucher also needs to take into account the fact that we received substantial Commonwealth funding to take that sewer extension to the school and in honouring our commitments to the Commonwealth that is exactly what has happened, we have picked a substantial number of private dwellings along the way and branch lines in addition to the main sewer system will probably be an on-going project on Norfolk for maybe the next 4, 5, 6, 7 years, whatever the Assembly decides to do. There's a massive scope for additional lines to be built without the need for additional pump stations and as Mr Christian has stated pumps stations play an enormous burden on our electricity resources so the whole sewer system has been designed around gravitational sewers and there really is no need to change a successful formula.

MR PRESIDENT: Question time has expired Honourable Members.

MR SANDERS: I move that ...

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: I move that question time be extended by a further 15 minutes.

MR PRESIDENT: 15 minutes. Is that agreed Honourable Members.

AGREED

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: May I continue. Thank you. This question to the Minister for Finance who I understand is dealing with the upgrading of the airport. Has there been or is there being a present worked on budget for the upgrading of the terminal in this next financial year.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Neville Christian.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Yes Mr President. When Government business enterprises budgets do come forward, or the projected budgets for the next financial year, preliminary design work and things like that on the new airport terminal will be a major priority.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Further question on the airport Mr President. Will the Minister ensure that wherever possible time off for additional work, specifically training of officers and new employees at the airport be given rather than overtime being paid for the training periods and that training periods be carried out during the week if possible rather than week-end.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Neville Christian.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Thank you Mr President. I believe that is the situation as it exists now Mr President. Initially there was a need to provide overtime when the RFFS was first taken over but in fact now I believe all training is provided during normal working hours. However, the situation will continue to be monitored closely.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Mr President. A brief one to the Minister for Community Services. Can the Minister give an up-date on the arrangements for the future quarrying on Norfolk Island.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, I believe that negotiations for continuation of quarrying is going on between Island Industries and Mr Dalyell Christian at present and an application has been put to the Building Board for removal of soil and the carrying on of this operation. On the, this will still be to a point a reasonably limited operation as there doesn't appear to be all that much rock left in that area. Also it is my understanding that the owner of that didn't wish to go any, or much further in that area. Administration is still carrying on with the survey for the possible use of Cascade cliff face. That programme is fairly well developed now and I should have something to lay before Members of this House, or there should be something ready to be laid before Members of this House by the next sitting.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Thank you. Mr President, I also direct this one to Mr Ernie Christian. At the February meeting of this year you confirmed that a meeting took place between yourself, a school teacher, parts of this Assembly and David Buffett, giving Government assurances of support for a television dish at the school. The question is who gave David Buffett MLA and the Clerk the authority to give Government approval to the school for anything.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President I don't know that the actual permission was given by the Clerk or by Mr Buffett. Mr Buffett, as an MLA, was, and the man who is charged with the day-by-day handling of educational matters which is on the discussions and that certainly, but there are a lot more other things, and I have a statement here to make later on which may help to clarify the whole situation with regards to the satellite dish and the funding of it.

MR SANDERS: Perhaps Mr President I should leave any further questions until that time if I may.

MR PRESIDENT: Okay, thank you.

MR SANDERS: I have a number of questions here for Mr Smith, it's a pity he's not here. I have another one for Mr Neville Christian and it's can you advise this House if there is such a thing as a Privileges Ledger in the Accounts Department to enable some Public Servants to drip feed payment of their accounts and if so are these payments interest free and is this service available to the public.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Thank you Mr President. No there is no what do you call it,

MR SANDERS: Privileges Ledger.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Privileges Ledger. However, if someone

approaches the Finance Manager and indicates that they have a difficulty in paying a particular bill, whether it be a Public Servant or a member of the community, there are situations where we do allow part-payment of accounts and regular instalments. The particular accounts are closely monitored and if the debt is actually increasing at a rate faster than what they're paying it off then the necessary steps are taken in the event of it being a telephone account or an electricity account they are cut off.

MR SANDERS: ...I've had enough forwarning I would have asked Mr Neville Christian to make a statement, but I didn't ... I have one further question for Mr Ernie Christian if I may. And the question is you stated at the February meeting that the value of the soil that was removed from the Netball area was nearly enough to pay for the Courts. Do you propose to dig more holes so that it will balance the budget for this year?

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President no I don't intend to dig any more holes to balance the budget. I still stand by the original statement I made that top soil has a great value. It is being used in places where we would have had to purchase that top soil and a recent amount as Mr Sanders knows is going to the school to help to finish the oval and get it ready for the games.

MR SANDERS: If I may, perhaps Mr Christian could look into the possibility of digging some more holes to balance the budget.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President I certainly can if it will help I'll look into that.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, if I may reply to the earlier question asked by Mr Blucher regarding a letter about an immigration matter. I've just read that letter and I can say that every aspect in that letter has been covered by the Immigration Review Group and I will be tabling that report today, so if the whole aspect of what was written in that letter is covered by that.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Further questions. Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you. My question is to the President, Mr President. Are you in a position at this point to make a further statement on the, updated statement, on the position with regard to the electoral matter on Norfolk Island as emanating from the Legal Regimes Committee.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Blucher the last report I gave you went through a fairly lengthy sequence of events which picked up from the report from the Standing Committee of the Federal Parliament. The negotiations we commenced with Minister Simmons, the proposal that Norfolk Island put to endeavour to accommodate two views, and that was, firstly that Norfolk Island should not be corporately placed within the Federal electoral sphere and secondly that there may be an opportunity for persons who had eligibility in Norfolk Island and who wanted to participate may individually so participate under certain arrangements. Those views have been very strongly pursued with the Federal Government and I made a substantial report, as I've just mentioned, which gave the toing and froing in respect of that. The latest situation is that the proposal we have, which is that Norfolk Island individuals who may wish to exercise a voluntary situation in respect of voting may have a range of options as to where they may enrol depending upon what affinity they may have with a Federal electorate, and that is still with, in a substantive sense, the appropriate Minister, who is Wendy Fatin. There have been some adjustments to that proposals because it has been put by the Federal authorities that maybe there would be situations where people who wanted to exercise a option and maybe would not have the sort of affinity that I've earlier mentioned, where would they go, and there have been some refining of the proposal to ensure that they could be appropriately placed, and we are waiting a formal reponse in respect of that proposal. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. Because that matter has come up in question time and answered in questions without notice time, would it be possible to address that subject where it normally would have come in perhaps at statement time to enable Members around this table to note the statement which virtually you have been called upon to give an answer.

MR PRESIDENT: I've not made a statement Miss Buffett, I've responded to a question without notice.

MISS BUFFETT: Well Mr President with respect, your response to a question asked, will that be precluding you as President to make a statement in that area. Will you be making a statement in that area later on.

MR PRESIDENT: No, I won't be making a statement, having responded as I have now.

MISS BUFFETT: Right. May I ask the question then please, ...

MR BLUCHER: I'm satisfied with the answer Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, thank you.

MISS BUFFETT: What, what does the President mean by his reply that "those wanting to exercise the option of voting in a Federal Election", what does the President mean by saying that there will be appropriate channels, I think it is, for them, appropriate areas for them to be able to exercise that option. Could you please ...

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, the proposals that have been put to the Federal Government are these. That people in Norfolk Island who want to exercise an option may do so in Federal Electorates with which they have an affinity, and the affinity would be based upon these sorts of things. Where they may have been previously enrolled, where they may have been born if that is the case, where they may have relations, relatives if that is the case, or failing those, where they may have some affinity. There the sort of options that have been put to the Federal authorities.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank your Mr President. What provision would be made for who to decide where they are supposed to have affinity if in fact they were not born on the other side, born in Australia or don't have relations in that part of Australia. My question relates to that. Who would decide where their votes would go. Would they be given the opportunity to say well my vote would be counted in one of those three areas, territory areas, would it be the elector who decided where the vote is to be counted.

MR PRESIDENT: As I understand, that that would be then a matter for the Electoral Authorities, where they made application to the Electoral Authorities to be so enrolled.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Any further questions. Mr Brown.

MR BROWN: Mr President, I direct this question to Mr Ernie Christian. Is it a fact that the Health Care Fund and the hospital both operate through one bank account, and if so is it possible that expenditure beyond expectations in respect of the Health Care Fund could leave the hospital short of funds for its day to day operation.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr President, the answer to both those two questions is yes.

MR BROWN: A further question Mr President. I realise that that is the present legislative structure and clearly the Minister can bear no responsibility for that but has any action been taken to investigate making a change to that situation.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, yes there's discussions under way and action being taken now to possibly make changes to that arrangement.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Brown.

MR BROWN: Mr President, I direct a further question to Mr Ernie Christian and it relates to the question of re-insurance in respect of the Health Care Fund. Is it a fact that until recently the premium for the re-insurance in relation to the Health Care Fund had not been paid and is it further a fact that although the premium has now been paid the Administration would not be able to successfully claim under the insurance because it has failed to provide the necessary regular reporting to the insurer.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President there was some delay in arranging the re-insurance, yes. The re-insurance now is in place and as I understand it we are at present covered under those arrangements. There is delay in the monthly reports but I believe we are still covered.

MR PRESIDENT: Are there any further questions without notice, Mr Brown.

MR BROWN: Mr President, I wonder if I could ask Mr Ernie Christian if he would be so good as to look at the question as to whether or not the island is still covered under the re-insurance, and in the event that there is any doubt as to that cover, could the Minister undertake that all necessary action will be taken without further delay to bring the reporting up to date in order to ensure that the cover is valid.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, most definitely steps are already in hand to check on the first part of the question that was asked by Mr Brown and further action is being taken to ensure that total accounting and everything through the hospital and health care area is available on a monthly basis.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. One question, which I direct to the Minister having responsibility for the Administration. Pursuant to the circular distributed to contributors of the Administration Provident Account just prior to the last Referendum, could I ask what direct steps have been taken by this Government to advise the Federal Government department concerned that the Norfolk Island Administration Superannuation Fund is non-taxable and what response has been received from the Federal Government.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Ernie Christian.

MISS BUFFETT: I apologise for not having put it on notice this week as I should have because I asked last time. Thank you.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President. I had checked to give an answer to Miss Buffett. At this stage we haven't had any substantial reply back from the Australian Government. I spoke on Monday with the Administration gentleman who is handling the Provident Fund and he is going to look further into it. That's about all I can do with it at this stage but further action is taking place to clarify the whole situation.

MR PRESIDENT: Time has expired Honourable Members. We will move on to questions that are on notice. I'll just look at the Notice Paper for a moment. Question Number 56 which is in the name of the Minister for Community Services, and 57 the Minister for Finance and continuing on. You might give me some idea as to whether you are in the position to respond to those this morning. Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, maybe now is the time for me to make a statement which would cover, I think, the bulk of those questions.

MR PRESIDENT: Is it a response to the question Mr Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: It is basically a response to all the questions, yes.

- MR PRESIDENT: Okay. Well I'll interpret them as such.
- MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, at the Tourism Conference in December 1991, pupils of the Norfolk Island Central School presented papers and spoke to the Conference on a number of tourism related issues. The Headmaster at that time advised the Conference that in 1992 the school would have the opportunity to provide educational and training programmes via satellite. However, a satellite dish would need to ...
- MR SANDERS: Mr President, if I may ...
- MR PRESIDENT: Yes, Mr Sanders.
- MR SANDERS: I don't feel that this is an answer to the question. It's only giving reasons why something was done. I've actually have asked questions which, the questions are directly associated with the laws of Norfolk Island and I don't think a broad statement that just glosses over why somebody did something is sufficient. I would prefer the question to be answered as they are rather than in the form of a statement.
- MR PRESIDENT: Mr Sanders, I am not, and indeed you would not be either, at liberty to tell the Minister what his answers will be. However, what I would ask the Minister is to clearly identify to myself and to the House which questions he is responding to.
- MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, I feel that this will cover questions from, will cover 52, 55, 56, 57, 58. I've a feeling it will cover those ones Mr President.
- MR N. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, if I might point out 57 was a question directed at the Minister for Finance and I'll be providing my own answers in my own areas of responsibility.
- MR PRESIDENT: Then do I interpret Mr Ernie Christian, that the answers you are giving now relate to 52, 55, 56 and 58.
- MR E. CHRISTIAN: Yes Mr President.
- MR PRESIDENT: Then I do interpret from what you say that they may touch upon some factors in 57, but then Mr Neville Christian will be providing a substantive response in respect of that.
- MR SANDERS: Mr President if I may, these are questions on notice, statements are for statement time. These are questions on notice, specifically asked because it is apparent that there is a blatant breach of the law. I don't believe a statement that glosses over the lot is satisfactory.
- MR PRESIDENT: Yes, Mr Sanders, I am endeavouring to give Mr Ernie Christian an opportunity to respond to the ones that he has identified to us and I am interpreting that that is what he is going at this moment. Whether that satisfies you in respect of answers is of course a matter for you to cogitate in your own mind but I can accept that he is responding to those questions. Certainly at this stage.
- MR BLUCHER: Mr President, may I make a suggestion to the House to overcome this problem is that is it possible, with leave of the House, that Mr Sanders ask the specific questions and then await an answer on each one.
- MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President ...
- MR SANDERS: The questions have been asked ...
- MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, to keep everybody happy I will reserve that statement until statement time and I will endeavour to answer the questions as they appear one by one by Mr Sanders.
- MR SANDERS: Thank you.
- MR PRESIDENT: Which one do you want to tackle now then.
- MR E. CHRISTIAN: I can answer the one which is directly asked of

the Minister for Community Services.

MR PRESIDENT: Good. Well please proceed.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Thank you. Question 56 Mr Sanders asked the Minister for Community Services "Can you inform the House whether called the Challenge Trust Fund complies with the requirements of the Trustee Ordinance 1931 - Can you inform the House who the trustee or trustees of this Fund are and whether they comply with the requirements of the Ordinance". In reply to that Mr President, there is no Challenge Trust Fund, there is no trustees or trustee.

MR SANDERS: I move, or perhaps I could just ask a supplementary question.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes. Supplementary question Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Supplementary question. As it is an obvious breach of the law, what action do you propose to take to rectify it.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, I don't see there's an obvious breach of the law. I was asked a question and I answered it. There's is no breach, because there is no Trust Fund, there is no trustee or trustees. No breach of the law. I do have a statement to make in statement time.

MR PRESIDENT: Are you in a position to respond to 57, the next one, Mr Neville Christian.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: I will respond to question 57. Thank you Mr President. I'll read the question and the question is "Will you enquire and report to the House at its next meeting whether the promoter or promoters of a public fund raising scheme called the 'Challenge Trust Fund' applied for formal approval under the Lotteries and Fund Raising Act 1987 and whether such approval was granted before they started to raise funds. Will you also inform the House at the same time what penalties are provided by the Act for carrying on a public fund raising scheme without formal approval and for authorising an advertisement for such a fund and for printing an advertisement for such a fund and for selling a ticket in aid of such a fund and for accepting money for such a fund and for printing such tickets. In short term Mr President, the Lotteries and Fund Raising Act 1987 says in Part III Item 16, and I shall read it, "A person, whether or not a natural person, or an association, whether or not a registered association, shall not, without first having obtained the approval of the Executive Member conduct a prescribed scheme". And a prescribed is detailed. And the penalty units for doing any of these things contrary to the law is 20 penalty units, and Mr President, I might add, I do not know if the Challenge Trust Fund exists in one form or the other, but I can tell this House that no approval was sought, nor was any approval given for the creation of any such Trust Fund.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Yes, Mr Sanders. Supplementary question.

MR SANDERS: Can I ask of Mr Neville Christian as this was an advertised one in our local paper what action do you propose to take to rectify the problem.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Mr Sanders, no action has been taken up to this stage and now that we're aware of the implications from the areas of responsibility that I have I will certainly be doing a bit of research and taking the action of the law not recommends, in fact states, I should do.

MR SANDERS: Mr President, I was a little bit worried ...

MR PRESIDENT: A question, is there a question Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: I was just referring to the battery in the Government launch that it might go away and there might be somebody satisfied that it's all right.

MR PRESIDENT: Is there a question, is there a question.

MR PRESIDENT: No. I wonder if I might refer to Question on Notice No. 54. It is a question from Mr Sanders to the Minister for Tourism and indeed the Minister for Tourism may wish to respond in his own way at another time but maybe that's not that practical in these circumstances but it does touch upon areas which relates to the office of the President and I would want to equip you with some responses in respect of that matter from the President's point of view. I will read the appropriate question which is No 54 on the Notice Paper. It asks "When did you authorise - this is to the Minister for Tourism - when did you authorise the payment of between \$500 and \$600 per week for the Clerk of this Assembly to do Tourist Bureau work in Assembly time and 2. Do you propose to reimburse the Assembly vote from the Tourism vote of these funds". The answer to the first part of the question is that the Minister for Tourism has not authorised payment of such monies for the Clerk of the Assembly as suggested by the question. Furthermore it is wrong to suggest that the Clerk in this way is doing Tourist Bureau work in Assembly time. As Mr Sanders, who asked the question, and Members will be aware, Mrs Graham, the Clerk, has been a member of the Board of the Tourist Bureau since July 1990 and I think that was referred to us in an informal way when that happened and has carried out that role in an honorary capacity without being remunerated and I think it's fair to say that Mrs Graham is to be commended as other people are for giving up a lot of her free time to represent the community in this important industry which is tourism. Members will be aware that funds for the salary of the Clerk are itemised within the Revenue Fund budget and listed in a pool of salaries which is subsequently approved under a supply bill of this Assembly and for the 1991/92 financial year the amount allocated was included in the budget as an item under the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly vote and in accordance with the approved funding of this House, I have as President of the Assembly authorised payment of the Clerk's salary and this arrangement has been in place during the life of this Assembly and was of course the case in the life of previous Assemblies. There isn't an intention to reimburse the Legislative Assembly vote because it has been approved in the manner that I have mentioned, reimbursed from Tourism vote, or from any other vote. As all Members will be aware the Clerk performs a range of duties in addition to those attending meetings of the Assembly. These include taking phone calls, typing, receptionist work, liaison with Administration officers and assisting the Executive Members and other Members with filing and other work as required. In particular during the time of the present Minister for Tourism, that is since May 1989, the Clerk has acted in a liaison role between the Minister and the Public Service and on many occasions between the Minister and the Norfolk Island Government Bureau, which was the context of the earlier question. And let me give you a current example. Mrs Graham has been appointed to organise arrangements for the Tourist Ministers Council which is to be held in the island on 22 May. The Council's meeting will co-ordinate with the ABC launch of their new holiday series in which we will have a key role, if you will remember. In this role, Mrs Graham will be required to liaise closely with the Executive Officer of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau, but obviously doing that on behalf of the appropriate Minister, not on behalf of the Board and Members will be aware that Mrs Graham similarly liaises with the Public Service and with the general public on behalf of all Members of this Assembly when called upon to do so but especially with Executive Members, and so I put that information in front of you in the context of that earlier question raised, not endeavouring to answer it in a sense for the Minister who may want to do his own thing, but there are matters that reflect upon the role that I have to play and the role of the Clerk and on that basis I provide you with that information.

MR SANDERS: As you have provided that information perhaps I could ask you a couple of questions that I would have asked Mr Smith.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, and if I'm able to respond to them I will Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Thank you. You may notice Mr President in the last budget there was a provision of almost \$400,000 for the Tourist Bureau. Are you suggesting that it's \$400,000 plus whatever else somebody can spend or should all Tourist Bureau funding come out of that \$400,000 funding that has been provided.

MR PRESIDENT: Well I endeavoured to explain to you Mr Sanders that what I have described here is worked by the Clerk of the Assembly and the roles that derive from that office in assisting Members or Ministers. What you're talking about is the Tourist Board area and the Minister will have to answer for that. All I'm trying to ask you to understand is that,...

MR SANDERS: There's a number of things you could answer ...

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, do I, I really have the floor and whilst you have the floor I'm specific from this chair to ensure that you have an opportunity to have your say, and equally other Members when their turn comes and I do expect the same courtesy. The matter that you have raised is talking about the Tourist Board budget of which I am not the knowledgeable person that relates to the Minister for Tourism and he would need to respond to those sort of queries.

MR SANDERS: Mr President, talking from the chair could you inform this House as to whether all the other Tourist Board Members received a salary of in excess of \$16 per hour.

MR PRESIDENT: No, I don't know Mr Sanders, that's not a matter that's really relevant to what I have described to the House.

MR SANDERS: Well perhaps Mr President should by chance I get re-elected again this matter of keeping persons within the budget arrangements should be something that should be considered.

MR PRESIDENT: We move now to further questions that are on notice and the next if I interpret correctly might relate to 58, 59 I'm sorry, and that's to the Minister for Community Services.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr Sanders asked the Minister for Community Services who recommended to the Administrator that approval should be granted for the latest transfer of Crown Lease Land Portion 145e to a person who already holds crown leasehold land even though such transfer is contrary to Section 11 of the Crown Lands Ordinance 1913-1964. The reply Mr President, I have made due enquiries into this matter and I am advised that the transfer of Crown Lease Portion 145c was provided by the Administrator having regard to the matters submitted to him by the applicants. The comments of DASETT and existing policy is set out in Part 11 Section 8 of the Crowns Lands Review Discussion Paper. I have available for Mr Sanders a copy of that section of the Discussion Paper.

MR SANDERS: If it's different from what I have Mr President I would be pleased to receive it.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. That concludes Questions on Notice Honourable Members. We move to Presentation of Papers. Any papers to present. Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, pursuant to paragraph 41/2/a of the Interpretation Ordinance 1979 I lay before the House the following regulations. The Health Hairdressers (Amendment) Regulations 1992, the Pasturage and Enclosure (Amendment) Regulations 1992 and the Pharmacy (Amendment) Regulations 1992. Mr President, the making of these Regulations is consequential on a Transfer of Powers Statute Law (Revision) Legislation passed during the life of this Assembly and basically all that that meant Mr President is that they are transferring the powers of the Administrator to the Executive Member.

MR PRESIDENT: Any other papers. Mr Neville Christian.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, I table the following papers. Firstly, the Financial Indicators for the months of January and February 1992 and whilst I won't go into them in detail Mr President just to say that expenditure and income are fairly well on target. Secondly, Mr President, I table directions I've given for virements of funds. I'll just elaborate on that Mr President for the information of Members. There is a total of 14 virements that I'm tabling today but 10 of those virements were part of a budget review process and this formalises the moving of funds to reflect what happened in the budget review. Thirdly Mr President, I table directions I've given for waiver of Customs Duties

and they are as follows : the sum of \$83.25 being duty payable on Commemorative Port Wine imported on behalf of the RSL Sub-Branch in support of the Vietnam Veterans Association Charity Drive. The sum of \$165.60 being duty payable on Lions Cakes imported by the Norfolk Island Lions Club, the sum of \$63.36 being duty payable on 6 baby safety capsules imported by the Rotary Club of Norfolk Island, the sum of \$46.65 being duty payable on medallions and sashes imported by the Norfolk Island Gun Club, the sum of \$150.12 being duty payable on a trolley and landing mats imported by the Norfolk Island Gym Club, the sum of \$79.12 being duty payable on mats imported by the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau, the sum of \$13.31 being duty payable on walkie-talkie head sets imported by Mr Ron Beckett for the Volunteer Rescue Squad and finally Mr President I table an advice I received from the Collector of Customs that four headstones were admitted duty free under the standing duty exemption on headstones. The duty waived totalled \$345.11. Thank you Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: I notice on the Notice Paper there is a Motion by Mr Neville Christian in relation to exemptions from duty. Is that still to happen or is that ...

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Yes Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Are there any further Papers. No further Papers. Yes, I'm sorry.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: I may table the tourist figures for March 1992 on behalf of the Tourist Minister.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, thank you.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: I will so table.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, thank you.

MR BLUCHER: I move that the Papers be noted Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: The question is that the Tourism Figures be noted. The paper concerning the Tourism Figures be noted. Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you. On looking at this paper for this time of the year I think that the figures look reasonably well from where I sit. There are concerns with the New Zealand traffic, quite a lot of concern with the New Zealand traffic. I was hoping that the Minister for Tourism would have been able to give us any update on the reasons or actions taken by the Bureau to try and alleviate this matter and whether there has been any discussions with the Norfolk Island Government or anybody else to jointly come to some terms in endeavouring to get more tourists coming from the New Zealand end and perhaps he might have been able to give us some reasons why, but it's a shame to see it happening and it seems to be a trend that's continuing for a while and I believe a lot of this has to do with the cheap air fares that are now being advertised across the Tasman to different places in Australia and I think that's one area of competition that we are losing out and the quicker some action is taken with the airlines, between the airlines and the Tourist Bureau in an endeavour to encourage not only cheaper air fares across from New Zealand to Norfolk Island but also some form of other types of incentive by the local scene, and that is accommodation houses who I believe should at some stage in the lower periods be able to offer certain incentives for people to visit the island, together with the cry for reduced air fares and so forth. I believe that we have a good product here to sell Mr President and I believe it is that product and the island that we should be selling as much as we possible can rather than putting a financial aspect on to it because we are a unique place, we're different to everywhere else and that's what we have to sell, not necessarily the cost all the time.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Neville Christian.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Thank you Mr President. Just to add further to some of the comments that Mr Blucher has made concerning the New Zealand market. Mr George Smith in fact had been attending meetings with Air New

Zealand and Qantas over the week-end about this very factor, but unfortunately he's not here to inform us of what progress was made but nevertheless I think it must be made public that the meeting did in fact take place, we just haven't been able to be briefed on the results.

MR PRESIDENT: It may be helpful for me to say that I spoke briefly on the telephone with Mr Smith this morning when he explained to me that he was unwell and would seek to be excused from this meeting and I do again emphasise that he is unwell and that is the reason for him not being present. He said that he was encouraged by his meeting with the Airline people and there did appear some prospect for some fare adjustment, but I'm really not sufficiently knowledgeable to be able to be specific beyond that but that might just give you some incline at least as to how he has gone. He seemed encouraged by the meeting that he had. Are there any further, is there any further contribution to this debate, which is that the paper be noted. Mr Brown.

MR BROWN: Mr President, although I heard Mr Blucher way that he feels the tourist numbers are quite satisfactory the fact nevertheless is that there has been a significant in March compared to March of the previous year and that the forward indications in respect of travel to Norfolk Island from both New Zealand and Australia are such that one should be concerned. The indications are that we are staring at a very significant downturn. Tourism is the basis of the Norfolk Island economy and the next Legislative Assembly will have a very important task in front of it to ensure that the basis of the island's economy doesn't fall away further. Mr Blucher asked a question earlier in the meeting about tourist accommodation houses and rental cars. There's a lot of common sense in what he's saying. It certainly used to be the case that to have a rental car operation one had to have a mechanic and one had to have a workshop and one had to be able to properly look after the vehicles and considerable overheads are involved in providing such a structure. It certainly is unfair to those who do provide all of that overhead structure if they find that tourist accommodation houses are able to operate rental car businesses without the overheads. To those accommodation houses I say be careful because if as a result of what some would describe as greed by wishing to be involved in that little more, wanting to have the rental cars, if as a result of what could be described as greed, you destroy the protective nature of your industry, you won't be shown in the long run to have been very smart. The Norfolk Island economy is a very small one, everyone should be given the opportunity to make his dollar, because without the dollar you can't eat, but it is a very significant task Mr President that will be ahead of the next Legislative Assembly to try to bring the tourist industry into better order in Norfolk Island and to arrest the downturn which is very apparent to me.

MR PRESIDENT: Is there any debate, which is on the motion that the paper be noted. Then I put the question

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QUESTION AGREED

Are there any further papers to be presented. No further papers then Honourable Members under Standing Order 179 in Section 67 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979 I lay before the House the proposed Norfolk Island Exercise of Powers Regulations (Amendment) and move that the proposed Regulations be approved. Could I just speak to that motion for a moment to put it all in context. Honourable Members, the purpose of this motion is to propose that the Draft Regulations I have just tabled be approved under the Norfolk Island Act. It will of course be understood that under the Norfolk Island Act Regulations of this nature need to be approved by the Assembly before they can be made by the Governor-General. I'll just say a few brief words about the over-all transfer of powers process. The Assembly began its life in 1979 with 42 heads of power in Schedule 2 to the Act of the Norfolk Island Act. Schedule 3 originally contained four items. In 1985 a relatively small number of items were transferred to the Schedules. They were Public Service, Public Works, Lotteries and Betting etc., Civil Defence etc., Territories Archives and matters incidental to or consequential on the execution of executive authority. In 1989, following extensive negotiations, a large range of matters were transferred to both Schedules. Schedule 2 had 26 new items added and Schedule 3 was expanded from four items to ten. The 1989 changes gave the Island Assembly much more autonomy than previously. Since 1989

Honourable Members there have been further negotiations about the next round of the Transfer of Powers exercise and these culminated in December 1991 when the Federal Minister, who was Mr Simmons, announced his view on the 32 further items the Norfolk Island Government had listed for transfer. Of these 32 items the Minister said that 11 could be transferred immediately without further negotiations, a further 10 were agreed in principle but subject to further discussions and another 8 matters were unresolved and only 2 were opposed and those two were Territory banking and general revenue raising. Subsequently, agreement has been reached on some of the matters which I earlier referred to as being agreed to in principle, subject to further discussion and for that reason the regulations that I have laid before the House today include firstly, the 11 matters which the Minister said could be transferred immediately without further negotiation and secondly a range of matters which the Minister said were agreed in principle subject to further discussions. In all the regulation includes a further 19 heads of power and for the benefit of the community I'll read them out in short form. The powers to be transferred are as follows : Remuneration of Assembly Members; Prices and Rent Control; Printing and Publishing; Public Utilities; Housing; Community and Cultural Affairs; Industry, including Forestry and Timber; Pastoral; Agricultural; Bulding and Manufacturing; Mining and Minerals,excluding uranium; Rural Industrial; Home Finance Credit and Assistance; Scientific Research; Legal Aid; Corporate Affairs; Censorship; Child Family and Social Welfare; Regulation of Business and Professions; Legal Professions; Maintenance of Law and Order and the Administration of Justice; Correctional Services and Private Law. Those headings will not be new to you Honourable Members because we have talked about them at an ealier time, especially when the Minister has been here on the island, but they are just put together for clarity today and for clarity in the minds of members of the community. I should add that this is by no means the end of the exercise. There are a number of other heads of power which can be transferred to the responsibility of the Government subject to further discussions. These are Courts; Consumer Affairs; Civil Liberties; Civil Aviation and Fishing. Negotiations on these items will continue in the near future. Further down the track are a range of unresolved matters including matters relating to land, environment protection and conservation and territory insurance. The form of the Heads of Powers in the Regulations reflects the wording of items taken from the Northern Territory Self Government Act. This is because the previous Minister, that was Mr Simmons, had said that he thought it appropriate for Norfolk Island to be given the full range of State type powers which the Northern Territory and the ACT Governments presently enjoy. I do say Honourable Members that this again represents a significant increase in the power of the Assembly and of the Executive Government in Norfolk Island. It will give the Norfolk Island community a greater degree of automony in developing, and this I think is important, in developing its own solutions tailored to the island's circumstances. As I've said, further powers can be expected to be transferred in the future depending upon the results of the negotiations, and on that basis I do commend the motion to you Honourable Members which is that the proposed Regulations be approved. Is there any debate. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. Mr President, there are quite a few matters which you read through very quickly there for me to be able to mark and take down. I agree that you say the matter has been dealt with before but at a meeting, a very formal meeting with the Minister when he was here in December and on one occasion the Transfer of Powers, further Transfer of Powers were mentioned by you in another statement in the House. I have always supported the progress towards internal self government in a capacity whereby that we can afford. I'm concerned at the speed with which we're bringing into our realm of the powers extended to Norfolk Island, the capacity of the population of this island to administratively support the political will. I am concerned at the enormity of the legislation that will continue to have to be drafted and passed to cover certain areas and also the ability to administer what in fact we're reaching out to administer. I wonder if Mr President, you could just, there was a matter in the first eleven that you called out, I picked up the Remuneration Allowances and could we, could, there was something to do with, that will need a fair bit of financing further down. Thank you. Thanks. I now have a letter passed to me from the Minister for Finance which helps me understand a bit more of what you have read out. Prices and Rent Control; Printing and Publishing; Public Utilities; Housing; Community and Cultural Affairs; right, Mining and

Minerals. I'm particularly concerned with Mining and Minerals that we really can handle what we're reaching for there. I think its essential that we be legislatively well protected Mr President. I don't know what law protects us at the moment there simply because the matter hasn't really been debated by members of the Assembly. The, so that's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 8th, that's the eight to Schedule 2. What are the other three matters that are to be brought to Schedule 2. Could you just read the last four perhaps Mr President that you read of the list, if I could worry you to do that. I didn't have time to write them down, I don't do shorthand.

MR PRESIDENT: The ones that I read out Miss Buffett, the powers to be transferred.

MISS BUFFETT: Yes thank you.

MR PRESIDENT: Right.

MISS BUFFETT: Yes please.

MR PRESIDENT: I mentioned Remuneration of Members ...

MISS BUFFETT: Yes.

MR PRESIDENT: Prices and Rent Control; Printing and Publishing; Public Utilities; Housing, tell me if I'm going too quickly.

MISS BUFFETT: No, you're right.

MR PRESIDENT: Community and Cultural Affairs; Industry, including Forestry and Timber; Pastoral; Agricultural; Building and Manufacturing; Mining and Minerals, excluding uranium; Rural Industrial and Home Finance Credit and Assistance ...

MISS BUFFETT: Ah, that's, could you just, could I just take that down please, Rural and ...

MR PRESIDENT: Rural Industrial ...

MISS BUFFETT: Yes.

MR PRESIDENT: and Home Finance Credit.

MISS BUFFETT: and Home Finance Credit.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, and Assistance.

MISS BUFFETT: Credit and Assistance. Thank you.

MR PRESIDENT: The next one Scientific Research;

MISS BUFFETT: Yes.

MR PRESIDENT: Legal Aid.

MISS BUFFETT: Yes.

MR PRESIDENT: Corporate Affairs.

MISS BUFFETT: Yes.

MR PRESIDENT: Censorship.

MISS BUFFETT: Yes.

MR PRESIDENT: Child, Family and Social Welfare.

MISS BUFFETT: Yes.

MR PRESIDENT: Regulation of Business and Professions.

MISS BUFFETT: Yes.

MR PRESIDENT: Legal Professions.

MISS BUFFETT: Yes.

MR PRESIDENT: Maintenance of Law and Order in the Administration of Justice.

MISS BUFFETT: Yes, that's, thank you.

MR PRESIDENT: Correctional Services and Private Law.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: And I will make that detail available in a wider public sense so that what has been said this morning can be clearly seen in a wider community situation.

MISS BUFFETT: Thanks Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: But I do make the point that those are heads of powers that have been earlier mentioned, I've got to say a little time ago now, but when Minister Simmons was here.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. You are aware that, naturally, that because the matter has come before me to put a vote upon such matters, and you've given me the opportunity to have my input that I am doing that and showing my concern mainly with the financing of the thing. Of some of them. Some of them really, some of them, I ask the question which I asked before, what are we going to do with the powers having got them, what extra staff will be needed, will we have to bring in staff, which we quite often do, from outside, but there's enormous financial implication as must have been evidenced by the professional input we've had just, for instance, in the electoral matter and how much will it cost the community. So that's 19 matters to be transferred and Mr President this, the moving of this regulation will become the activation of the actual, this is, will formalise the transfer of the powers I take it.

MR PRESIDENT: It will formalise it from the point of view of the Legislative Assembly. I've mentioned when I earlier addressed this matter, that if that is agreed by the Members of the Assembly, then they go before the Governor-General for his formal part in the process.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President that's all I have at the moment. Thank you.

MR PRESIDENT: Good. Thank you. Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. I support the motion that you placed before the House. It's about time that these things became more formal and we are able to then deal with them in a more direct and positive way. In the past I can recall these, and we talked about the costs of administering these matters, these are matters that Administration and the Government have been dealing with for evermore. They've been dealing with it, it's not as though they have not been dealing with it in the past and its something new, it's not new. As far as the cost is concerned of administering some of these matters when we consider how much time and labour cost is involved in the Administration offices dealing with pieces of legislation and on some of those matters and other matters of legislation to the Australian Federal Parliament, the cost of those must far outweigh the actual administrative cost to administer and deal with them locally, when you consider the amount of time and effort and finance that have been placed into toing and froing with Federal officials would be quite exorbitant in my view and I believe it's appropriate that we be able to deal with them directly and quickly and administer them very quickly and positively in our own way and hopefully that will save the other costs that had to be borne by all this toing and froing with certain legislative pieces of these matters. I support the motion Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Further participation. Then I wonder if I might conclude by just saying these words. Some mention has been made about the speed in which this matter is perceived to be progressing. I think the implication there was that it may be moving too quickly. May I respectfully point out to Members that this process has

been going on for the last 13 or 14 years. I don't really interpret that that's a very speedy process. But it may be moving more quickly than some would wish to see it and I would accept that view, but I would equally put the view that if we are really serious about the matter of advancement of self government we need to move as quickly as we are able but I take the point that we need to ensure that our administrative support is available to be able to cope with those things that do come our way. I think it's important for us to come to grips with the fact that just because we transfer a heading of power to the Norfolk Island authorities does not necessarily mean that it will automatically bring with it a costing factor. It may mean that the normal machinery, the normal law making process, may be able to cope with it as is. It's not automatic that it has an additional cost factor. I do acknowledge however that there may be others that will have a cost factor attached to it and in those instances we need to ensure that we can cope and that's the affordable factor that has been mentioned by at least one person in speaking to this matter this morning. But let me also say this, that the road to self government has never been seen as just signing your name on a bit of paper and thinking that's it, it's as easy as that. The road to self government can be long and it can be stony and it can be hard but we have taken a decision of earlier times that that's the path that we wish to tread and just because the going gets hard doesn't mean we say that it's too difficult for us any more, we'll give it away. I don't believe that's what the community of Norfolk Island wants us to do or the attitude that it wishes us to adopt. If the going gets difficult well we've got to more readily put our collective shoulders to the wheel to ensure that we can tackle those matters and I've said on many occasions that I am absolutely confident that we can do that, but it does require work, it does require concentration and it doesn't mean that when the going gets tough we drop out bundle. And I would ask Members to consider some of those factors when they speak in the community about the matter of advancing self government of which this motion is a part. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. I don't relate speed and the time taken to giving the goal away. The speed with which one does things and of being certain of the financial ability to do it doesn't relate to abandoning a programme. I purely caution the financial constraints and ask the question at what cost to the community, some of these will cost, I asked the question before in the House and had hoped for further debate on it but it did not take place and I still caution that some of these things I have no doubt that this will go through today but there are some matters here that have no legislation covering them which leaves Norfolk Island extremely vulnerable and we would have to move pretty fast to get them covered and covered properly. Thank you Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Miss Buffett. Could I just respond to that very last point that you have made which is that there are some matters that are listed that might leave us vulnerable. Really the situation about vulnerability is no more or no less whether it's in our list or in the Commonwealth's list. So if I could just mention that. Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Mr President I totally agree with your previous statement that we get on with the business and if the going gets tough that we handle that also and so saying I move that the question be put.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, I know you have said that but I don't want to encroach upon anyone's facility to have a say. Everyone had their say, fine. I won't put that but I will put the motion. I'll put the motion which is the substantive motion that the proposed regulations be approved. I put the question.

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

MR PRESIDENT: We now move to Statements Honourable Members. Statements. Are there any Statements, Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President regarding the satellite dish as purchased for the Norfolk Island Central School. At the Tourism Conference in December 1991 pupils of the Norfolk Island Central School presented papers and spoke to the Conference on a number

of tourism related issues. The Headmaster at that time advised the Conference that in 1992 the School would have the opportunity to provide educational and training programmes via satellite. However a satellite dish would need to be purchased to receive these programmes. Those present at the Conference Mr President were challenged to contribute the funds to purchase the dish. A number of persons at that time, and subsequently made substantial donations towards the purchase of the dish.

At the same time Passport United, a New Zealand Wholesaler, in addition to donating \$1500 towards purchase of the dish also offered a two week work experience for one student to attend Passport United Headquarters in Auckland. Air New Zealand responded to the Passport United offer and donated the necessary air fares. Ansett Express made available two return air tickets to either Sydney or Brisbane for raffling to assist in the raising of the necessary funds. May I take this opportunity Mr President to publicly thank all those people, both on and off the island, who donated to this community project in such a generous way. A number of meetings were held between interested parties to keep the challenge moving. Advertisements were placed in the local press inviting further donations and generally informing the community of the courses that would be available in 1992. The NIGTB assisted by funding the placement of these ads and meeting the cost of mail outs. The P & C Committee agreed to reffle the Ansett Express airline tickets and all school children were asked to assist with the sale of the tickets. Following the Tourist Conference Mr President the Assembly's secretariat staff assisted me as the Minister with responsibility for education to take such action as was necessary to write letters of thanks to appropriate people and to generally liaise with appropriate people to carry the dish challenge to its conclusion. Let me stress at this stage that this project was initiated for the school's benefit in the first instance was nevertheless seen as a benefit to the whole community in that courses would be offered by the satellite dish for adult education purposes as well as for the students. A very strong interest in this has already been created. At this stage Mr President the dish has been partially installed at a cost of approximately \$1800. The community should be very proud of its efforts in supporting this project. Thank you.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr Christian. Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you. I thank Mr Christian for that statement and I agree with it entirely. I have a question as to how far have the funding reached. Has the dish been paid for at this point with all the donations.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: At this point yes and there's still some left.

MR BLUCHER: The other is as also a further adjunct to what Mr Christian was saying about the facilities for the school. I wonder whether he'll be making any mention of a rather substantial donation that was made to build a unit at the school to cope with exactly what he is talking about on different instrumentalities that operate on the island.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President I didn't intend to make a statement because it's already been reported in the paper ..

MR BROWN: The least you can do is thank Bill for his anonymous donation.

MR E. CHRISTIAN" Well I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mobil for its most generous donation to the Resource Centre where this unit will be housed.

MR BLUCHER: Is that all, what were you going to say..

MISS BUFFETT: I move the statement be noted. Has it been noted, yes, I suppose ..

MR PRESIDENT: We, we are noting it.

MISS BUFFETT: Mr Sanders was seeking a call first I think.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: I would like to, I move that the statement be noted. Mr President I don't know whether it's appropriate to ask Mr Ernie

Christian, because he probably wouldn't know the answer, but the question I would like to ask is how much more of the Tourist Bureau budget is to be spent on advertising for the school.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, I don't think there will be any more relating to this. I'm not quite certain on that fact but I don't think so. I think at this stage with the funds and that the way they're coming in the whole thing can be carried on from within that area.

MR SANDERS: A further question if I may Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Would it be unrealistic to suggest that the school budget provide for the school and for the tourism budget provide for tourism.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: It's, Mr President, not an unwise suggestion and it's heeded but I think there are areas which do overlap, I think this was one of them and I feel the Tourist Bureau money was quite wisely spent in the actions that were taken.

MR SANDERS: Mr President again if I may, wouldn't it be realistic if the different, or more funds were required either for the school or for the Tourist Bureau that the correct channel would have been to seek those funds from the Minister for Finance who would have either made provision or said that they weren't going to be provided for. I would have imagined that it was unrealistic for the Tourist Bureau to start getting involved in the education budget.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President I don't think it was something they were deliberately seeking to be involved in, it came out of something that came about basically by suggestions that were put forward at the Tourist meetings that were held on the island.

MR SANDERS: I'll make a statement if I may Mr President. I was actually there at the meeting and I'm well aware of how it actually started.

MR PRESIDENT: Any further participation. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. Coming out of all of it we've achieved a fair bit and I think, I think those who've had the desire to help the project come to fruition have seen it actually come to fruition and it will be to the benefit of the community, not arguing about the hows and the whereabouts, but I think the people who've helped have helped commendably. Thank you.

MR SANDERS: Mr President if I may, I actually agree with the comments that have just been made by Miss Buffett and I think the help is to be commended. I think it's absolutely marvelous. The difference is, the point that I've been trying to make is that the law is for everybody, you don't need to break the law to achieve what you want.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Robinson.

MR ROBINSON: I wonder if I might ask Mr Christian if he has any indication as to the costs of these courses yet.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, no, investigations are still being done on that and I hope to bring something forward very shortly. We have a lot of people very, very interested in the adult study part of it and it's most important that we do more about the, find out more of the costs for running the adult section of it.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Brown.

MR BROWN: Mr President, I wonder if Ernie could tell us whether it is suggested that once this equipment has been installed, from there on everything in the world will be both rosy and free, or whether it is a fact that the first cost will in time turn out to be the least of the costs by virtue of having to pay very significant amounts of money to have access to the programmes.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, from what I understand it's not quite seen that the initial costs will be the lesser cost in the long run. There is money to be paid for the programmes but as we understand from these charges levied against the people using these programmes will more than compensate for the operation of the unit.

MR SANDERS: Mr President if Mr Christian can answer the question if these minor costs, would that have anything to do with the additional \$100,000 that the school was seeking this year.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, this unit will tie in and help with the funding, the education rather of Year 11 and 12, but no it wasn't what the funds mentioned by Mr Sanders was asked for.

MR SANDERS: Then if Mr Christian could tell us what that \$100,000 was for. It's not for school teachers, and it's not for the dish, perhaps Mr Christian could enlighten us Members just exactly what it was for.

MR PRESIDENT: ... this morning Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Probably not, but some of the other stuff wasn't either Mr President, I just thought ...

MR PRESIDENT: Yes, yes all right. Is there any further debate, that the paper, that the statement be noted. Mr Sanders, Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. You mentioned the dish would be dealing with adult education and the courses which will be transmitted by television. I did ask the question of the Minister for Tourism informally I think in one of our meetings, but I think it should be further enquired about when the new satellite is put into place, it is a query from me as to whether or not Norfolk Island will become part of the foot-print of that satellite, because I'm hearing that maybe Norfolk Island has not been considered in the foot-print transmission of that satellite when it eventually goes up which means as far as I am aware that there will be ..

MR SANDERS: What's the point of all, this is as relevant as my ...

MR PRESIDENT: Order.

MR BLUCHER: Mr President I think this is quite relevant because it deals directly with whether or not we're going to be able to utilise the equipment that are going into the school and whether or not the island will be part of the foot-print of the satellite in its transmission. That's a new satellite that's going up probably next year, as soon as they get it off the ground in China I believe and it's very important because as I understand if we're not part of the foot-print then we will not be able to receive television transmission and I think that includes both SBS and ABC and I could be corrected on that.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, could I say that George has been checking on this and to the best of our knowledge although we may not come directly within that foot-print we will in actual fact be able to receive it. Now to relate that back, if you check now, legally receive it yes, to relate that back as I understand it, under the rules now we should not be receiving SBS and yet everybody knows that we're receiving it quite strongly, quite well, because we don't come directly under that foot-print which is provided there now and apparently the same thing is going to happen with the new satellite going up, that although we may not be directly under the, within that foot-print, we will in actual fact receive it.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Thank you Mr President, I just wonder whether Mr Ernie Christian as an extension to his statement could confirm or deny whether in fact the \$100,000 that Mr Sanders had mentioned was in fact the school's effort to launch their own satellite.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, no I can't do this.

MR PRESIDENT: It's getting a bit remote now. I will put the

question which is that the statement be noted.

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

Are there any further statements. Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, there's been some discussions lately regarding the actions of the Forestry and I've always stated that the Forestry is working very, very well and following the plans and things. Mr President, I wish to table a report on the Forest Working Plan for Norfolk Island as prepared by Mr Martin Bensen. This Report shows that our forestry area is being handled efficiently and according to previous planning. It has now reached the stage where milling commercially is almost ready to commence so that a financial return can be shown to offset some of the huge costs associated with setting up and preserving Norfolk forests and to supply timber for the local building industry on the island to save money from being spent overseas. I table the Report.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President, I move that Minister Christian's statement be noted.

MR PRESIDENT: The question is that the statement be noted. Debate. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. Once again we've been fortunate to have the guidance of, and assessment of Mr Martin Bensen, with the Forestry Development Plan. He's seen that there is no need to re-write another plan, from a conversation that I had with him, that everything is going very well. The plans have been over the years, for many, many years to provide milling for future generations which has started to happen now. The fact that we have a hard-wood commercial industry about to be able to commence, I presume, I think it's really virtually started is exciting because we've never had that before and it's a direct result of a planned industry. I commend the Plan. I haven't read it, I've only spoken with Mr Bensen on the matter, on the matter, but, and congratulate the Minister for having had the Forestry Working Plan revised and believe that it is truly for the community's benefit and the community will benefit from it. I commend also the works of the foresters, previous and present, and believe that the fact that the present forester is very happy with the architect of the plan and previous people who've worked on it is a sound basis for a good strong industry for the present and the future and for many future generations. Thank you Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Further contributions. Mr Robinson.

MR ROBINSON: May I say this is the first the rest of us have had a real chance to have a look at this report and I see in the appendix is has its list of 28 recommendations and one of the recommendations that is heavily underlined is the purchase of a four-wheel drive low centre of gravity machine of at least 80 horse power. This has come up at quite a convenient time when we're just about to consider the budget and I will be interested to read the rest of the 28 recommendations.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President I must apologise for the Assembly Members not having their copies available but it has only just come in and copies broken down and I'll get them copies as soon as I can. The Plan has been followed very, very carefully since Mr Bensen first instituted it and it has been going along very, very well. We've reached the stage now where the bulk of the area to be worked is on very, very steep, very difficult country. With one of Mr Bensen's worries in this report was that we did not have a, or did not have machinery which was suitable or adequate to carry on with the work as it's been laid out. Thank you.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. No further participation. The question is that the statement be noted.

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

Any further statements. Mr Neville Christian.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, at the February meeting I announced a review of the Financial Institutions Levy to be undertaken by Dr Chris Nobbs. Dr Nobbs has now completed his review and I am pleased to table his Report. I do not propose to comment in detail on Dr Nobbs' Report as any action will be one for the new Government following the May Assembly elections. Nevertheless, Dr Nobbs has recommended that the Government retain the FIL as a tax on financial institutions at least in the short to medium term. He also recommends Mr President, a number of measures to improve the operation of the FIL as well as a recommendation not to raise the rate about its existing level of 1%. Thank you and I table the Report Mr President and it's now available.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thanks Mr President. I move that the statement be noted.

MR PRESIDENT: The statement be noted. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: And support the idea of the Minister for Finance of calling upon Dr Nobbs to provide this Report. We know that Dr Nobbs is especially qualified in the field of economics and he's, in speaking with him before, because we were all very interested whether the raise in the Financial Institutions Levy to 1% would have, which way the increase would affect the income, but the income still I believe is a very great percentage of our budget. I look forward to reading his comments and one of his cautions here, even just echoes what I said a few minutes ago regarding the extension of powers, that we need a cost of our own legal independence, which we've accepted, each Assembly's accepted, it needs to be monitored and where the money is coming from, so to improve the basis rather than increase it, are good words for me to hear from the Minister for Finance's mouth. Thank you Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Further participation. The question is that the statement be noted.

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

Thank you. Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, I lay before the House the copy of the final Report of the Immigration Review Committee. Mr President Members will recall that an interim Report of the Immigration Committee was tabled at the February meeting of this House and subsequently the House decided that further time be allowed for the Review group to complete its task. The final Report which I have just tabled was finalised on 2nd April 1992 and it deals with the terms of reference given to the group. The terms of reference in short were to examine the front door policy, to examine the three year temporary entry permit policy, to examine a method of calculation of general entry permit quotas, the operation of the compensating departure scheme and to deal with any of the other matters which the group considered were significantly related to the matters I have just referred to. I will not go into detail on the Report itself, but I will briefly indicate the recommendations which the group have arrived at. On the question of front door policy, the group has come to the conclusion that the policy is essential to the Norfolk Island immigration system and should remain in place. The three year temporary entry permit, three year temporary entry permit policy however has been closely examined by the group and some changes are recommended. In short the group has recommended that the general limit on temporary entry permits be increased to four years with extensions to five years in special circumstances. The group has recommended that in dealing with applications for extensions beyond the four year period, the following factors should be taken into account, whether the applicant possesses skills and/or qualifications which are in demand and which have brought benefit to the community in general and whether, in the case of employment, the employer has made a genuine attempt, a genuine attempt, over a reasonable period to fill the position, including whether an employer has implemented any staff training programmes designed to remove the need for itinerant staff. The group recommended that these changes to the three policy be implemented immediately by policy and enshrined in legislation at the first

opportunity. As to the question of the general entry permit quota calculation method, the group has had the benefit of detail papers from the Administrations which deal with the quota calculation method. The group is no longer concerned with any possible incompatibility with the Racial Indiscrimination Act 1975, but the group has noted that there is a degree of administrative complexity involved in arriving at a quota figure. However, the group does not believe that the magnitude of the problems warrants any change in the existing methods of calculating the size of each general entry permit quota. I should mention the dissenting opinion of one member of the group that variations which might arise from different assessments, calculation problems and other complexities already exceed the acceptable level of tolerance and that the formula should be abandoned. However, as I said, this is not the majority view of the group. In respect of the compensating departure scheme which started in April 1990 the group has recommended that the scheme should be discontinued. I myself, as the Report acknowledges, have reserved my opinion on this recommendation pending discussion by Members of this House. The group has also recommended some interim measures which they think should be adopted until the scheme has been statutorily abolished.

In this connection the group recommends that the existing legislation should be administered in a more rigorous fashion, specifically the group has recommended that the expression market in the legislation should be interpreted as referring to the Norfolk Island market and not some wider market; 2. the expression market value should be understood to mean the price that a willing buyer in the Norfolk Island market would be prepared to offer today for the asset itself. 3. A range of factors should be dealt with in considering applications and the Immigration Committee should give close and active attention to the criteria on which applications are to be approved or not approved. These are set out on page 5 of the Report. The Executive Member should make use of the provision in the Act which allows him to require an applicant to obtain valuations by a registered valuer. 5. That if the Executive Member's decision on a particular application is different from that of the Immigration Committee, the Executive Member should outline the reasons for his decision to the committee. As I have said, the group recommends that I direct these changes be put into effect at once. My view is that the recommendations as to the administration of the compensating departure scheme should be put into effect, but I have some reservation about the recommendation that the scheme should be abolished. It is undoubtedly true that the scheme has assisted a number of people who would otherwise have suffered severe hardship. It is also however true, that the scheme has assisted some people who are not in that position. On the whole my own view is that this scheme properly and vigorously administered can serve a useful purpose. After the administration of the scheme has been tightened up, we will be able to see whether the scheme should be continued or should be abolished. I believe that it is premature to reach that decision at the present time. Of course these are matters for the Assembly and I believe that they will need to be discussed by the next Assembly. In the meantime, so far as it is within my power, under the existing published Immigration policy, I will put into effect the recommendations about the administrations of the compensating departure scheme as soon as possible. In conclusion I would like to commend the members of the group for a very arduous job and thank them for the very worthwhile input that they have done, and I also thank those members of the community who made submissions. Thank you Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr Christian. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. I move that the statement be noted.

MR PRESIDENT: The question is that the statement be noted. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Because the matter is on the Notice Paper for later on I will reserve most comments until then but I support Minister Christian's words of commendation to the committee which have worked on this paper, also to the Immigration Board who've spent long hours on the same matter. I'm pleased that at least there is an input that's been balanced out by those who already had previous experience in the area and come up with what I think is worthwhile recommendations. Thank you Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Any further participation. Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. Yes I agree that this report is a long time coming and I'd like to thank those people who have taken the trouble to put submissions forward and also to the committee for coming up with the recommendations that they have come up with. Immigration is not an easy matter to be dealt with, it doesn't matter how good your immigration system is, you'll always get problems and certainly in times we have to discriminate to some degree whether we like it or not because that seems to be what is happening elsewhere anyway, especially, and that is in contradiction of the Immigration, the Racial Discrimination Act and so forth and I think we've got to discriminate somehow for the protection of Norfolk Island because it is a small place, it's an extremely small island that we need to make sure that we can protect the unique nature of it and as best we can portray what the island is all about and not let it be lost, not let its uniqueness be lost. I'm not going to say any more about it because maybe some incorrect inference may have been taken by Members by what I've just said. I certainly hope not but I believe this is something that has been a long time coming and the recommendations that I see very quickly are something which could and should be looked at in order to implement them. If I might just add the, talking about the compensation departure facility, I have always been of the opinion that the compensating departure facility and the intention of the policies was to very directly cater for those people who are in certain straits, financial straits, that need to leave the island for medical reasons and so on and could well be that some of those policies have been bent a little in the past and people have been taking advantage of them, but I'm hoping that the true intention of the compensating departure facility will be adhered to very rigidly by the incoming Minister responsible. Mr Buffett, thank you.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Thank you Mr President. I'm rather concerned that Mr Blucher passes remarks that we have to discriminate. This document that Mr Ernie Christian has just tabled is anything but. There is not discrimination in that whatsoever and I totally disagree that there is a need within the laws that we have to discriminate about anything.

MR BLUCHER: I agree Mr President, that Mr Sanders is quite entitled to make those comments and those opinions but I have a different view and my view is that we have a unique place and whatever discrimination can be interpreted as we've got to make sure that to the best of our ability we can protect ourselves and the uniqueness of this island through our immigration system.

MR SANDERS: All these protections that Mr Blucher asks for can be protected without any discrimination.

MR PRESIDENT: Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. I really come in support of Mr Sanders' comments there because I see no evidence of discrimination against anyone here. The committee, the committee in their final report even puts forward that they did check out any matters to do with the racial discrimination area and the matters have been clarified so I commend them particularly in pursuing that direction. Thank you.

MR BLUCHER: Mr President, there's been some misconception I'm sure. Maybe my grasp of the English language is not as good as it should be but what I, what I should be interpreting and what I should be saying, and I wasn't indicating that the recommendations in here were racial discrimination or discrimination of any way, all I was trying to point out that because of the island's smallness, its uniqueness we have to whether we like it or not, whether we call it discrimination or not have to be sure that we protect the island as we possibly can. I was throwing no assertions on this Report.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Brown.

MR BROWN: Mr President, if Bill wishes to discriminate,

that's his business. We should just make sure that we never let him anywhere near the immigration portfolio but he is quite entitled to sit here as one Member and say that if he has to discriminate in order to achieve his ends of protecting Norfolk Island that's what he'd like to do, just as the rest of us are quite entitled to say we're not interested in discrimination and we don't need to discriminate because the island can be protected whilst complying with the law. Bill's words may have had something to do with the letter that he tabled earlier in the meeting. That was, talking of Bill Blucher when I refer to Bill, that letter was from a reasonably recently returned Norfolk Islander who is about to leave the island again, and that person has a business to sell and in selling the business that person would like to make use of the compensating departure scheme, but that person felt that it was unfair that as part of the compensating departure scheme he or she should have to comply with the requirements of the compensating departure scheme. Well plainly, that's not on. One either makes use of the compensating departure scheme or one doesn't. No one's forced to use the compensating departure scheme. That is a decision that each individual person can make and Mr President has said on a number of occasions that probably most of us realise that the scheme would not solve every problem but at the same time I think that most of us believe that the benefits that have been provided by the scheme have certainly outweighed the new problems that it's created. I have been interested to read the report and the next Assembly will have to then decide what it does with it.

MR PRESIDENT: Any further participation. Then I will put the question, which is that the statement be noted.

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

Thank you. Are there any further statements.

MR BLUCHER: Mr President, I wonder whether Mr Christian on behalf of the Minister for Tourism in the life of this Assembly be able to table a report that deals with tourism and was a report by an officer of the Australian Tourist Commission that was ascribed to Norfolk Island to do a report on a marketing strategy and so forth for Norfolk Island. It would be interesting for the Members to know what it's all about. These, the current Members know what it is all about and I don't know whether it's appropriate for me to table it and talk about it or whether an Executive Member should do so.

MR BROWN: Mr President I move that so much of Standing Orders as is required by suspended so as to enable Mr Blucher to table a Report entitled Developing a Tourist Marketing Plan.

MR PRESIDENT: Is that agreed Honourable Members.

AGREED

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. I table the Report titled as Mr Brown says, "Norfolk Island Developing and Tourism Marketing Plan", and, what do I do, do I move that the Report be noted before I can speak on it.

MR PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR BLUCHER: All right, I'll do so Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: The question therefore before us is that the Report be noted.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you. Thank you. The Report is a rather lengthy one and I think all current Members should be aware of the contents of it if they haven't already received a copy. It has been distributed I believe to each Member and I think it can well be, I see nothing in it that will prevent it from being a public document because it gives recommendations on marketing strategies and the strengths and weaknesses of, comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the type of marketing that's going on at present and what can be done to support and assist the tourist industry to Norfolk Island so I table that and in tabling it and talking to it Mr President I'd like to say that it is a report dealing with matters that should have been dealt with at least ten

years by those people in authority who were dealing with tourism, because what is in it is nothing new in the professional tourism marketing and strategy area and if some members of the tourism industry have not taken part in some of these activities in the past well then we've been losing out quite a lot and that could well be the reason why there's been so much difficulty in trying to get people to come to Norfolk Island. I believe every member of the, every person connected with tourism should read this report and act on it now because I believe its something in here, we all knew, a lot of us knew it existed ten years ago and we should have been acting on it.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Further participation. No further participation. The motion is that the report be noted.

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

Are there any further statements. No. I think we're going to need a break for lunch before we can conclude the paper and I suggest that maybe now is the time.

MR SANDERS: Mr President, do you think that if they're all hungry they

MR PRESIDENT: Well, there are various views on that Mr Sanders, I don't think I'll test it today. I would propose that we suspend now Honourable Members and that we resume at 2 o'clock. And we will do that.

MR PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, we reconvene after lunch and we are at the concluding stage of Statements and I will conclude that with the Statement that I have in front of me now. Honourable Members Mr Alan Kerr, accompanied by Mrs Kerr arrived on the week-end and on Monday last formerly commenced duty as Administrator of Norfolk Island. Mr Kerr was formerly the Deputy Public Service Commissioner and has held previous appointments as Deputy Secretary in a number of departments in the Canberra scene and from 1980 to 1985 he was Deputy Commonwealth Ombudsman. Earlier in his career Mr Kerr has had responsibilities in relation to the administration of Norfolk Island, Cocos and Christmas Islands and also for the constitutional development of Papua New Guinea. He has represented Australia at conferences in Europe, North America, China and Japan and since 1989 Mr Kerr has had particular responsibility for the senior executive group of the Australian Public Service. I do echo the words of Minister Wendy Fatin when she said "The role of Administrator is important in maintaining good relationship between our two Governments", meaning the Norfolk Island Government and the Australian Government and on your behalf Honourable Members I do say welcome to Mr and Mrs Kerr and wish them both a happy and a challenging term in Norfolk Island. Honourable Members I have to report the following message from the office of the Administrator. Message No. 44. On 27th March 1992 pursuant to sub-section 22(1) of the Norfolk Island Act 1979 His Excellency the Governor General declared his assent to the Public Sector Remuneration Tribunal Act 1992 which was Act No. 6 of 1992. The message is dated this 31st day of March 1992, Bruce MacDonald, Administrator. And message No. 45. On 11th March 1992 pursuant to sub-section 22(1) of the Norfolk Island Act 1979 His Excellency the Governor General declared his assent to the Referendum (Amendment) Act 1992 which was Act No. 5 of 1992, dated this 24th day of March 1992, Bruce MacDonald, Administrator. Are there any reports from Select and Standing Committees. We then move to Notices. The first Notice Honourable Members on the Programme is one that Mr Smith had given notice of and in his absence I will not call that on, and with his concurrence I might say, given my conversation with him this morning. Notice No. 2. Immigration Act 1980 Re-appointment of Immigration Committee. Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, I move that for the purposes of sub-section 6-4 of the Immigration Act 1980 that this House recommends to the Executive Member that Sydney Alfred Moore Cooper; Joan Marie Kenny; William John Menzies and Charles Louis Evans, be re-appointed as members of the Immigration Committee.

MR PRESIDENT: Debate. Firstly Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, I have pleasure in moving this Motion because all of the persons just mentioned have given sterling service on a committee which is very, very difficult to fill. Miss Alice Buffett is the Legislative Assembly's representative on the committee and her term does not need to be dealt with in this Motion and I commend the Motion.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. I am pleased that the members as nominated are willing to stand, to be re-appointed on the Board. They work diligently as do appointees to the Boards that assist Ministers and the Government and thank you for, thank them for devoting their time in this direction. Thank you.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Thank you Mr President. I certainly support this Motion. It's, these four people that have on this Board for quite some considerable time do a very good job and they cop a terrible lot of flak for having done so and anybody that's prepared to wear that and still do a good job I take my hat off to them.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Further participation. Then I will put the motion which is that the motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

Notice No. 3 is the Tourist Accommodation Act 1984 Transfer of Registration of Tourist Accommodation House to new location. In Mr Smith's absence I understand Mr Ernie Christian is attending to that matter. Mr Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, I move the following motion that for the purposes of Section 15a of the Tourist Accommodation Act 1984 this House resolves that the registration of the tourist accommodation house Bomboras Apartments, may be transferred from the location referred to in the current instrument of registration of the house to portion 38d(2) subject to compliance with the following conditions. 1. The transfer of registration is to be made within twelve months after the date of the Executive Member's approval of the transfer pursuant to this resolution and 2. Within twelve months after the date of approval previously registered accommodation units that form part of the tourist accommodation house before the transfer of its registration are to be (a) converted into a single private dwelling house, or (b) demolished, and 3. That any works to be undertaken on portion 38d(2) in consequence of the transfer comply with the Building Ordinance 1967 and any other relevant laws.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Participation. Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. I agree with the transfer of one licensed accommodation to another licensed accommodation house owned by the same person. I do note that on the Notices No. 3 of the motion has been left off and that confused me until I picked up this blue Programme Paper and saw the remainder of it on there, otherwise I may have had to oppose it without those conditions to comply with the Building Ordinance, but as the transfer to the license area is one that can be dealt with separately to the actual building of any, additional building on that block, then the Building Board will have to take into consideration the location and the bulk, or whether that particular piece of land is large enough to house an additional building if that is the intention of the proprietor. Having said that I can agree that this transfer be approved Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Brown.

MR BROWN: Mr President this motion relates to the tourist accommodation licensing. It doesn't remove the need for compliance with the building requirements and in fact it quite specifically says that it is subject to compliance with those requirements. Insofar as the transfer of the tourist accommodation licenses is concerned the motion is completely in accordance with the policy which has been adopted by the Legislative Assembly and which has been followed in previous cases. I have no difficulty in supporting it.

MR PRESIDENT: Further participation. No, no further participation, then I will put the question which is that the motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

Notice No. 4. Public Sector Remuneration Tribunal Act 1992 - Appointment of Public Sector Remuneration Tribunal. Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President I move that for the purposes of sub-section 5-2 of the Public Sector Remuneration Tribunal Act 1992 this House recommends (a) that Robert Edward Fitzgibbon be appointed to the Public Sector Remuneration Tribunal and that the terms and conditions of Mr Fitzgibbon's appointment be the same as those currently applicable under Clause 24 of the Documents entitled General Wage Adjustment Process - Policy and Guidelines as provided by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 3 May 1989.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President Mr Fitzgibbon has performed the function of the non-statutory Public Sector Remuneration Tribunal for the last three years and has dealt with three wage rounds in that time. Members will recall that the Public Sector Remuneration Tribunal Act 1992 was assented to by the Governor General towards the end of March of this year. The Act comes into force today. Accordingly, the opportunity arises to appoint a person to be the Public Sector Remuneration Tribunal under the legislation. I'm glad to report to the House that Mr Fitzgibbon has indicated to me that if the House is minded to resolve that he be appointed, he will be very happy to take up the appointment. As I said when introducing the legislation of the House last year it is clear that the institution of a Remuneration Tribunal has defused what in previous times has sometimes been a controversial process. I'm pleased to have the opportunity to recommend to the House that Mr Fitzgibbon be appointed and I commend the motion.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Thank you Mr President. I support the motion, but I do have a concern that there appears to be no time limit on this appointment. Perhaps Mr Christian could inform me and the House for that matter, if there is anything in these conditions that actually limit the time, just in case there is a thought that the person is appointed for life.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, the terms of appointment at present are for five years but there is allowability within the Act and within the rules to remove that person at any time.

MR PRESIDENT: Further participation. Mr Brown.

MR BROWN: Mr President I don't have a great difficulty in supporting the motion although Bill raised a very important point, I think that it is important that appointments of this nature not be seen to be appointments for life. An appointment for five years would be an appropriate term as a full term for one person and then it would be appropriate I feel to look for someone different for the next five years. The particular appointment in this case is a good appointment.

MR PRESIDENT: Any further contribution. Then I will put the motion to the House. The question is that the motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

Notice No. 5 which is Customs Ordinance 1913 - Waiver of Duty. Mr Neville Christian.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Thank you Mr President. I move that for the purpose of Section 2(b) of the Customs Ordinance 1913 this House recommends to the Administrator that the goods specified in the Schedule imported by the importer there specified be exempted from duty. The

importer is Mr Mike Barnes on behalf of the Norfolk Island Gun Club, the goods imported Mr President is one "Parasi" shotgun value for duty is \$3,927.81 and I support the motion.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Christian.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: I'll read for Members Mr President, a letter that I received from Mr Barnes supporting his application for a duty free entry of a gun. "Dear Mr Christian, as the Secretary of the Norfolk Island Gun Club, I have been requested by the Committee of the Club to write to you to enquire as to the possibility of having import duty waived for a prize to be offered at the 1992 International Shoot. You would probably be aware that attendance at this Shoot has been falling off over recent years. The prize is to be offered in an attempt to attract more shooters to the 1992 and subsequent Shoots. Many of the shooters bring their spouses and other families to the Shoot so it is obviously advantageous to Norfolk Island for the numbers attending the Shoot to be increased over those of past years. The prize in question is a superb quality shotgun, an Italian Parasi. This gun has cost the Club a considerable amount of money for what is basically a promotional exercise which will benefit both the Club and Norfolk, so waiver of import duty would remove an additional financial burden to the Club. Another consideration is the fact that the prize will be on the island for a short time only, that is, it will be in transit before being taken home to New Zealand or Australia by the lucky winner. We await your consideration of this matter. Yours faithfully, Mike Barnes, Secretary of the Norfolk Island Gun Club.

MR PRESIDENT: Just a pause, while the plane was overhead. Mr Sanders.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Mr President ...

MR PRESIDENT: I'm sorry, I'm sorry, are you still going.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: I hadn't finished. I was just waiting for the plane to pass overhead. Sorry. After consultation Mr President with the Customs Officer, or Collector of Customs, I could see the benefits in allowing this gun to be imported duty free. The Gun Club under the terms referred to in the letter, could have imported the fire arm into Norfolk Island, had it held in bond and then released to a visitor going out of the island without paying any duty at all. A complication I think that has arisen is that the firearm has in fact stayed on the island, it was won by a local. Nevertheless, under the terms of the letter, I would still recommend that the goods be imported duty free. Thank you.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Mr President, I have a little bit of difficulty with this one. I happen to be one of the 15 inaugural members of the Norfolk Island Gun Club and I strongly support all the actions they have taken. On behalf of the public and of the Gun Club and everything in general as far as raising revenue was concerned. But as an Assembly Member, I totally oppose that anybody should be able to import anything and have the duty waived. If somebody's going to give something, then they should give it in total, not in part. This, as I have said, is an extremely embarrassing one for me but my, I do believe that duty should not be waived, but I will also add that the precedent has been set and it probably should be, even though I oppose it.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. Could I just ask Mr Sanders what precedent he's referring to. Just for my own information to help me in debate.

MR SANDERS: Mr President, if I may, Mr Neville Christian could probably inform Miss Buffett of a number of things that have been imported for the Bowling Club, the Golf Club, various other activities of a similar nature.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Mr Sanders is correct ... and things like that for the Bowling Club and other sporting bodies in relation to major sporting events which attract overseas visitors and I've taken the view

there that there is a little bit of flexibility that could come into the system and on various occasions I've allowed them in duty free.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT Thank you Mr President. I thank the Honourable Members for answering me there. It's just that I believe that, I firmly believe that if we wish to give something to donate as prizes that we're willing to give it outright and not encumber the Government to, or waive it over them that they should, as well, contribute, because it is a contribution on the public purse as well. I quite see the point that the promotions are good, it's very good promotionally for tourism, but I think the letter falls down on a couple of things in that the prize was offered to more than visiting people, the prize was offered to locals as well and of course in this instance one, and I'm very pleased for whoever won, I believe she's a crack shot too. Won locally as well, so it makes it a bit difficult. I do believe that if we donate something we should donate it whole-heartedly. I believe everything should be subject to the same law. I do have an exception with, I can't remember whether the duty extends over matters pertaining to the Church, or drugs, but I suppose until a policy change the matter is the Ministers for decision. I'll support it in this instance.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, I intend to vote in favour of the motion today, but I feel that goods put up for prizes and things in this way should be looked at later on and the duty should not be given. If people want to donate something then they should donate it.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. For many years now the storekeepers for instance on the island, out of their own stock, have been donating very valuable products for raffle, for charity, for giveaways, for all sorts of things, for many, many, many years now and if this precedent were to be commenced well then I wonder how those shop keepers will be feeling, that for all those years they have been contributing for charity and for goods to be raffled and not bothered to reclaim a duty rebate, whether in future they'll be even considering taking out of their stock, having already paid the duty on these goods, goods for donation to different organisations for raffle and so forth. It was mentioned that this particular gun was imported as a raffle as a promotion to bring in tourists, or bring in further shooters. I firmly believe that the gun is not the incentive for bringing in those shooters. Those shooters are coming in to compete in the International Shoot because that's what they want to do and whether there was a raffle going on or not I don't think it mattered two hoots to them, but the fact is this gun was specially imported into the island, supposedly for raffle, and a local had won it and I believe very strongly that, as Miss Buffett said, if you're going to donate or import something and you wish to contribute that product or whatever it is to the benefit of a club or an organisation or a charitable organisation, you should be prepared to pay the duty as well and for those reasons I cannot support the motion.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Thank you Mr President. I'm not proposing to change my stance at all but I would like to correct Mr Bill Blucher's comments that shop keepers that have donated things probably wish to claim back the duty. I'd like to point out that they have already done so and this is why the precedent has been set in a number of cases. Even though I don't propose to support it.

MR BLUCHER: Yes, I agree that some have but for years and years you know that feeling of wanting to give has been there and I wonder what this precedent will do to any future ...

MR SANDERS; The precedent has already been set.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Brown then Mr Christian.

MR BROWN: Mr President. I think I've said before that I don't believe that exemptions from duty should be granted in any

situation. Quite properly we don't levy duty on religious goods but that is a matter under our law. As for anything else, I believe the full duty should be paid. I agree with the comments that a number of Members have made. If you are going to give something, pay the duty and give the item. Don't come asking the Legislative Assembly to waive the duty on the item.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Christian, Mr Neville Christian.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Thank you Mr President. I think for the benefit of the public some members, that I should point out that a motion like this is not brought before the House because I have a descretion to do so. The law requires me to do so when the amount of duty being waived is over \$200. I have views on exemptions from everything, FIL duty included and would tend to agree with comments of Mr Brown and others, but however, this is the law that's in place today, it's under the existing law that I am bringing forward this motion. I still intend to support the motion on the spirit of the letter that was originally given to me and another point to consider in the scenario that Mr Blucher and Mr Brown paints is that in one form they are right, this is the Assembly's contribution if you like and one downside of having no exemptions at all would probably be a huge increase in the number of advances to the Administration for contributions for such events, so in the end they probably would balance out in dollars and cents terms. I don't intend to debate it any more Mr President except to say that I will be supporting this one.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Further participation. Then I will put the motion which is ... The question is that the motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT

MR BUFFETT	AYE
MR BROWN	NO
MR BLUCHER	NO
MISS BUFFETT	AYE
MR N. CHRISTIAN	AYE
MR ROBINSON	NO
MR E. CHRISTIAN	AYE
MR SANDERS	NO

MR PRESIDENT: The result of voting Honourable Members is four ayes and four noes which means that the motion is negatived. We move on ...

MR SANDERS: Interjection

MR PRESIDENT: Well, not if the winner is a crack shot as earlier mentioned. Honourable Members we're now at Orders of the Day and I will call on Order of the Day No. 1 and then No. 2. 3 and 4 I will not call on in Mr Smith's absence. So I call No. 1 which is the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau (Amendment) Bill 1992. It's resumption of the debate on the question that the Bill be agreed to in principle, and in Mr Smith's absence I call Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau Bill 1992 aims to do three things. I will explain each in turn. First the Bill deals with the identity of the members of the Bureau, the existing legislation establishes a corporate body called the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau. The members of the Bureau who are appointed by the Executive Member are also collectively referred to as "The Bureau". This has led to confusion at times because when it is necessary to distinguish between those who direct the affairs of the Bureau on the one hand and the body corporate itself on the other hand there is no statutorily recognised way of doing so. For that reason, in practise, the members are often collectively referred to as "The Board", however this term has no statutory recognition and has not done since 1980 when the old Norfolk Island Tourist Board was abolished. For that reason the legislation is proposed to be amended to give statutory recognition to the Board. Accordingly, provision is sought to be made under which it is recognised that the conduct of the affairs of the body corporate, that is "The Bureau", is to be undertaken by the Board of the Bureau. No substantive change to the duties or the method of appointment of members is proposed. This will enable ready distinctions to be made

between the body corporate itself and the persons who direct its affairs.

It is rather like the distinction between the name of a company and the fact that the company has a board of directors. This may seem at first glance a change without a difference, however it can be important because on occasions instruments have been drafted within the offices of the Bureau referring to a Board which does not as a matter of law exist. The second change is to seek to statutorily recognise the position of Deputy Chairman of the Board. At present the Act provides only that there is to be a Chairman. The recognition of the position of Deputy Chairman will, for example, enable appropriate matters to be delegated to the person who holds that position. The next change is to seek to make provision for a Secretary to the Board. At present the Act makes no provision for a Secretary. In this respect it is different from such bodies, as for example, the Building Board, where the post of Secretary is referred in the legislation. The intention is to allow the Board to appoint a person to be the Secretary to the Board. The duties of the Secretary and the terms and conditions of appointment would be matters to be established by the Board. The Board would be empowered to appoint anyone to be the Secretary. However, if the appointment of a public servant were desired the Board would first need to seek permission of the Chief Administrative officer. Finally Mr President, the principal Act includes an obsolete transitional position. This related to the transfer of the assets and liabilities of the old Norfolk Island Tourist Board to the Bureau established in 1980. That transfer was completed shortly after the initial institution of the present Bureau in 1980 and the provision is no longer needed. Accordingly, the opportunity has been taken to seek to repeal this provision. I commend the Bill.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS; Thank you Mr President. I personally find this Bill a time wasting exercise. I'm rather amazed that we need to change by law the name of somebody wanting to call it something. They're at liberty to call it anything that they wish now. If they have any difficulty of identifying it why don't they use the name of the person. As far as a Deputy Chairman is concerned they could always do the same as the Assembly. There isn't such a thing as an Acting thing I think in the law and yet we actually have one. Is there any reason why this group can't do exactly the same thing. Also on the third thing of the appointment of a Secretary trying to appear that it is an onerous job seeking permission from the Chief Administrative Officer for a Secretary to be provided from the Public Service. I would have thought that this was the desirable way to go. It's the only way that the Public Service is going to have records and copies of events which do indeed happen, and surely to ask the CAO if it is possible to have a Secretary isn't that painful a task, and lastly I find that it is interesting that they mention assets and liabilities. My understanding, there's a question that I had on notice referring to audits and reports and all sorts of things that was Question No. 3 which has not been answered and my understanding is that the books haven't been audited, there are no audited statements and everybody is suggesting that assets and liabilities and things don't matter. I reckon the whole Bill should be thrown out.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Robinson.

MR ROBINSON: Thank you. Just a quick question of Mr Christian. Are the various other Boards having the same problem as the Tourist Board Bureau, I mean we have Welfare Boards and Building Boards and Hospital Boards.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, not to my knowledge but they're structured slightly differently as I understand it.

MR ROBINSON: Is not the Board itself only there to advise the Minister rather than to direct the affairs of the Tourist Bureau.

MR SANDERS: If not Mr President it should be.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: I'm not quite certain on that point.

MR ROBINSON: Then perhaps we should adjourn the Bill until we all know what's happening.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Neville Christian.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Thank you Mr President. I agree with some aspects of the Bill. I think there must be a clear distinction between who actually is on the Tourist Board and who pretends to be on the Tourist Board. I don't think anyone should have the right to write letters pretending to be on the Board when in fact they're not. I agree with what Mr Robinson has suggested and in view of the fact that the principle architect of this Bill isn't present at the meeting today I think the matter should be adjourned.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. Just looking through this it is mentioned that these are the changes in the Tourist Bureau Act 1980 but is it true that the, or just confirm for me if you please Mr Christian, whether 1 to 6 are the old parts of the Act and not been changed except for adding the word "Board", and the only, the new, the new change is the change of the principal Act is the insertion after Section 12 of a requirement for a Secretary to the Board, that seems to be the only new issue and my question is why is it an issue at this time. Why isn't an issue being taken here where being a corporate body or a corporated entity through the Companies Act, that that is more important in the sense of certain liabilities to the principals and the officers of the of the Board, or this corporate body as you like to call it. I would be in favour of, I would have voted against this Bill on the very fact that I don't believe that the Board itself is in a position to be able to dictate its own terms under an Act without it having been approved by the Assembly as any other Boards are or statutory bodies. I understand that the Board is a statutory body and always has been, notwithstanding that it's been incorporated since 1980 or 81 or something or other, I could be confusing myself there but correct me if I'm wrong but I believe that the role of the Secretary could well be taken out of either the Administration or appointed by the members of the Board to carry out its own secretarial role. So if this is not going to be adjourned I would vote against it Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Brown.

MR BROWN: Mr President I have no great difficulty with changing the title of the Body, everybody calls it by the name to which it is proposed to be changed in any event. But I have difficulties with the Secretary position and I have difficulties with some of the other matters that have been mentioned by Members. A number of Members have expressed the view that as the Minister who is promoting the Bill is not here it would be appropriate for it to be adjourned. The impact of that of course is that the Bill would die from the point of view of this Assembly and if it was to be proceeded with it would be introduced afresh in the new Assembly. There's no great difficulty caused by that in my view Mr President and accordingly if no other Member wishes to speak I would move the adjournment of the Bill.

MR PRESIDENT: The question is that the Bill before us be adjourned and I will put that motion.

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

Thank you that Bill is adjourned. Order of the Day No. 2 - Compensating Departure Scheme. It's resumption of debate on the question that the motion be agreed to. Mr Brown you have resumption of debate on this matter.

MR BROWN: Thank you Mr President. Events have largely overtaken this motion Mr President. Ernie Christian has today tabled the final report of the Immigration Review Group and he has made a statement to Members as to a tightening up of the Compensating Departure Scheme. It would seem to me appropriate that when Members have said what they wish to say about the motion this motion in fact be discharged from the Notice Paper and that we simply watch how the changes to the Compensating Departure Scheme work and in the event that they are successful that'll be a good thing, if they're not successful at that stage some further change would need to be made.

MR PRESIDENT: Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. I, perhaps should give Mr, Minister Ernie Christian, first call on this. I see on the Notice Paper resume of the debate was to be in his area and would be happy if Minister Christian were to speak before I speak in view of what action he has taken. Thank you.

MR PRESIDENT: Do you seek the call. Yes. Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President I would just like to make the statement again that I will directly after this meeting direct the Immigration Committee and the Immigration authorities to take notice of the recommendations of the group, the Immigration group in what they have recommended in general tightening up of the policy and I think this would satisfactorily answer the queries that Miss Buffett had before in bringing forward the motion that she had.

MR PRESIDENT: Okay thank you. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. Thank you Minister Christian. To refresh our memories I had put a motion forward as far back as November 1991 requesting that the Executive Member having responsibility for Immigration matters bring forward to this House at that time, the next ordinary meeting, amending legislation. Honourable Members are aware that Minister Christian formed a Revenue, a Immigration Review Working Group, I've lost the title, Immigration Review Group, who have laboriously addressed various subjects required addressing in the Immigration department, apart from actually the Compensating Departure Scheme. It is interesting to note Mr President that the Immigration, the statutorily appointed Immigration Committee, recommended the abolition of the Compensating Departure Scheme as in fact did the majority of the committee formed, the Review Group and I express the view of disappointment that nothing has been able, no legislation has been changed in that time. However, I support the methods by which the matter can be arrested at this time, until legislation is brought forward should the next Assembly consider those steps necessary to bring forward, but at least they have the expressed view of the previous group and I therefore would be happy in view of the fact that I had intended amending my motion and except for the removal of the Compensating Departure Scheme which I requested, accept the fact that matters have been dealt with in this final Paper brought forward from the Immigration Group. So there is already a motion before us as to how to handle the matter at the end so I can't do anything about that can I. No. So that's all, there'll be stringent actions taken. If this is administered as the Minister will set out from the recommendation of the Working Group it should be satisfactory until legislation is in place. Thank you Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Neville Christian.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Thank you Mr President. I too support Mr Brown's proposal to withdraw the motion. I'm glad to hear that Mr Ernie Christian will instruct the Immigration people to tighten up on the administration of the Scheme. But I also think Mr President that some of the mystery surrounding the Compensating Departure Scheme should be taken away. The Compensating Departure Scheme in itself isn't another category of immigrant, that's the first myth that has to be dispelled. We basically only have the three classes of citizens on Norfolk Island. That's a TEP, the GEP and the out and out resident. Compensating Departure, like the quota system and like Section 18 I think it is, are just the means of obtaining a GEP, but all pre-requisites and conditions that are required to qualify for a GEP under the quota system are required to be met by people taking advantage of the the Compensating Departure Scheme before they can avail themselves of this system. The consequence of the Compensating Departure Scheme basically is that you maintain roughly your status quo in your population. So you know there are stories running around that it's another class of immigrant, it has to be made clear that it's not, it's just another method of obtaining a GEP. There are strict rules in how you go about this and if Immigration can administer it as it was meant to be administered when it was first made legislation well I think a lot of the problems will disappear. I certainly Compensating Departure has been a big success for Norfolk and I certainly wouldn't like to see it just tossed out because of a few teething problems.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Thank you Mr President. I agree with what Mr Christian is saying there, that this Compensating Departure facility is a facility that was introduced to assist certain categories of people, and that category are the ones that unfortunately find themselves having to leave the island, or wanting to leave the island for very good reasons. One is health reasons, to be near continuous medical assistance, the other is for educational purposes which is very important and the other is for maybe family reasons and things of that kind and I believe that that is how the Compensating Departure facility should be interpreted, but unfortunately as has been said before, it has been bent and twisted and all sorts of things to allow certain things to take place, but I believe that if the Minister, Mr Ernie Christian, is firm in his conviction that he will direct any tightening up as necessary within this particular area that he do it forthwith. I don't know how that's going to happen, he can tighten up, but any policy is likely to be challenged at any time but I hope that it can be worked in that way. I was just wondering whether Miss Buffett is happy that her proposed motion is being dealt with to some degree in these recommendation, or in this report. If it isn't, well then perhaps that can also be taken on board by the Minister and made sure that the Committees have a look at that as well and report back to the Minister.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Miss Buffett, then Mr Sanders.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr President. I just have to pick up on a point here mentioned by the previous speaker, or probably a couple of speakers, relating to people really having to leave the island because of certain problems. That's one of the very reasons that I opposed the Compensating Departure Scheme, that a person born of Norfolk Island, should really be expected to sell residency in order to go. I think it's provided for however in 1. on Page 3 of the Recommendation of the Committee where they make reference to compensating departure market. I think that will be covered. But, and to do with Mr, I won't prolong it because I've said everything else that I want to say.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Thank you Mr President. I agree with the last three speakers, Neville Christian, Alice Buffett and Bill Blucher. I do believe that the Report and the Recommendations from Mr Ernie Christian do cover all aspects of Miss Buffett's motion that was, I think it was in last November. The Compensating Departure aspect of the Immigration Act has been wrongly interpreted right from the start and by some it's been used as an extension of the Norfolk Island market value. It was never intended for that purpose, it was there for the sole purpose to assist those that really had a need for whatever the reason being, but in the case of a real need. The market value has been extended by those wishing to extend outside of the Norfolk Island market value, simply by attaching immigration status to it. The affect of Mr Ernier Christian's issuing instructions to tighten up on this procedure would bring things back to a Norfolk Island value, not the value as it would be in Britain or America or some other place, but what the assets are worth here, without immigration status added on to that value and if this is implemented most things, the law probably doesn't even need to be altered very much, if at all, if the thing is implemented properly. Thank you Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Further participation. If there isn't any further participation Mr Brown has indicated that he would seek the House's approval to discharge from the Notice Paper the matter before us.

MR BROWN: And I so do, Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you, is that agreed amongst Members.

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

That is agreed and so that matter is discharged from the Notice Paper. I mentioned earlier Honourable Members that I would not call on Orders of the Day No.3 or No. 4, which leads us to Adjournment. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Mr President I move that the House do now adjourn.

MR PRESIDENT: The question is that the House do no adjourn and we enter Adjournment Debate if that is desired. Debate. Mr Sanders.

MR SANDERS: Thank you Mr President. This meeting is almost the end of this 5th Legislative Assembly and I feel that prior to this coming election the public should be reminded of a few facts. Early in the life of this Assembly Members who claimed to be protectors of Norfolk Island were extremely keen to give away 5 acres of prime land at Anson Bay to a Dr Mayo under the guise of the South Pacific Centre for the Environment. Fortunately constant criticism finally prevented this from happening. This Assembly has proceeded to cancel all major maintenance on the school and Rawson Hall etc., including re-construction of urgent road works, even to the extent of stopping repairs to the pot-holes in the roads. This latter was probably because the person who had that contract had the surname of "Sanders" which is shown to have a decided disadvantage in any application for positions or contracts in the Public Service. It is interesting to note that while all these important and major works were not done, it was still possible to spend amounts such as \$50,000 on the net ball courts, which was not in the budget, and the money is assumed to have come out of the roads, which was in the budget. It is also interesting to note that a substantial amount of revenue not expected, approximately \$250,000 which came by way of settlement of Customs duties etc., were spent on constitutional court cases which could have been prevented by Mr David Buffett sending a fax copy of the Government Gazette notice of the appointment of the new Executives of this Assembly to the Remuneration Tribunal, or if he had forgotten, which appears to be the case, simply by saying so in the Assembly. The spending of this massive of public monies on Court proceedings was authorised by the same people who were critical of the last Assembly of using the Courts to uphold the laws of Norfolk Island. While this Government has not done the urgent maintenance that was needed because of the lack of funds, it is interesting to note that funds have been readily available for travel etc., for example, a trip to New Guinea, and accommodation in the penthouse with private driver etc., at a cost to the public purse of \$2,500; a trip to the Bahamas at a cost of approximately \$2,500; all in all this 5th Assembly has spent some \$70,000 of public monies on travel, and I must say, some of it for a very good cause. I'm not suggesting for one moment that it was all waste. I'd like to read out Mr President, a list of just where most of these funds went from and these figures are approximate. David Buffett - \$15,000; Mr George Smith - \$20,000; Mr Bill Blucher - \$5,000; Mr Neville Christian - approximately \$20,000; Mr Ernie Christian - approximately \$10,000; Mrs Gaye Evans - \$2,500; and the Clerk of this Assembly approximately \$1,000. In conclusion I would ask all persons to be satisfied with what has happened to their money during the life of this Assembly, before they cast their vote in the next election.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr Sanders. Further participation.

MR N. CHRISTIAN: Thank you Mr President. As Mr Sanders has said, this will almost certainly be the last meeting of the 5th Legislative Assembly and I would, I think it would be appropriate to say a few words about what has been done for the benefit of the Norfolk Island community during the life of this Assembly. This Assembly has seen a major increase in the scope of self-government and has also seen self-government flow-through to real benefits for the community. In particular, a number of major works projects have been undertaken, or are in an advanced stage of preparation. All of these projects provide benefits to the island, to visitors and to the local community. One matter of this kind Mr President is the Water Assurance Scheme. Memories of course, are short, but the Water Assurance Scheme was a matter of controversy for many years. All that has now been overtaken by the creation of an effective and functioning sewerage scheme for the most densely populated areas of Norfolk Island. I acknowledge the role of previous Assemblies, but the life of this Assembly has seen the completion of stage 1 of the sewerage scheme and its subsequent extension to the school. Again, after many years of debate, the Norfolk Island Airport has become the property of this community. The takeover occurred in March 1991 and very soon after that the airport was substantially upgraded. This is a very important development, it puts within the

control of the local community, through its elected representatives, a major determining factor with respect to the island's tourism industry. The transfer and the subsequent upgrade, have extended the flexibility of the airport with respects to the number of allowable 737 flights. In previous times the question of pavement concessions was a constant source of irritation. This problem has now gone away. The transfer and the upgrade were effected at minimal cost to the Norfolk Island community, the majority of the costs were borne by the Commonwealth transfer grant which was negotiated upwards from \$800.000 to \$2.5M and by way of user charges imposed on airlines operating at the airport. Contracts have been exchanged for the supply of a new telephone exchange. When installed, which will be soon, this will provide modern communications for the community and will also generate substantial revenue for the Government. In particular the exchange will allow the Norfolk Island Government to retain over the prices of overseas telephone calls. Under the old arrangement this was always a difficulty, because the pulse rates were generated in Sydney. This meant that it is difficult to secure effective control over the prices of overseas calls. The new exchange will solve that problem and will greatly expand the capacity for new subscribers. Mr President one of the recurring problems with the island has been the roading programme. I think it is fair to say that the state of the roads is the most visible political issue that is around at the present time. Again, effective steps have been taken to solve this problem and in particular the equipment has been purchased which is necessary for an effective on-going roading programme. I am sure that in the near future this will lead to a substantial improvement in the state of our roads. Mr President the issue of a port is probably the longest running issue in Norfolk's history. It has been around since 1788. Although this Assembly cannot claim that it has solved the problem, it has taken significant steps towards trying to do so. In particular a preliminary report by Mr Bill Service of the Townsville Port Authority has been prepared and a subsequent, more detailed report will be in our hands within the next few days. This will place the next Assembly in a good position to do something about this issue. Mr President the things I have mentioned are all important to the island's future and the well-being of its community. No less important are some legislative developments, and I will mention only two. The Health Care Scheme and Workers Compensation. The Health Care Scheme came about as a direct response to the withdrawal of Medicare for treatment on the mainland. However, it was not limited to replacing Medicare for mainland treatment. For the first time a comprehensive health insurance programme has been implemented for the benefit of the community. It has had its difficulties, but it is nevertheless true and the existence of the Scheme has been of great benefit to people who might otherwise have suffered grave financial hardship because of its absence. Mr President Workers Compensation is an issue that has been around since at least 1954. Although the Employment Act is the work of a number of Assemblies, it fell to this Assembly to put it into operation. The lack of Workers Compensation again has led to hardship in the past. Now we have a very cheap and affordable Workers Compensation Scheme giving cover to persons who might otherwise have gone without. For the employers, it has benefited them by abolishing the right that an employee previously had to sue the employer. For accidents that occurred after 1st November 1991 that right to sue has been taken away. This constitutes a substantial protection for employers and also a saving by way of insurance premiums. All of these initiatives Mr President have been achieved within balanced budgets. It is some times said that the Assembly's spending is out of control. I do not believe that Mr President is a fair or knowledgeable assessment of the situation. The annual Financial Statements speak for themselves. In short Mr President as you yourself have mentioned today, the powers of the Assembly have been expanded, first in 1989 and again as a result of negotiations recently. Those powers have been exercised and as a result the community has received significant benefits during the life of the Assembly. Taken all together, the airport, telephone exchange, sewerage scheme, work towards a port, health care, workers compensation and preparations for a better roads programme having all been achieved in the life of this Assembly, withg comparatively little disruption and on the basis of balanced budgets. I am sure that all Members acknowledge that there is more to be done, much more, however, I would say that this Assembly has been successful in putting the community first. Thank you Mr President.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr Christian. Mr Brown you earlier sought the call.

MR BROWN: Thank you Mr President. Mr President, this is the last meeting of the 5th Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly. I think that it is appropriate that we express our thanks to you as our President, our thanks to our Clerk, to the various broadcasting officers that have been present at our meetings and to all who have been involved in helping to make this Legislative Assembly function. A number of our present Members Mr President have said that they won't be standing for re-election. I think that it is appropriate for us to express our gratitude and I think the gratitude of the community in fact to all Members for their service in the House. It is not always an easy task Mr President as you well know. In this House we've not always agreed, but that and the ability to do so with dignity I believe are important parts of the democratic process and I believe that we have in this House been able to disagree with dignity. To those who are standing for re-election, I certainly wish you good luck. Mr President in February last year a Select Committee was appointed to look at the vexed question of members of the Public Service standing for election to the Legislative Assembly. Unfortunately that Committee met only once, I think to appoint a Chairman, and it did not meet again as perhaps quite wisely it decided to await the tabling of the Report of the Public Sector Reform Task Force before completing its own deliberations. That Task Force, as we know, has met on many occasions and an exposure draft of its work and progress was tabled at our last meeting. I think it is unfortunate that time did not allow that Report to be completed during the life of this Assembly. It was addressing many important questions. The question that I want to talk about now however, is just one of the questions which that Report was addressing. I want to talk now about the question of public servants standing for election to the Legislative Assembly. I think that it is only proper that I say what I want to say today because then anyone deciding whether or not he or she wants to vote for me knows where I stand, and more importantly anyone who happens to be a member of the Public Service who is standing for election has no surprises either. Clearly the present law allows a public servant to stand for election to this Assembly and to be at the one time, both a public servant and a member of the Legislative Assembly. If successful, as a backbencher, such a person is entitled to leave under Section 16 of the Public Service Ordinance. That is for leave to attend a meeting of the Legislative Assembly. That is a formal meeting of the House in this Chamber. The Ordinance also, in Section 27(1), makes provision for leave without pay to be sought, and I quote "in a case of pressing necessity", but this would not appear to cover attendance to other Legislative Assembly duties during normal working hours of the Public Service. You're all aware that if a public servant is elected to the Legislative Assembly and chooses to accept Executive office, then he must resign from the Public Service at that stage. It will now be for the next Legislative Assembly, if it wishes to, in relation to the whole question, but if I am re-elected I propose to promote legislation which would be less stringent than that existing in the Australian States and in the Australian Federal arena, the result of which would be to prohibit a senior public servant from being both a member of the public service and a member of the Legislative Assembly. That restriction would just apply to a senior public servant. It would ensure I believe that the Public Service is able to run efficiently and effectively from day to day. If passed, that senior public servant, or those senior public servants, would be required to resign from the Public Service if, but only if, they are elected. In the Federal environment and in a number of the States, it is necessary to resign if you decide that you wish to stand for election and there is a provision under which you may be re-appointed to the Public Service if your candidature is unsuccessful. In some of the other States a public servant is deemed to have resigned immediately upon his being elected, but in the event that his candidature is unsuccessful then nothing changes. And it's that latter system that I would be proposing for Norfolk Island, no need to resign but if you are elected then you must resign or be deemed to have resigned. But the restriction, if passed, would only apply to senior public servants, any other public servant would remain free, as he is now, to fill both roles, but to do so legally and effectively I believe that an amendment would be required to enable that person to be given leave to enable all Assembly duties to be fulfilled, not simply attendance at the formal meetings in this Chamber. I don't believe that it is acceptable for a senior public servant to be frequently absent from his public service duties. Nor is it acceptable for a senior public servant to be seen as anything but non-political and loyal to the government of the day. After all that is the foundation of

every good public service. At the same time, the changes I would propose would recognise the views of those who believe that because Norfolk Island is a small community it is important to ensure that the widest possible field of candidates can stand for election. Now some of what I have said may appear to be directed personally at our President, and I'd like to say this. I hope that our retiring President will stand for election and that he will be re-elected. I also hope that he will wish to be appointed to an Executive office in the next legislative Assembly and that, as you realise, would require him in any event, to resign from the Public Service. Again to all Members I say thank you for having worked with all of you through the term of this 5th Legislative Assembly.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr Brown. Further participation. Mr Blucher.

MR BLUCHER: Mr President. They're very difficult acts to follow and I'll be very simple in what I say, I hope. I won't, in this Adjournment Debate, talk about the rights and wrongs of our current legislation and whether or not members of the Public Service should or should not be part of the Assembly. I believe if the ability is there, then they should be but having said that, if they are well then, I believe you can only do justice to one role and if you are to be an Executive and that's why we're elected and that is to become part of the workings of the Government and to be involved in the day to day involvement of the Legislative Assembly, the Executive and its members and also to take on a responsible role. What the other Members have said, I agree with what you have said about what's been done and that what has been done in these last three years is very important and they're matters which had to be done and they had to be done because if they weren't carried out, well then we would not be able to offer the facilities and the service to our industry and that is the tourist industry as we are able now today. We can all imagine the problems we would have faced in this last dry spell if we didn't have strict controls on underground water and matters of that kind and the health aspects of the island would be absolutely ruined. What I'd like to say is all those things that have been done, well, well done that they are done and they should have been done and everyone in this room contributed to that, whether they be Executive members or ordinary Members and they have contributed as best as they possibly can to achieve all of those things. Let's hope that having done that we are going to go out of this Assembly being confident that what is left in the kitty is going to see the next Assembly back on its feet and able to work and I hope and I sincerely trust that we have not gone too far in borrowing from Peter to pay Paul for whatever we need to do and that there's not much, many funds left. I don't know how the Revenue Fund stands at present, today, or whether the island fund has been depleted or what, but in any case I trust that the incoming Assembly has a good basis to start on and hopefully that we have left them with that. There are a couple of things that we haven't done, haven't achieved and I take some of the blame for that. I'm very disappointed that we have not been able to achieve all the things that we wanted to achieve in the benefits from the fishing and the economic zone around Norfolk Island. Maybe one day we will be able to achieve and get benefits from all of those things. We achieved having a certain area declared for local fishermen, in my view that's not sufficient, I believe that we as a Territory are entitled to the benefits of all the things that are around us, including shipwrecks, including the whole gamut of what is around us in this Territory should be ours and to benefit from. I was very disappointed that I was not able to foster the export in the agricultural and quarantine field and to by-pass and get over the obstacles and the hurdles that were placed in front of this Government in order to allow a better export industry for Norfolk Island and I was extremely disappointed that our efforts to build an apiary industry here fell flat on its face simply because of bureaucratic red tape, not only through the Australian scene but also international red tape as well and it wasn't for the want of trying, I think we all tried to break down that barrier but unfortunately our run was too late and it placed a lot of people in quite large financial jeopardy. I'd like to say something that I'm not very happy with and that is the fact that when this problem of accommodation houses going into the hire car industry first reared its head, the Government did not appear to take the bit between the teeth and do something very radical about it. Now I'm afraid it's becoming too late and the damage is done and if something can't, if a miracle can't happen, well I can see the industry, the investment in that particular industry, will be destroyed and there will be some very unhappy Norfolk

Islanders in that and some very unhappy workers that may have to lose their jobs through that. It's all very well to say well it's open competition and that's how it should be, I believe in free enterprise and I believe that open competition should be encouraged, but I don't believe that individuals or organisations should undertake to go out into the field and bring down what they believe to be a good earning capacity for the island simply because they think it was a good idea for them to get into it as well. That's happened in so many places before and so many times, that it becomes monotonous when you see it from year to year happening. I believe that in that particular aspect another problem that has arisen is that there is now competition, and very strong competition, within that protected group, because they are all now believing that if one starts it well the only way they will be on equal footing is to start it themselves. So they've all been drawn into it and it's a pity to see it happening but that's the way it's going and I believe that it's too late for this Assembly to do anything about it and I hope that the next Assembly will look at it and look at it very seriously because it is for the benefit of the island and unless this island can move along in a good even economic way in the commercial area it's all the better for the island itself because revenue comes from good business and it that doesn't happen well we'll all be down the drain and that includes tourism. I think I've said enough Mr President. I believe that there are some good things that we have done, but there are many things that we have not done and I hope that given the time the next Assembly will be able to make this an even better place, and it is a good place at present, so let's not spoil it.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. Further participation in the Adjournment Debate. Mr Ernie Christian.

MR E. CHRISTIAN: Mr President, I don't wish to get into any electioneering or vote-catching thing. I would just like to say thank you to the Members of this Assembly for all the help they've given me during my term in office and to members of the Administration that I've worked with and who have me. One thing that I was sorry not to be able to do today was to table the Report about the possibility of a port or harbour facility. As everybody knows, one of the biggest things, biggest problems we have today is to shipping and we were very, very fortunate to be able, through after a couple of trips away from the island, to be able to have the Townsville Port Authority do such a study for us. I have seen their draft copy and a port is feasible here on Norfolk and well within our budget capabilities. But something I would like to point out in the figures that were given earlier about trips away and things like that, that in 1978 I think it was, and this is in files, within our records section, that the cost of producing such a study for the island as to a feasibility of a port was then estimated to cost something around \$250,000 mark. That was in 1978, those costs have certainly escalated since then, and I think if you added up all the figures that Bill Sanders put forward earlier, for all of that we got a very good value for our, for what we've put out. So some of these trips away are quite essential. They're not all gallivanting around, not by any means. Again, I'd just like to thank everybody for the assistance that I have had during my term and to bring forward a problem that we're having at present in the National Park where motor cycle people ripping up some of the newly planted areas, destroying our pines and our bits and pieces. I'd just like to make them fully aware that it is an offence to use a motor vehicle other than on what are committed roadways within that area, but apart from that what they're doing is possibly causing us to force the locking of the gates after certain hours which would deprive tourists and islanders of the chance of free use of the National Parks, so I'd ask these people to kindly refrain from using their motor bikes for scrambling within the National Park areas and to help to look after the area rather than destroy it. Thank you Mr President.

MR ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you. Any further debate. Mr Buffett.

MR BUFFETT: Yes, thank you Mr Deputy President. At this concluding sitting of the 5th Legislative Assembly Mr Deputy President, I too would like to record the appreciation of the participation of Members throughout the three year term of this Legislative Assembly. The eight Members gathered today, Mr Smith who was ill and absent and Mrs Evans, who was a Member and Deputy President at the commencement of this Legislative Assembly. I

would want to note with appreciation the work undertaken by the Ministers throughout the life of the Assembly, that is yourself, Bill Blucher, Gaye Evans, Neville Christian, George Smith and Ernie Christian. Mr Deputy President, we are a diverse group of people but notwithstanding the fact that eight of the nine are of the basic family fabric of this place. What has been done in the last three years, notwithstanding the diversity that I have mentioned, will really enter the history books of Norfolk Island. The majority of this diverse group has demonstrated a willingness to work together and I can see that this has been an example of how a diverse group of individuals can diminish their divisive and diverse arrangements and work with sufficient cohesion to get on with and make significant achievements for Norfolk Island. It can be a significant record of self help. Norfolk Island people helping themselves in a seasoned manner because these things have been achieved and many of them have already been mentioned in some considerable detail by the Minister for Finance, Mr Neville Christian. The building of a water assurance scheme, I emphasise the building, because of course there has been years, years of preliminary work, but the building is a task unto itself and during the term of this Assembly that has been achieved. Erection of a health care scheme. This really is a scheme that has marked Norfolk Island's philosophy, which is that there is an element of self help within the community but when things become difficult the community assistance comes into play and really that is the essential components of the health care scheme that has been devised especially for this place. The workers compensation scheme has been put into place. Now that too, has had much preliminary work upon it, but it is commenced and with the difficulties of commencement in the life of this Assembly. The takeover of the Norfolk Island airport has been effected. We have commenced years 11 and 12 at the Norfolk Island Central School. Education is really the best investment in our future. We have commenced replacement of the old telephone system, which will mean that we will have our major communication system in the island up-dated in a way that will not only offer greater services but will indeed be a greater revenue earner for the Norfolk Island public purse. Mr Ernie Christian earlier today has mentioned the ports study which is available to us which will obviously be something that will need to be further examined in the light of another Assembly. The scope of self-government has increased almost dramatically during this time and fruits of that has been seen just at today's sitting when we addressed some additional matters. You may think that I have exaggerated when I have said some of these things will make the history books of Norfolk Island, but if you look at the commencement of a water and sewerage scheme, erection of a health care scheme, the additional years of years 11 and 12 at the Norfolk Island School, the takeover of the Norfolk Island airport, the Norfolk Island airport almost buying back the farm if you might put it in those terms, it doesn't mean that we have put out that money in the same way but it has meant that that area has returned within the hands of the Norfolk Island people. They are momentous things to have happened in Norfolk Island and I think that there could be some justifiable pride that they have been done during the term of this Assembly, but they have not only been done, but they have been done in what you must recognise as difficult times. There have been difficult times economically, experienced in Australia and New Zealand and in other parts of the world also, but I mention those two placed because they probably more than most effect the economic climate in this place and they have been extremely depressed, you know, there are a whole host of terms which you wouldn't want me to bore you with, but you have heard them all, depression, recession etc., etc., and various arguments about which is which, but they have been difficult times. We have experienced the pilots dispute which has been devastating for this place depending upon its principle industry of tourism. We have had to contend with the external influences by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Committee and the various activities that have meant re-deployment of our resources that could well be put to ensuring that things in Norfolk Island could probably run more smoothly, or we could find a more ready, or a quicker solution to some of the difficulties that arrive on our plate. I've mentioned a lot of these things and I want it to be clear that that doesn't mean that it's all been plain sailing, much and many of them have involved a tremendous amount of interim difficulties and one difficulty amongst them all is that we have on some occasions have had to re-deploy our resources to undertake external difficulties in lieu of placing them so that we can put them to solving our internal difficulties of the day. In saying all that, Mr Deputy President, undertaking the tasks and those things I've mentioned, I do want to sincerely say that we have been very ably served in this Assembly, the Government and Members,

by a professional Public Service and various statutory and voluntary groups and individuals and I too would want to express appreciation to the efforts of them all in pursuing Norfolk Island's interests, the totality of Norfolk Island's interests. I earlier mentioned diversity and yet cohesive action. Divisiveness really is very much amongst us in Norfolk Island, there are those who sometimes promote divisiveness, there are those who sometimes exploit divisions and divisions really occur in a number of ways and in a number of places. Divisions sometimes seen, you know, between commercial area, the commercial mile versus the rest. Divisions in the employment areas, Public Service and private sector, between islanders and non-islanders, strangers, sometimes we experience divisions in this House. People sometimes play upon divisions, some promote them and really others think it's fun, I've got to say, but mark my words, unless we work towards diminishing these divisions, we'll not survive. We won't sustain internal self-government, that is Norfolk Island as we know it and treasure it, will not survive because our energies will be exhausted and diverted from the principal tasks, important tasks, that need to be done in this place. I tried to jot down a couple of them and I think I've lost that bit of paper, but let me just tell you some of the things that are around. We do need to have economic stability and vitality, and I mentioned the economic difficulty that we have suffered of recent times. Our financial base and industry bases need to be broadened. The recent research into a guava industry is encouraging to support the other agriculturally based activities, such as palm seed and shoots industry and to expand the existing single strand tourist based industry. Our freight system needs urgent attention, both air and sea, and the question of the port facility that was mentioned amongst us in a number of quarters continues to be important and we do now have a report to examine in detail, and there are many other powerful examples of work to be done. We really need to thrust forward the challenge for cohesion. This is a small place, 13 1/3rd square miles, 2000 people, too minute to be further divided. To be effective in running our own affairs we've got to do it together, pulling together upon the same rope. This is not an unusual theme that I am saying Honourable Members, you've heard me say it before, but in the context of what I have mentioned earlier, I hope you will bear with me whilst I say it again. When things are to be done, really all hands need to be put to the task. It's not in our interest to think up ways to exclude people from pulling their weight. To the contrary, we've got to exercise our minds as to how we can encourage all to be participants. No less in the tasks of government, in the widest sense, which is the task that we are upon in this House and I've got to ask you to take that into account when you give consideration to the words that have been mentioned by Mr Brown in his debate in this adjournment sessions this afternoon. Our forebears, when they settled this place, were 194 very individual people, but they did possess the wisdom to encourage and ensure that when matters have an affect upon the whole community they were done or conducted together. They foresaw that unless it was done thus, they as a community of that size, would not survive and we really do have a powerful precedent, which I think we ignore at our peril. And so when you reflect upon the things said today in this Chamber Honourable Members, think also I ask you on what I have said about cohesion, working together, and ask yourselves whether we only want to live for ourselves only for today, or do we want to make a contribution today securing vitality and our culture for the wide community in our lifetime and importantly, beyond.

MR ROBINSON: Thank you Mr Deputy President. Perhaps to the surprise of a few I have here some more positive accomplishments of this, the Fifth Legislative Assembly not so far mentioned. One of them is the purchase of a \$140,000 house at Anson Bay which hasn't been occupied since the previous Crown Solicitor left, but the good news is, we've saved money there by not bothering to mow the lawns or maintain it. Another one is we have Mr Ernie Topsoil Christian who has found a new revenue earner for the Government. He digs a hole, fills it up with crushed rock and bituminous concrete then sells the Government the topsoil in order to pay for the project. Another one is it took two years to get permission from KAVHA to underground the 240 volt light cables lying around on top of the ground down here even after Mr Mike Prentice and I had promised to pay for it. Speaking of paying for it, many people say that you can't run a successful business and be on the Legislative Assembly at the same time. Well Mr Christian, Mr Neville Christian has proved those people wrong: his earthmoving equipment has gone from strength to strength in the last few years so it can be done. Just remember these little positive things at the next elections.

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr Robinson. Any further debate?

MISS BUFFETT: Yes thank you Mr Deputy President. I've only worked with two statutorily appointed Boards during the life of this Assembly and wish to thank them and commend their efforts of those two Boards. I've looked with interest during the lunch break also at the report to the Administration by Dr Nobbs and will just read a little sentence that interested me greatly and of course will interest the rest of the community. It appears on page 29. It's all very interesting but the last sentence reads, "that the particular significance of this matter which is referring to the increase of our internal self government and of course the, I'll just fill in here, the reference to our Legislative set-up independence from the Australian area. The particular significance of this matter is that per capita cost is high. The cost would not be much different for a community of 100,000 as for a community of 200,000 beg your pardon, so the difference won't be much between those of 100,000 community and a community of 200,000 people. Now just in that one sentence I just draw people's attention to the fact that as we move let us move in relation with our purse strings. Don't let us move too quickly in any group that is brought into the Assembly and I wish all members well and all future members well but we need to acknowledge that there is a real money cost and we have to pull together, we can't all, not everyone's going to pull on the one line otherwise the place will topple over, there has to be a balance and a balance needs to be kept and our thoughts need to be concentrated on, the real costs of continuing too quickly. With that I thank everybody in the community. I thank Honourable Members, Mr President, other Honourable Members of this House, Mr Smith in his absence, our Clerk who is always at our hand and the Deputy Clerk Mrs Gaye Evans and the Public Service who have helped. Thank you all for your courtesy and help during this term

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any further debate? No further debate in the adjournment session. I want to give each member the last opportunity of their term in office to say what they need to say or want to say and felt they should have said but not said it so far without shutting off debate too quickly

MR SANDERS: I move that the question be put

MR BLUCHER: If there is no further debate the question shall be put

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

This House now stands adjourned.

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