



DEBATES

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HANSARD

31 May 1989

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MR SPEAKER (Mr Prowse) took the chair at 10.30 am and read the prayer.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING BILL 1989
Postponement of Notice

Motion (by **Ms Follett** for **Mr Whalan**) agreed to:

That notice No. 1, executive business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

NATURE CONSERVATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989

MRS GRASSBY (Minister for Housing and Urban Services) (10.31): I present the Nature Conservation (Amendment) Bill 1989. I move:

That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

The ACT Nature Conservation Act came into operation in June 1982. The Act was established to protect native flora and fauna in the ACT and Jervis Bay Territory and it provides for the management of national parks and nature reserves. It is similar to legislation in the States and Northern Territory.

The Australian Government has signed agreements with the Japanese and Chinese governments which provide for special protection to migratory birds. This now requires this Government to amend the Act to protect the migratory birds and their habitat in the ACT. An example of this is the annual migration of Latham's snipe from Japan and China to Australia. Numbers of these birds may be seen in the ACT between August and February.

The amendments will help us to protect and manage these birds. The Nature Conservation (Amendment) Bill 1989 will also protect endangered wildlife. A species given special protection status will have a high level of protection under the Bill. For example, specific requirements are spelt out for the issue of a permit or licence affecting any species with special protection status.

The Bill also proposes other amendments to the Act. The major amendments are: upgrading penalties in line with other States and the Northern Territory; penalties to be set according to the seriousness of the offence; improved procedures for preparing lists of plants and animals which

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outline their conservation status; the conservator of wildlife to be able to make and amend declarations; any declarations to be tabled in the Assembly and to be subject to disallowance; closing some loopholes in the present Act; and providing gender neutral terms in the Act. The Bill will have minimal effect on revenue or expenditure. I present the explanatory memorandum for the Bill.

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

WATER POLLUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989

MRS GRASSBY (Minister for Housing and Urban Services) (10.35): I present the Water Pollution (Amendment) Bill 1989. I move:

That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

The Water Pollution Act was introduced by the Commonwealth in 1984 and became operational in 1985. Regulations under the Act define the classification of water in the ACT, the standards required for discharge into those waters, and the requirements for analysis of samples and restricted substances. As it stands, the Act includes terms of a technical nature which now do not comply with common practices.

The Water Pollution (Amendment) Bill 1989 amends the Act to protect this. The Bill also rearranges sections relating to the analyst appointed under the Act and allows an analyst to accompany an inspector. The need for the analysis of samples set out in the regulations has been overtaken by improvements in testing methods. The present Act means that changes to testing methods which have been improved or the use of more appropriate methods which are not contained in the regulations would require changes to those regulations - a slow process. This could cause unnecessary delays and failure to enforce the legislation adequately.

The Bill requires the pollution control authority to prepare and publish a manual setting out the methods to be used by analysts. The manual and each amendment may be disallowed and will be required to be gazetted and laid before the Legislative Assembly within 15 days of the date of gazettal. The Bill will have no effect on income or expenditure but will allow for better management of water pollution analysis.

The Bill will not become operational until after the publication of the manual of analytical methods. This will allow the existing provisions to continue. I now present the explanatory memorandum for the Bill.

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

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VOCATIONAL TRAINING BILL 1989

MR WHALAN (Minister for Industry, Employment and Education) (10.39): I present the Vocational Training Bill 1989. I move:

That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

The purpose of the Vocational Training Bill 1989 is to establish an ACT vocational training authority in order to improve and extend training for industry and commerce in the Territory. The authority will replace the ACT Apprenticeship Board and will have broader powers to administer both apprenticeships and traineeships, as well as to promote the development of training in the ACT. It will be established on a tripartite basis with equal employer, union and government representation on the authority of 10 members. The director of the ACT Institute of Technical and Further Education will be, ex officio, a member of the authority.

There is a pressing need to modernise ACT provision for the administration of industry training and to bring the ACT into line with changes which have been made in most States in recent years. This requirement has been very widely recognised in the extensive consultations which have been undertaken on the proposal to establish a vocational training authority since 1987. The setting up of the authority commands wide support in the community among employers and unions.

The authority will be an expert body to advise the Minister on training in the Territory. It will have a major significance as a vehicle for fostering collaboration between employers, unions and government agencies in improving and extending training arrangements. An interim authority has functioned since early 1988 and there are already healthy signs of enhanced cooperation between the industry partners in training matters.

The authority will be required to promote equity in access to training opportunities. The Government places very considerable importance on this need and will look to the authority for constructive measures to assist girls and women, the disabled, migrants and other groups disadvantaged in access to training and employment. I look to further innovations, such as the tradeswomen on the move project which was conducted very successfully last year.

Training represents an investment in people and in the economic future of this Territory. It affords a means of widening access to jobs and of increasing job satisfaction. Effective training will increase the productivity and competitiveness of ACT industry and contribute to both economic and social objectives.

The ACT has a quality education system, and the Government will be taking measures to build a quality training system

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on this base. This venture will require the full cooperation of employers, unions and the vocational education and training system. I will be announcing in coming months other steps that the Government will be taking to ensure this result.

The ACT cannot afford to fall behind other parts of Australia in the changes that are occurring in vocational training in response to structural change, award restructuring and a more competitive economic environment.

I would like, in conclusion, to thank the members of the ACT Apprenticeship Board for the major contribution that the board has made over many years to the progress of apprenticeship training in this Territory. While the time has come to make changes, the new authority will be fortunate in being able to build on the foundations so well laid by the board. The establishment of a modern vocational training authority is a matter of considerable importance for the work force and progress of this Territory, and I commend this Bill to the Assembly. I present the explanatory memorandum for the Bill.

Mr Humphries: I move that the debate on this matter be now adjourned.

Mr Collaery: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The standing orders give the advantage to the party that adjourns the debate. On three occasions a member of the Rally has been on his feet at the same time as a member of the Liberal Party yet we have not received the call. I wish to dissent formally from the Speaker's ruling on this matter.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Collaery. I was not aware that that was the problem, that you were standing to - - -

Mr Collaery: I mean no disrespect, Mr Speaker, but clearly on the resumption of debate the advantage goes to the party that has moved the adjournment.

MR SPEAKER: I understand that.

Mr Collaery: On each occasion the party nearest to you, Mr Speaker, has caught your eye first, obviously. I know that you did not intend that in any way, but I wish to make clear to the Assembly and the public that this has occurred.

MR SPEAKER: Your point is taken, Mr Collaery. The question is that the Bill be agreed to in principle and I now seek a member to adjourn that debate.

Debate (on motion by **Dr Kinloch**) adjourned.

TOURISM INDUSTRY

MR WHALAN (Minister for Industry, Employment and Education) (10.44): I move:

That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that the tourism industry provides enormous opportunities for growth and diversification of the ACT economy; and
- (2) resolves to support sensible measures to ensure better promotion of the ACT as a tourist destination, and balanced development of the ACT's tourism infrastructure.

I welcome the opportunity to speak to this motion. The ACT Labor Government sees the local tourism industry as a very important element in Canberra's overall economic development. This Government rates employment creation as one of its highest priorities. It also rates consultation with industry and the community in policy formulation very highly. In pursuing policies aimed at the development of Canberra's tourism potential we will keep both employment generation and consultation to the forefront of our deliberations.

The local industry is on the move. The number of visits by domestic tourists to the ACT grew at an average rate of 8.5 per cent per year from 1980 to 1985. This is compared with a national growth of only 3 per cent. The tourism industry in the ACT stands at the threshold of a dynamic new era which holds the key to the Territory's future economic prospects. Tourism is undoubtedly Australia's most diverse industry. It is often difficult to come to grips with the extent of its economic impact.

The Bureau of Industry Economics calculated as far back as 1974 that tourism impacts on nearly every business in Canberra. From the Government's perspective the tourism industry comprises the accommodation, transport, attractions, restaurants, and entertainment sectors, travel agents and some retailers. However, lines are never clear. The rural producer who opens his home on weekends is also a member of this important industry. Indeed, I welcome the signs of new awareness in the ACT private sector that practically every area of economic activity is involved in some way in the tourist industry.

Tourism is a 24 hours a day, seven days a week industry which consists of a predominance of small businesses, despite growing investment by large companies. It relies on minimal direct financial assistance or regulation from government. Its impacts are broad ranging, involving economic, social and environmental considerations.

To put the size of the tourism industry into context, we need to realise that it is Australia's fastest growing industry and now outstrips all other export earners with the exception of coal. This in real terms means that some

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\$25 billion a year is spent by domestic and international tourists, representing 6 per cent of gross domestic product.

Because it is a labour intensive industry, tourism's job creating capacity is staggering, with over 28 per cent growth per year, representing 20,000 new jobs with a total of 430,000 people employed in the industry; or, to look at it from another perspective, 6 per cent of the work force in Australia is employed in tourism and over 10 per cent of new jobs created since 1983 have been in that industry.

This order of magnitude holds similar significance in the ACT where tourism is our largest private sector industry behind construction. It employs some 8,000 people and generates \$370m per annum. The potential for growth in revenue generated by tourism to the ACT is enormous. It has been estimated that encouraging domestic tourists to increase their average length of stay by one night would increase revenue generated by \$90m per annum. I would just like to emphasise that: if we can increase the average length of stay by one night it would increase the revenue by \$90m per annum.

Increasing the lengths of stay of international visitors by an additional night would add a further \$8m. Further, if the ACT's current share of the domestic visitor market were increased to 4 per cent and average length of stay extended by one night, domestic tourism would bring in \$1 billion annually to the ACT economy. We must also not forget the Queanbeyan and surrounding districts tourism industry, which are inextricably linked to our economy. Given the regional perspective, tourism's economic impact is even further enhanced.

Tourism is well suited to creating employment opportunities for the bulge in the number of young ACT residents expected to enter the labour force over the next five years. The opportunities for the growth of tourism in Canberra and the region are very encouraging - a modern city set in a rural environment, surrounded on its outer perimeter by excellent ski fields, mountain scenery, historical villages and some of the best beaches in Australia. Our proximity to Sydney, Australia's largest population base, business centre and the busiest inbound gateway, provides the most attractive ingredient: a strong market.

The dramatic improvement in transport infrastructure, particularly the road networks and proposed developments such as the very fast train, will bring even greater opportunities. With 80 per cent of trips in Australia being by motor vehicle and a trend developing for holiday makers to travel shorter distances - that is, less than 500 kilometres - over shorter periods, on average four days, Canberra's share of the market must grow.

Similarly, the very important convention and incentive markets are now becoming increasingly more attracted to

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Canberra due not only to greatly improved product through the development of world class hotel and conference facilities but also to the rising cost of air transport. Companies are no longer prepared to travel vast distances to hold their conference. With a 2,500-seat convention centre due to open in early August, Canberra has the opportunity to become established as Australia's leading convention destination.

To ensure that we maximise our potential for tourism growth, we need to look to control and guide future development of our tourism infrastructure. We must minimise any adverse impact on the ACT's environment.

There are a number of areas offering potential for growth. Our rural surrounds and national parks offer world class outdoor recreation and leisure facilities. Whilst identifying these areas for future growth from a tourism perspective, the Labor Government will be mindful of the need to maintain the ACT's unique environment. The historical significance of Canberra and surrounding villages should not be underplayed. The completion of the National Museum will be a giant step forward for tourism development. The ACT Government will work with community groups to ensure that the Federal Government is made aware of how important this project is for the Territory.

The most important area for future development lies in the entertainment field. Canberra has seen an outstanding growth across the board in tourism infrastructure, particularly by the five-star end of the market with the Hyatt, Pavilion and Capital Parkroyal hotels coming on stream and the \$4m refurbishment to the Lakeside Hotel. These developments will be complemented by the opening of the convention centre. In order that these facilities realise their full potential Canberra must improve its entertainment bases. The completion of the section 19 development, with a casino and theatre complex, will be a great step forward in this area.

Convention delegates are a very lucrative source of revenue for the tourism industry, spending on average three times the daily rate of other visitors. Behind adequate facilities, with which Canberra is now well equipped, professional conference organisers rate access to entertainment as a high priority in determining a venue. A Tasmanian visitors survey conducted in 1978 showed that 53 per cent of all visitors to Tasmania visited the casino. The addition of the casino has increased the strength of the Tasmanian product, as indicated by the 17 per cent increase in visitor numbers in the first year of operation, followed by 27 per cent in the subsequent 12 months. The casinos have also proved a valuable tool in encouraging the development of package holidays. Both airlines and tour operators could sell casino packages which would be marketed independently, thus increasing the national exposure of the ACT.

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The impact of conventions right across the board is important as a great proportion of the money left in a city by delegates is spent with the retail sector. The Government will seek to work with retailers to ensure that we maximise the opportunities presented by tourism. The ACT's potential will not be realised unless sensible promotional measures are put in place. We will never have access to the level of resources available to other cities. However, we have performed well in the past with the limited resources made available. Our close competitor, the Northern Territory, devoted \$16m to its tourist commission last year compared with the \$3m provided to the Canberra Tourist Bureau. We received many more visitors.

It is therefore vital that our marketing is done in a professional and coordinated way. Clear lines of communication and consultation will be vital to the future success of tourism in the ACT. I have been very conscious of criticism both now and in the past that government departments cannot be effective in the tourism industry. I think that the argument has nothing to do with whether the public sector or private sector is more efficient; it is simply a matter of management. There is a role for government in providing umbrella marketing support and ensuring that taxpayers' funds are used in an acceptable manner to foster industry development.

I have already moved to free the administration of tourism policy in the ACT and all unnecessary layers of bureaucracy. Therefore in coming to office I immediately flattened the structure in this area. I have instructed the general manager of the Canberra Tourism Development Bureau to report directly to me via the secretary to my department. The Government will also be looking at options for setting up an ACT tourist corporation, as promised by my Government in our election platform. There is an urgent need, however, for avenues of communication to be established between me and the local tourism industry. To get this dialogue going I propose to establish, as soon as possible, an ACT tourism advisory committee.

This body, similar to other advisory councils, will be developed in close consultation with the industry and have representatives of the local industry, government and trade unions. Accordingly the committee will provide independent advice to me on a whole range of issues affecting the industry. It will allow representative parties to put to me a coherent industry case rather than fragmented approaches. It will also serve as a catalyst for the local industry to work together to come up with cooperative ideas which may or may not involve the Government.

My basic approach is that governments can make their best contribution in many areas simply by getting out of the way - by addressing regulatory and infrastructure issues rather than matters which are more the province of the industry. The Government recognises that Canberra's future lies in the hands of the private sector, and our job is to

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ensure that the industry is given every opportunity to succeed. Its prosperity will filter through the entire economy, having many benefits, not the least of which is the impact on employment. The Government is committed to providing the maximum possible level of resources to tourism in a tight budgetary climate.

However, the onus is on all associated with the industry to work to convince Canberrans of the benefits that tourism can bring to the city. I have asked the bureau to build on last year's local awareness campaign and I am sure, with industry, the Canberra community will learn to appreciate fully tourism's worth. Whilst the Government is aware of the need to provide additional resources to enable the Tourist Bureau to market Canberra, there is a clear onus on the industry to bear some responsibility for increased marketing efforts.

Many in the industry already cooperate with the bureau in its many marketing activities. We need to build on these relationships and look at further ways to pool our resources. Neither I nor the Government professes to have answers to all the complex challenges that confront the ACT tourism industry. We have a genuine belief in the consultative process, and we can work with industry to build a strong and viable tourism industry.

MRS NOLAN (10.58): May I say at the outset that I am very pleased that the Government has put forward such a motion in relation to the tourism industry and that it recognises the contribution the industry makes to the growth and diversification of the ACT economy. The Liberal Party recognises that the tourism industry is one of the major growth industries in the private sector and has greater potential to boost the ACT economy than any other sector. However, in order to see that this should happen, better promotion of the ACT as a tourist destination through sensible measures must happen in the short term.

Fundamental to this is the establishment of a tourist commission and a smooth transition period from the Canberra Tourism Development Bureau to that commission. The commission should be the main coordinating body for the marketing of Canberra as a tourist destination, both domestically and internationally, encouraging and coordinating initiatives from both the private and public sectors. However, use should be made of the Australian Tourist Commission, as other States and the Northern Territory do, our overseas carrier Qantas Airways Ltd and other international carriers.

The commission should also be responsible for servicing tourists, with private sector involvement, through information centres during their stay in Canberra. Once an autonomous body is established, with its primary objectives clearly defined, the commission will establish a close working relationship within industry, and this relationship should culminate in the effective implementation of an

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annual marketing calendar. This calendar, put down as an annual, in advance, promotions and marketing calendar identifying specific events and targeting specific markets and groups, should ensure it includes all tourism offices - that is, initiatives from Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra - and not, as has happened in the past, having marketing initiatives in Melbourne and Sydney coincide or in very close proximity to one another.

Adequate cooperation both financially and more generally between the public and private sectors must, and I am sure will, happen with the advent of this tourist commission. The public sector should also include the national institutions, as they must contribute to the coordinated promotions.

Familiarisations for publicity purposes need to be stepped up and I believe that the use of consultant marketing for specific initiatives needs serious consideration. While I would like to recognise the very valuable work done by certain staff members in the current bureau, better special events marketing, including continual searching for other events, is essential. I am sure we all recognise the contribution of events such as the Canberra Festival and Floriade, but it is now necessary that the search for unique events continues. As we become more competitive with the rest of Australia, we need new and different things, not the sorts of things that every city has. Currently just about every city around Australia has a festival at some time or other.

The opening in early August of the convention centre places the ACT in a very new, different and competitive marketplace. However, I believe the ACT is perhaps a little handicapped when we look at convention and conference suitability in Canberra. While many of the national associations have their head offices here, and they obviously will look to Canberra as the logical place for national conferences, currently transport infrastructure is lacking and, unless the very fast train and an international airport become not figments of our imaginations but reality, it will always be difficult to move large numbers of convention delegates in quickly and with minimum inconvenience, thus enhancing its attractiveness.

While the international airport remains a Federal Government responsibility, the tourism industry must be given unqualified support to ensure adequate visitor numbers arrive in this city and, while here, spend their dollars. It is absolutely imperative for the balanced development of the ACT tourism infrastructure that unqualified support for an international airport be part of that.

Whilst I have not addressed regional cooperation, the need for adequate statistical information and better signage, they are areas that are nevertheless important and

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absolutely essential to better promotion. Training will be addressed as a separate issue by my colleague Mr Humphries. We regard it as having that significance.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I would like to register my disappointment with the Labor Government in not ensuring that tourism was recognised in the Deputy Chief Minister's portfolio title, thus liberating it from its current poor cousin status. If the Labor Government is genuine about the recognition that the tourism industry provides enormous opportunities for growth and diversification of the ACT economy, it deserves that liberation and rightful recognition as a very valuable and important industry.

MR JENSEN (11.04): Mr Speaker, much has been said about the need for the development of the ACT tourist industry as a saviour of the economy of the ACT. There is no doubt that this industry will play a key role in the development of Canberra and its ability for us to pay our way. However, there is more to just paying lip service to the industry and there is a requirement for an integrated approach to the development of it. By 'integrated approach' I refer to the three sectors which can and must have an influence on the industry if it is to play the major role that we require it to do.

I refer firstly to our ACT Government, the ACT tourist industry itself and, of course, the Federal Government. After all, the latter has a major effect on the development of this industry because it could be argued that without the Federal Government there would be no Canberra - no show without Punch, as they say. But I will return to its contribution to the industry later in my remarks.

Another area of importance for the tourist industry in the ACT is the need to fit in with our region. When one is considering the importance of the industry and its promotion this is one area where much work still has to be done. The key to good promotion and marketing, Mr Speaker, is to decide firstly what we have to sell and then work out who we are trying to attract, and then put it all together to decide on this marketing strategy.

I suggest that vision is what we are after. The tourist industry in all its facets and those who administer the policy must have that vision, and that is what we in the Residents Rally will be looking for in the administration of policy in this area. It is no good just pouring money down a marketing drain unless we have firmly sorted out what that strategy is to be.

A very good starting point for the development of this strategy could probably be the May 1988 issue of a publication put out by the Civic Advance Bank called "Trends", which not only provided a good summary of the problems facing the industry but also suggested that we in Canberra must work together, just as we must in this place, to change the image of Canberra as a boring place to visit.

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When surveys show that only 10 per cent of tourists see our city as the national capital we certainly have some catching up to do. It will be interesting to see what the surveys say about whether this Assembly is an interesting place to visit.

Without wanting to simplify the subject too much, Mr Speaker, I feel that there are two major areas on which we need to concentrate if we are to turn this attitude around. I refer, as the Deputy Chief Minister has already done, to the National Convention Centre and the 80,000-plus students who come to the national capital each year. The aim here is really the same. Firstly, we must get them here, then we must seek to have them return for a longer period to pick up the economic benefits already referred to by the Deputy Chief Minister.

The final report that the NCDC produced - members will note it is covered in black - "The Canberra Tourism Strategy" had these economic benefits well and truly documented. The same publication reported that the average stay in Canberra was 2.5 days. That is what we must increase to improve the economic benefits to our economy.

It was for this reason, Mr Speaker, that the Rally was prepared to announce, before any other party had made a similar commitment during the election campaign, that we should substantially increase the amount being spent on promotion of Canberra as a tourist venue.

However, just to increase the figure was not enough. There was a need for the industry to participate fully in this program. Once again I refer to the "Trends" bulletin, which acknowledges this fact and which makes some suggestions without providing a clear recommendation. However, I would submit that the message to the industry is that it should get itself together, not only within the various components of the industry - for example, the accommodation industry - but also among the various sectors of the industry. It should form a bipartisan approach to operating - that is, from the five-star hotel managers down to the smaller motels in our city.

It is in the industry's interest to make a major slice of that 87 per cent of the total tourist spending from the domestic market come our way. Frankly, if we cannot set up a promotional arrangement whereby each sector participates in the promotion of what is a natural tourist destination, we do not deserve to have a tourist industry.

Let us briefly consider some of those national pluses before we move on. This is the capital of our nation; that in itself is an important plus. We have here four distinct seasons which not only provide some variation to our scenery but also allow those who like a change in climate to experience this. Canberra is located within easy reach of the majority of our population centres. One just has to look at a map of the south-east of Australia to realise

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this. It is located within a short plane, train, bus or car ride of the major population centre and international gateway to Australia.

The soon to be opened National Convention Centre, when properly marketed as part of a coordinated approach, provides a major potential for return business. A higher than average percentage of business visitors - 20 per cent - over the national average of 15 per cent is something on which we must also concentrate.

The large number of national buildings and monuments, to which I have already alluded by saying that this is the national capital, also make this city unique in Australia. Finally, Mr Speaker, the beautifully planned vistas and other natural features make our environment also unique to Australia.

I could go on, but I think that those points should get the message across. The challenge to the Government and the industry is to realise that a fragmented approach is not in the interests of the industry as a whole and individual businesses in particular.

To this group I must add those responsible for the Federal purse strings, across the lake, who must take a role in ensuring that these national facilities that the people come to see are suitably funded and managed. It was interesting to see how some of the Federal members of the Government of a similar persuasion to the minority one opposite us sought to shift the burden on to the taxpayers of Canberra.

To his credit, our previous Minister, Mr Holding, was at least prepared to remind his fellow travellers of the folly of such proposals. However, I note that the convention centre has been built on what is designated as Federal land and that this is to be handed to the Commonwealth when it is completed. Maybe that is a good omen for its success because they decided to get on to the band wagon early in the piece.

It was of some regret to me personally, Mr Speaker, that the decision to defer the National Museum of Australia was taken. I also note that this decision has recently forced the resignation of an enthusiastic director in this important project. I trust that this project will not be further delayed so that we are still not waiting in 2001 when we celebrate 200 years of federalism. Only a prior arrangement stopped me from joining the many thousands who visited the site to become Friends of the Museum. I welcome the commitment by the Government to the early commencement of that particular project.

The Rally also believes that a visit to Canberra should be on the agenda for every school child. To this end, the Rally would recommend to the ACT Government that it immediately open discussions with the Federal Government to

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seek incentives and assistance for the establishment of low-cost accommodation to meet the shortfall noted by the NCDC report.

We cannot expect a massive input of funds, but maybe the Federal Government would be prepared to allow some of the \$22m it so dishonestly locked up at the Premiers Conference for this sort of program. After all, it could be justified on the basis that it was providing some assistance in improving the potential for the ACT to stand on its own two feet.

At this juncture, Mr Speaker, I would like to turn briefly to the management of our tourist industry. During the campaign, we said that we would seek the establishment of a tourist commission with a tourist commissioner appointed on a five-year contract, after he or she had provided the selection panel with an innovative marketing strategy and budget. On reflection, we believe that this proposal should be expanded somewhat. I acknowledge the suggestion by my colleague from the Liberal Party, Mrs Nolan, that a tourist commission should be appointed with representatives from the tourist industry and commerce to take our tourist industry into the 1990s.

However, we see no reason why the full-time manager of the commission, provided that he or she is given an appropriate budget, should not be appointed in much the same way as we had already proposed - that is, convince the Government and the commission that they had the necessary flair and imagination for the appointment, or a shape up or ship out contract or, to put it another way, perform or perish. Not only would our new commission need the support of Government by way of resources but also it must have the support of the industry.

MR SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

DR KINLOCH (11.14): I would like to congratulate the Deputy Chief Minister on many of the initiatives that he has taken in this area. I am sure everyone in this Assembly understands that tourism - the visitor industry and the convention industry - is very important indeed for the future of this city, as my colleague in the Residents Rally, Mr Jensen, has already indicated. So we support the overall thrust towards expanded tourism, in both the public sector and the private sector - no question about it at all.

We especially welcome the commitment to the economy, to more jobs and, if I may quote the Chief Minister, to meaningful jobs. There is no doubt at all that, as with Mr Jensen and so with me, we would like to be involved with the tourist industry. Whatever bodies are set up on the initiative of the Chief Minister, please regard us as being absolutely behind that matter.

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I endorse also the Civic Advance Bank article in "Trends". I liked it very much indeed. I commend the anonymous author of that article. The author will understand I have one minor quarrel, one small hiccup, about what he or she said about section 19. But that is put in as only a small hiccup and at this point I will not say very much about the section 19 development. That is under the care of a select committee under the chairmanship of Mr Humphries, and the Assembly today is not the place to deal with that.

I would, however, in view of some of the comments made, like to answer some things that have been said. In particular, I would like to worry about the notion of people staying for one extra night, because I would like them to stay for an extra week, an extra month, an extra year or three years. Indeed, may I say I first came to this city as a tourist, and look what has happened to me. It is only Bill Stefaniak who was born here. The other 16 of us all came, presumably, for other reasons - and here we all are. So I would like to think of the city itself as a marvellous attraction in all sorts of ways, not for just one night but for very long periods. It would be a bit of a problem, would it not, if every tourist decided to stay here?

I would like to argue that when we attract tourists for that extra night or two nights or a week we do not encourage them to lose money here; that is, if they do lose money here, surely that will mean they will stay one less night, not one more night. Furthermore, the money they would lose is money that they could otherwise spend within the economy of the city, in the retail developments in the city.

We need to be sure that visitors leave Canberra with a positive sense of our city, not only for their sake and for our sake but also because of the word of mouth advertising they represent.

I especially endorse Norman Jensen's thought about all the school children and their parents and families who could come here and spread the word about this city. Certainly we should attack the notion, in any way, that it is a boring place. The 17 of us, of course, are tourist attractions.

A member: Some more than others.

DR KINLOCH: None of us? We want to be sure, Mr Speaker, that visitors and tourists will have stayed here for as long as possible in a range of ways, to see the city as a planned city - that above all, surely - as the bush capital, as the beautiful place we know it to be.

We need them to stay here to get a sense of their national institutions. I very much endorse the new facilities, the new support, that will be given to these bodies that will encourage tourism. I ask that those bodies make sure that

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all around the country, including all around our area, and overseas, this national institutions theme be expanded and that it not be seen as boring. I want to come back to that, briefly, in a moment.

We want them to see the national museums of various kinds, not only the one which I know the Chief Minister and her party supports and which we all support but also the ones that we already have, like the Australian War Memorial and so forth. Again, I will not dwell on this one; I hope I will have a chance to do it on another occasion. I see education as not only education, not only as an industry, but also as an enormous way to pull in people for very long periods. That, in itself, is a huge subject and sometime I would love to have the chance to talk about Boston, Massachusetts, as a place that makes education a tourist industry.

Of course, I agree with all that has been said about leisure activities, relaxation, entertainment and sport, but I would want to argue that it is long-term developments, not short-term ones, that we want. We need new national and international facilities, perhaps the kinds of international agencies - arbitration agencies and commissions - that pull in people on a huge scale. We want people constantly coming to this city for its national and international roles.

I would want to argue - I will say this quickly - that one of the worst possible developments for a national capital is a short-term, short-sighted, short-visioned concept to put in place a facility inappropriate to the very nature of our city, a planned national capital. I would, in particular, ask the Minister to consider comparable cities around the world; not Perth, Hobart, Adelaide or Darwin - all regional and essentially parochial cities, which are not national capitals; not London or New York or Tokyo, which are megalopolises. Neither New York nor Tokyo, by the way, has gambling casinos. We need to see ourselves in our essence, in our very being, not as just one more gambling casino city. I think in particular of Washington, DC; Ottawa, Canada; and Wellington, New Zealand. That is the company we keep. That is the company we should continue to keep.

But I will not elaborate further; there will be other times to do that. Basically though I want to say to the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister and their colleagues that we strongly support their tourism initiatives.

MR DUBY (11.20): Mr Speaker, I would like to endorse the statements made by the members of the other parties here today. There is no doubt in all our minds that tourism will be the economic wherewithal by which the economy of the ACT shall develop. But one short point which I feel I would like to introduce to the debate and something which I have not heard expressed by other speakers is that, whilst the influx of people to this city is something for which we

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should certainly cater, I think the concept of a tourism industry should be looked at from the point of view of planning requirements. I think it is very, very important that the ACT does not go the way of other tourist meccas throughout Australia - I can think particularly of the Gold Coast - where the whole city is devoted to chasing the tourist dollar. I would hate to see that sort of situation arise in the ACT.

The special requirements and nature of the capital of Australia should be maintained. I think the people out there in the electorate believe that, too. Whilst they recognise the need for tourism, they would hate to see this town become a flashing light and neon covered city catering to that type of tourist. That is all I wanted to add. I agree wholeheartedly with the sentiments expressed by all the previous speakers, but I just wanted to bring that to the attention of the Assembly.

MR HUMPHRIES (11.22): I would like, first of all, to confirm Dr Kinloch's impression that the 17 members of this Assembly are indeed tourist attractions. Yesterday my colleagues in the Liberal Party and I were having lunch in a notable restaurant in these environs and were fortunate enough to be approached by a member of the public - no doubt a tourist - who sought the autograph of my learned leader, which he was very pleased to give. I am sure this is only the beginning of much better things to come.

Mr Speaker, there is no argument from this side of the chamber that tourism is of colossal importance to Canberra, not merely to maintaining the economic viability of this Territory but also to ensuring the future diversification of this Territory. Both the Minister and our spokesman on tourism, Robyn Nolan, have shown very clearly the potential for the ACT that flows from this industry. I hope that the imagination of such people, and of others who work in this area, will not cease to be active and that we will constantly explore ways of ensuring that the ACT's potential here is developed further and better.

The motion refers to sensible measures to ensure the promotion of the ACT as a tourist destination. It is not terribly specific about that but, as I said, I hope that good minds are being put to this question all the time. There is no doubt that this kind of attention is urgently needed. I think, to some extent, it is true to say that the ACT has, in some ways, coasted along on the question of tourism in the past. My view is that there has not been as much dynamism as there could have been in the promotion of the ACT, not just as a city littered with national monuments but also as a community with exciting and vibrant aspects which are attractive to people who might care to visit us.

A previous speaker referred to the importance of our planning system not emulating the sorts of goals that are pursued by tourist destinations such as the Gold Coast, and

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I heartily endorse those comments. I would have thought that the ACT's planning structure, as it is presently set up, is indeed an attraction in itself. People come to Canberra knowing that it is a planned city, a city on a monumental scale, a city with a special uniqueness which ensures that it is unlike any other city in Australia, and that, I hope, will always be the case.

Mr Speaker, we have to some extent relied on a stereo-typical image of Canberra. That is unfortunate perhaps, but I am sure that it need not stay the same. The Deputy Chief Minister referred to tourism being a 24 hours a day, seven days a week business, and indeed it is. I think unfortunately that has not always been the case in the ACT. The most frequent complaint I hear from tourists to whom I speak, in respect of staying in the ACT for any length of time, is that there are all too few things for tourists to do outside those normal business hours. I think we need to pick up a bit in this area. Obviously, that is primarily - in fact, wholly - the responsibility of the private sector, but I hope that will be given attention and that we can rectify that obvious problem.

One aspect of tourism about which I want to talk is training. Tourism needs an infrastructure. Clearly, the transport infrastructure is a very important one, and the Government provides that. Also of some importance is training of people to serve the tourism industry, and obviously our technical and further education sector is extremely important in that regard.

Mr Speaker, I think it is impossible to overestimate the value of a highly trained work force. It is the essence of our viability as a nation, not just as a city. I believe that the more retention of students in our education system which we can engender the better chance we will have of competing in the tourist market, in the context of this debate and as a nation on the world stage.

I just want to run through a few of the things that we see as being important in this respect. Higher education, of course, presents opportunities to improve not only industry competitiveness within our region but also the quality of our lives and to broaden the economic base of the ACT. There is great potential for certain industries to grow up in the ACT - in particular, education based enterprises, to which I think a previous speaker has referred. The ACT has tremendous potential in that respect. We have a great centre of excellence in the ACT in the area of languages, for example. Languages are obviously crucial to tourism. There are all too few people in the tourism industry who can speak Japanese, which is a very important market for us. I hope it is possible not to ignore that and to take active steps to promote that.

I was distressed when the faculty of Asian studies was under threat at the Australian National University, because its role in promoting language based industries, if you

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like, is very great. I hope that nothing that happens there will threaten that potential. I think it is obvious that much closer links are needed between schools, TAFE, the public and private sectors and the community generally. The Liberal Party would also like to foster closer cooperation with industry in the design of course content at TAFE. That clearly impinges on the tourism industry again.

We need to foster greater private sector funding of TAFE courses. Again, tourism has a vital role to play in that. We want to give the Canberra TAFE College greater autonomy in entrepreneurial and marketing activities in order to supplement existing funding sources - that is vitally important - and increase opportunities for the contracting out of courses to industry, subject to strict controls. I need not mention that relevance is a vitally important question. A charge is sometimes levelled at TAFE and other courses that they do not provide that relevance. No better way is possible of ensuring that relevance than of directly linking the sorts of courses that are conducted there with the needs of industry by having industry involved actively in the conduct of those courses.

Mr Speaker, I want to conclude by saying that we heartily endorse the comments made earlier about the National Museum of Australia and its vital importance to this city's future tourism growth. I also want to put in my personal plea for the tourism commission, to which our tourism spokesman has referred. It is of vital importance. I hope that this debate is not as unspecific as the motion might suggest, that it generates active pursuit of new avenues and fresh ideas in this area, and that the Government takes them up and promotes tourism as the vitally important catalyst to our growth that it is.

MS FOLLETT (Chief Minister) (11.30): I am very happy to add my support to this motion. I am also very happy that it appears to have such broadly based agreement. The vast majority of the issues have been canvassed already, so I will be relatively brief. It is clear that the tourism industry is most important to the ACT's economy. It currently employs some 8,000 people and contributes about \$370m to our economy. It seems to me that as we are faced with the need now to strengthen our own economy, to build upon it and to become more independent, it makes a great deal of sense to build on our strengths, and tourism is obviously one of those strengths.

I would like to put just a slightly different slant on some of the arguments that have been put this morning and to state at the outset that I think the ACT has coasted, as Mr Humphries says, for a very long time now on the tourism attractions offered by the Federal Government. Those attractions include institutions like the Australian National Gallery, the Australian War Memorial, the National Film and Sound Archive and, of course, the new Parliament House.

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I would never seek to belittle those attractions. They are wonderful institutions; we are blessed to have them in our Territory. But it must be acknowledged that they were all established during the halcyon days of the Australian economy. If members care to have a look at the kinds of projects that might be considered tourist attractions in the ACT that the Federal Government has had under consideration in more recent times, they will see that there has not been a great deal of activity. I refer in particular to the National Museum of Australia. The Act for that museum was passed in 1980. There has been little activity since that time, although there is a visitors centre. The museum has not had any funds for acquisitions for some years.

We are faced in the ACT, as indeed we are nationally, with a situation where there is no national museum of history, no comprehensive display of Aboriginal history and culture, of environment issues or of any aspect of Australia's place in the world. I think that that is a situation that must not be allowed to continue, and I am very happy to note the support of the Assembly for the Museum of Australia project.

The other project, of course, that points out the Federal Government's perhaps lessening of interest in the ACT as a tourist attraction is the old Parliament House. We welcomed yesterday the announcement by the Federal Minister, Mr West, that the old Parliament House would become a museum of political history and would serve some other community purposes. It is all in keeping with the institution and all very worthwhile. That museum will provide an additional tourist attraction in the ACT, but I am sure members are aware that Mr West also announced that there would be no resources committed to the restoration of the old Parliament House, to the creation of that new museum of political history, for at least a year. This is not the first year of delay that we have seen on that project, and I think that other members might share my slight scepticism that we will indeed see resources committed in 1990-91. I will believe it when I see it, quite frankly.

The point I am getting at is that we have tended to coast on Federal Government initiatives for our tourism industry in the ACT and, now that we have our own Government and are a self-governing Territory, it is only right and appropriate that we should seek to take a much firmer grip on our own tourist industry. The initiatives that have been outlined by Mr Whalan are a very valuable step towards fostering and improving the tourism industry in the ACT. I am very pleased that all members apparently support those initiatives and I look forward to some further enthusiastic debate on tourism issues.

There has been, in my opinion, rather an overemphasis on the importance of the casino to tourism in the ACT. I

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realise that it will be an important attraction here, and one which will be slightly different from attractions that we have had to date, but it is not the only issue. We need to put it in perspective and look at some of the other tourist attractions and tourist potential that exist here, some of which have been referred to already.

I would like in particular to point to the existence of the Namadgi National Park. Forty per cent of the ACT is national park. It is an exceptionally beautiful national park. I believe that it is very much undervisited and that it has the potential in its own right to be an enormous attraction to the ACT. It is a national park that forms part of a regional national park arrangement of alpine parks, in effect, so it is not something that you could see in Queensland or in the Northern Territory. It is unique to our region, and that is a very important attraction.

I believe we should also look at particular groups of tourists who might want to come to the ACT. Mr Jensen has spoken very eloquently about the need for school children to come here, and I believe that it is essential that every school child in Australia should visit Canberra.

I would like to look at some of the other groups. If we look at the kinds of sports facilities that might be available in the ACT, again a whole new market could open up there - not just for Australian sports events, but perhaps for international sports events. It is a very important market and one that has broad appeal.

The other market that I am particularly interested in looking at is the question of older people visiting Canberra. I know that very often this group is overlooked as a tourist potential, but it is a growing market and a sector of the population with some leisure time. I think there are particular projects that we should be promoting to appeal to that market. Some of them are the cultural types of projects that already exist, but there are also things like the Floriade and so on which would have great appeal and which we could exploit further.

The final point that I would like to make is the need for the ACT to look closely at its position in the region and in particular to some degree of regional cooperation. I would like to inform the Assembly that I intend to take up with the New South Wales Government and local councils in our region quite a range of regional economic initiatives, which of course would include tourism. Some of the important issues that face us in the ACT do have a tourism aspect to them, and the very fast train project is one of them. Those issues do need to be taken up at a regional level, and I will be very happy to keep the Assembly informed of any initiatives that I take.

MR COLLAERY (11.38): Firstly, I would like to declare a possible conflict of interest, so that my friend Mr Whalan does not find out first. I act for a travel agency in

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Canberra, and I simply declare that. I do not believe I have any conflict with standing order 156. If you wish to rule on that, Mr Speaker, you may. I will make my points short so that I cannot be accused of promoting a client.

The distillation from the debate so far still leaves me with the impression that we are yet to include the smaller tourist operators in the deliberations and decisions of the Canberra Tourist Bureau, or whatever its successor may be. The fact is there is substantial pressure from the smaller tourist operators, as I am sure some other members will agree, for involvement in the decision making of the Tourist Bureau. Apropos of the Deputy Chief Minister's comments and focus to some extent on the casino, let me say that the issues are far broader than that issue. In the Rally's point of view, the appointments and staffing of the future tourist commission, by whatever style, should not be dictated by essentially ephemeral issues, such as whether we are going to have neon lights and some legs kicking out over City Hill.

The aim must be to include the smaller tour operators who will wholeheartedly endorse the concept of providing for Canberra as a destination for family visitors and school visitors. I hope that Canberra will get to the stage that Washington has reached in terms of tourism. Those of us who have been to Washington have seen the constant influx of people who visit that city to see their national legislature and their national monuments. The interaction in the overall strategy must take into account the disgraceful state of the national road network into the ACT at the moment. There must be coordinated action with State and Federal authorities under the national transport strategy, and we must see this minority Government put effective and strong pressure on the Federal transport Minister to come good with the promised allocation of \$1,000m for a proper transport upgrading nationally, but in particular in the areas contiguous to the ACT.

We do need, as other speakers have mentioned, an upgrading of the employment and training facilities at TAFE. Those of us who were at the graduation ceremony recently noticed the strong interest amongst young persons in the courses relating to the tourist industry.

I would personally like to endorse the comments made by Mr Humphries aimed at encouraging language training for those youngsters. We should look to giving concessions and real inducements for language capacity among the young persons at TAFE and elsewhere who are working in our tourist industry. They will be the people who will manage our national hotels and our other star attractions in the ACT. It is not good enough at the moment that we do not have, as we have in all of the five-star hotels nationally, language speakers, particularly Japanese language speakers, at hotel desks. We do in some parts of the ACT, but it is not a feature that appeals greatly to the tourist industry at the moment.

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The fact is that we are not providing real incentives at the training base in the ACT out of TAFE for language training for our people working in the industry. That must happen. Hopefully some members of the Assembly might take those courses, too, just to show that they are really serious about bilingualism in our multicultural society.

The other problem which is evident to tour operators is the problem of shopping hours in the ACT. Where do you take a bus load of visitors who have got some shopping to do before they head off to Alice Springs or somewhere on a Sunday or in the evening? It is well within the capacity of the Government to designate, in consultation with small business, certain areas for extended shopping hours, after full and proper consultation with the retail industry.

Finally, let me say that the Rally has never opposed the Yarralumla brickworks as a tourist and resort centre or the casino proposal per se. The Rally is not against developments that would have tourist potential. The Rally wishes to indicate to this Assembly that hopefully one of the future national monuments here will be some monument to the fact that alternative government started in the ACT on 11 May 1989. People will come to see a monument to the Residents Rally in what they have done. That will be a national attraction itself.

The role of a national capital is an exemplary role. Let us hope that the tourist proposals that the Deputy Chief Minister puts together will not be parochial, but that we will provide an exemplary program as a base for tourist development throughout Australia. We can provide a national example of a coordinated strategy within a community. We do not want to sell off our Yeppoons, we do not need our neon strips, and certainly we do not need to have a stacking of tourist bodies with casino-oriented people which will ultimately stunt this city in its growth as a wonderfully planned and beautiful visionary environment, a bush capital of this nation.

MR KAINE (Leader of the Opposition) (11.44): I think that the Deputy Chief Minister hit a winner when he brought this matter up for debate as the debate indicates that there is no disagreement whatsoever with the general propositions that he has put forward in his motion. It has been well debated, and I do not want to traverse again all the ground that has been covered. There are just three points that I want to refer to, and I will do it quite quickly.

The first is the question of marketing. If you went to any capital city anywhere else in the world, there would be very few people who would recognise Canberra as being a part of Australia. They know about koalas, kangaroos, platypuses, they know about the Great Barrier Reef and Ayers Rock and that is probably where their knowledge of Australia ends. They may even know about Sydney or Melbourne. This indicates to me that our marketing

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strategies so far have been sadly lacking in terms of the overseas market. I would suggest to the Minister that in developing his marketing strategy he needs to look not only at the internal Australian market, but at the overseas market as well and figure out a strategy by which we can get foreign visitors to come to Canberra first.

That leads to other considerations, of course. If they are going to come to Canberra first, we have to have an international airport here so that they can. I believe that that is one of the things that we must press for strongly with the Commonwealth, that it establishes an international quality airport in Canberra. It has been argued that Qantas and other airlines will not come to Canberra. I say that that is rubbish. International airlines, including Qantas, will go where the passengers want to go. If we establish a marketing strategy that makes Canberra a first port of call in Australia, rather than the last one, then airlines will want to fly here and they will bring their passengers in here directly.

That leads me to the second point that I wanted to comment upon, and that is the regional ramifications of tourism for us. There is no doubt that there is an enormous hinterland out there - the snow country, the southern coast, the inland with its attractions which appeal to some people, sheep stations and the like. If we can bring tourists to Canberra first, we should be able to keep them here not only for three or four days, but for 10 or 14 days by capturing the market and becoming the centre of a tourist industry. We should be not on the periphery of it, but should become a centre of tourism.

Our marketing strategy has to take into account the fact that it is not only Canberra that people come to; it is the whole surrounding area with all the natural attractions that are available out there. I commend the Minister for taking the Liberal Party's proposal that there should be regional negotiations and machinery set in place to take account of all the regional ramifications of our economy which are so closely linked with those of the surrounding country.

My third point, I was pleased to note, was brought up by Mr DUBY and has to do with protection from tourists. We have all talked at great length in recent months in our election campaigns and since about how we want to retain the amenity of Canberra as a place to live; we want to retain the environment, we want to protect our heritage and all of the other things which in themselves are good. There is a very real danger that unless we set up the proper control mechanisms and the strategy for handling tourists if they come in their millions, as we would like them to, they will destroy the amenity of this city.

I notice that it is something that Ian Warden is very strong about, and he has written about cities in England which he is familiar with and the damage that tourists and

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tourism can do. I want to take up the point that Mr Duby rightly raised and support the idea that we need to protect ourselves from the depredations of tourists. Perhaps one of the ways of doing that is to pick up the regional theme - bring them here, get them to stay for three or four days, show them the national monuments and then exploit the surrounding country.

Those are three important points that perhaps have not been made sufficiently strongly during the debate, and I would ask the Deputy Chief Minister to take them into account in developing his tourism strategy.

MR WOOD (11.48): I claim to speak as a most highly qualified tourist guide, and I am sure all of us in this chamber can make that claim. I have done numerous times the circuit of Canberra, and I might say it is a different circuit depending on whom I have with me. I do not think there are too many aspects of Canberra that I have not seen. There are some that I have not seen, I hasten to add, Dr Kinloch.

With that enormous experience behind me, I will make these comments. First of all, I respond to one of my colleagues here who commented that Canberra is seen as a dull city. I know he said is "seen". I do not believe it is so. I think it is an exciting, interesting place, and most of the people I take around with me agree with that. It seems to me that the important feature of marketing our tourism, if you want to use that word, is to identify the people, the various sectors that you are dealing with. Mr Whalan mentioned the considerable growth in the five-star section, if that is the term, the upper end of the market. I do not like to use that word, but I mean that area. I am not expert in that, and I can see that it is growing considerably.

I know, as other members do, that large numbers of school children come to our city - 100,000 I am told is a more accurate figure; it has grown in recent times. That is not an area that immediately brings great amounts of money. I have taken school kids to other places and they do not spend enormous amounts. They always spend more than I ever bargain for, but they are still not the heavy spenders. They will come back, but it might not be for four, 10 or 20 years.

More importantly, I would like those children to take home with them something targeted to their parents and to their families. You go around the local shows and see children carry away sample bags full of information, or full of junk perhaps, but as school children come into Canberra, why do we not give them an empty sample bag and then as they move around the various places they can fill it. I do not think we should give them a filled sample bag to start with, because the joy is in collecting. They go everywhere, they pick up stuff, so why not give them an empty sample bag that they can then pile that material into? Amongst the

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literature that they take home there should be something for their parents - not for the kids, not educational particularly, but something for their parents - that points out all the accommodation, all the sorts of readily available information that might encourage them just to pick up the phone or walk down the street to the tourist agency in their place and say, "I want to see that". Why not do that?

Another thing that I have seen children absolutely fascinated with is the passport that they gave out at the Brisbane Expo. I suppose that is a pretty commonplace arrangement for that sort of event, so why not as they come in here give them a passport? As they go from point to point there could be a stamp at Parliament House, a stamp out here maybe, one at the National Gallery and so on. Their passport will be stamped and they will have a record of where they have been. That sort of thing intrigues young children, who are avid collectors. I present that from my own experience as being something that the young people would be most interested in. They have those memories, they will come back, and they may talk their parents into coming back rather sooner.

I turn to the other areas that are particularly targeted. I understand that the tourist people have recently nominated someone as the youth promotions officer - that is the term - particularly to target that area. I know they have done the same with the ethnic communities, and what a vast area to tap that must be. I have seen the publicity that one of our best known ACT citizens, Vic Rebikoff, has generated by just beginning now on an organised basis to bring in people from ethnic communities. I do not think there is a limit on what could be generated in that area.

The biggest target area as far as I am concerned - and again I believe I am an expert is this - is that of the family travelling in a motor car. That is the big tourist area across Australia, and there is no question about that. They are the ones that still bring us most revenue and the most interest in tourism. There are a few unmet areas for those people coming to Canberra. I am sure many of you have stopped on Northbourne Avenue to assist someone whose car has broken down. If they are travelling on the cheap they may ask, and I have been asked this on no few occasions, "Where is a good place to get this fixed?". It is difficult for someone coming into Canberra. They may ask, "Where do I get my car fixed? The darned axle has gone". Something else may have gone wrong with the car. Or you get somebody who is a competent motor fixer and who wants to know where he can take his car and work on it himself. There is nowhere at that very excellent information centre on Northbourne Avenue that will tell them that, but I have had that question asked of me. There is perhaps a gap there.

I note that there has been an increase in the range of accommodation at that lower end - that is an awful word to

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use, but I mean at that end of the market. That is the area that is going to continue to bring us most of our revenue. I know that it is not being neglected, but I think we still need more specific information for that area. I live near the youth hostel on Dryandra Street. I note the extensions there recently and I am aware that the number of beds for backpackers, for young people, has also increased substantially. It is interesting to note that you do not have to be young to go to those places. I stayed at one of them in Sydney not so long ago and nowadays they cater for a wide range of people. These are the sorts of things that should be targeted.

I think aged pensioners may be well catered for. There is certainly an unlimited number, it seems, who come through on package tours. That is a very interesting market. I do not see as many of them as I would like to see, following some of the conversations I have had, out there playing bowls or other games. I see them in the clubs, but I think there is more scope to get them out of their buses and out of Parliament House too, and on to some of the playing fields here.

Finally, I should note an area that seems to me to be unique to Canberra, and that is the Floriade. I know that most of the provincial areas in Australia have their festivals of some sort, which often are floral festivals, but to me Floriade seems something special and different from anything else available in Australia. It is very comprehensively advertised but, with only one Floriade behind us, it will take a few years to develop a wide recognition across Australia and further afield. But I am sure that that will happen and that Canberra will become as famous for the Floriade as it has for some of its more notable public institutions.

MR MOORE (11.58): Having listened to my colleague Mr Jensen present such excellent ideas so well, it occurs to me how petty it was that he was excluded from the tourist launch of the "Canberra Visitor" the other day. Having heard so many positive comments today, I would sound a particularly strong note of warning. There was a time in Canberra when people said how dull and dead the centre of the city was, that it had no heart, that it had no soul. Those excuses were used in order to allow unlimited development. Let the warning go out that tourism will not become the new god. Tourism is very important, as we have made clear, but it will not be an excuse to allow anything to go ahead just because it happens to benefit tourists.

I move to Labor Party policy, about which I have some fear. The principles outlined in Labor Party policy are to create local employment - great; increase the number of visitors to the Australian Capital Territory - great; increase the average stay of visitors - great; encourage investment in tourist facilities - fine; build up community awareness of the importance of tourism for the economic development of Canberra - no problem; encourage greater cooperation

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between national government organisations and local authorities in marketing Canberra as a tourist destination. But nowhere do I find in there, and I have not heard it from the Labor Party to date, any talk about the unique character of Canberra. There have been many comments made by other people in this regard, it is the critical factor in this debate, and it is why people come to Canberra. It was drawn to the Assembly's attention certainly by Mr Duby, and I strongly support him in that particular idea, and it was also emphasised by Mr Kaine.

Let me also add that one of the things that makes for the unique character of Canberra, and a matter to which attention has not been drawn today, is the people. The people in Canberra are friendly and, with the education that has been talked about, can provide a very special incentive for people who have come to Canberra to encourage others to come here and to come back themselves. I shall expand on that aspect later.

Let me, however, comment on my own experience as a tourist. I have spent about two years of my life as a tourist, which is probably a little longer than most. I started in New Zealand backpacking and hitchhiking, and later I visited Asia, Europe and North America. During that time I visited many different places, and I visited those places and was interested in them for their own unique character.

When I went to London I was interested in Westminster, the Underground, the shopping, Hyde Park, and so on. In Rome I was interested in the Coliseum and in various other attractions that are unique to Rome. I remember the way the traffic moved, with about 30 cars side by side waiting to get across the lights all at once, and with 30 cars going the other way ignoring what the lights were indicating anyway.

There was certain attraction about those things. In Athens, I saw the Acropolis. In Ottawa in winter, I was most interested not only in the snow and ice, but of course skating down the river through Ottawa, and I was interested to visit its parliamentary chambers with their copper roofs and so on. In Mikonos I noted the special character of the island, with its very white buildings, its fishing, and its local people.

In none of those places was I ever tempted to visit a casino. Similarly, when I went to Washington I never thought "Shall I go to a casino?" or something along those lines. Let me emphasise this point. However, I did visit Las Vegas, and I went there specifically to visit several casinos, and that is appropriate when that is the particular area of interest.

But we do not want Canberra necessarily to be a Las Vegas. We do not want that to be the focal point of the character of Canberra. That is a small warning that has been issued by each one of our speakers today, and I would like to emphasise it.

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With reference to the National Museum and the strong support that has had from all speakers today, let me emphasise that as well because I think that is a critical factor. But, most importantly, let me take up Mr Wood's point about the lower end of the market. Let us not be ashamed of that end of the market and ignore those people who come to Canberra in their cars with their kids and stay in cheaper hotels or in camping areas. Possibly they come here in their kombis and do what I did when travelling in Europe - free park somewhere. But they still buy food when they are in Canberra. Indeed, they do several other things but, more importantly, there is a boomerang effect.

They learn about how wonderful Canberra is, as are the seasons, Canberra's special character, and the friendliness of its people. In those circumstances they are then tempted to come back and say to others, "We had a great time. You must go to Canberra". That is the sort of emphasis that we must not lose sight of. We must not concentrate everything on the five-star market and that sort of advertising. We must find ways to bring the lower end of the market in.

In regard to that lower end of the market, we have had indications that Mr Murray's coaches bring in visitors for a day and then take them out again, so that people spend no time overnight in Canberra. That is the sort of thing that I hope the Government will be looking at in terms of concessions offered to bus operators and so forth, for the overall sake of the economy.

Let me also throw out a suggestion. One of the things that I enjoyed immensely when I was in Canada was the Shakespearian festival that was carried out there, and there are others held in other places in the world as well. In fact, in Canada it is held in Stratford-upon-Avon in the same way as it is in England. However, I would hasten to add that I do not suggest that we ought to have our own Stratford-upon-Avon, but certainly the possibility of a Shakespearian festival should be explored as one of the sorts of attractions that people spoke about in terms of education. It would certainly suit people who are fans of Shakespearian or Elizabethan drama. It would certainly suit the older level school students who almost invariably study Shakespeare and who could experience what Shakespeare is like in real life in the way Shakespeare intended it to be, instead of just reading it from a book and having to hack through Shakespeare, as many many people in our society have had to do, instead of enjoying it the way it was intended as a performance on stage. There is a possibility there.

I summarise my remarks by saying that the Rally strongly supports initiatives by the Minister to work on tourism in this city, but let us also give a warning that it should not be allowed to be an excuse to do anything.

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MR WHALAN (Minister for Industry, Employment and Education) (12.06), in reply: Mr Speaker, I have found this debate and the response of members to the motion quite exciting. It is a clear demonstration of the unanimous support of this chamber for this vital industry, and I do not think that we can underestimate the value of the broad party support for tourism.

The response today has emphasised to me that when I do bring together the tourism industry consultative committee we should involve the spokespersons of the other parties on a regular basis with that particular body, and I intend to do that. They will not be permanent members of the committee - that probably would not be appropriate, and they would not have the time, I hope, because on that body you can work rather hard - but none of us has a monopoly on ideas in any area, let alone this particular area. I think that benefits can be gained by allowing the enthusiasm of all members here to contribute to that consultative process. When the committee first meets, which I hope will be in the next two to three weeks, the parties will be invited to send a representative along, and then as the committee gets into gear it will happen on a regular basis.

Mrs Nolan raised the question of including the word "Tourism" in the name of my portfolio. As you know, the portfolio is Industry, Employment and Education. It is a fairly vast portfolio and covers such matters as employment, industry, education, development, sport, training, tourism, recreation, TAFE, labour, the economy and the casino.

A member: Why do you not just call yourself Minister for Almost Everything?

MR WHALAN: I canvassed a few ideas for acronyms on this side of the chamber. My colleague on my right here came up with the proposal of Tourism, Industry and Training. Another suggestion was Tourism, Employment, Education and Training. Yet another was Sport, Employment, Education, Development and Industry, which forms the acronym SEEDI. If I had time, I could have gone right round the chamber. This one - get your pens ready for this one - is Tourism, Education, Sport, Training, Industry, Casino, Labour and the Economy. On that note I would just like to express my very genuine thanks for the enthusiasm for this motion. I give an undertaking to develop and maintain a regular consultation process with all the parties on this particular policy area.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

MR SPEAKER: I draw members' attention to standing order 41, which refers to a member not passing between the Chair and any member who is speaking. Because of the layout of the Assembly it is most difficult for us to abide by that standing order. However, when members are moving between a speaker and the Chair, would they please do so as quickly

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as possible so as not to cause upset to the member who is speaking.

Sitting suspended from 12.11 pm to 2.30 pm

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

ACT FUNDING

MR HUMPHRIES: I refer the Chief Minister to an article in the "Chronicle" of 30 May, yesterday, on page 43, entitled "ACT 'naive' in funding negotiations". The comments in that article are attributed to Mr Barry Reid, who was a member of the former ACT House of Assembly and an ALP candidate at the recent, or not so recent, election. I quote from that article:

The ACT 'could not have done any worse' out of the recent Premiers Conference and public officials have been 'naive' in their negotiations with the Commonwealth over funding arrangements for the Territory.

Does the Chief Minister accept that she was one of the public officials Mr Reid referred to as "naive", and do Mr Reid's comments hit the mark?

MS FOLLETT: Yes, I am aware of that article. I saw it in the "Chronicle". It is the personal view of Mr Reid; it has no other standing whatsoever as the view of my party or of this Government. It is his personal view and not one that, as I understand it, is shared by many other people at all.

PUBLIC HOUSING

MR KAINE: Mr Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister for Housing and Urban Services, particularly in view of the interest that she is showing in public housing, in particular in the inquiry that has now been instituted into that subject. Can the Minister tell us how many Housing Trust houses are currently vacant, how long they have been vacant, how much longer they will remain vacant, and what are the reasons why they are not currently occupied?

MRS GRASSBY: I would like to take that question on notice because I do not have the figures right at my fingertips. I will be able to give them to you tomorrow.

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MR KAINE: I am surprised.

MRS GRASSBY: I have a few of them, but not enough. I would like to be sure that I have the exact figures, Mr Speaker.

DETENTION OF ACT PROTESTERS

MR COLLAERY: My question is to the Chief Minister in her role as Attorney-General. Will the Chief Minister advise the house whether she will be taking any action on the scandalous state of affairs which has arisen as a result of ACT citizens being arrested, fingerprinted and detained without bail in New South Wales during recent protests in south-eastern forests?

MS FOLLETT: I will take that question on notice because I would like to get some information on it. I think it deserves an informed reply.

ASSISTANCE TO ATHLETES

MR WOOD: I direct a question to the Minister for Tuggeranong, or the Minister in charge of sports in this instance. I note an article in the Tuggeranong paper which interests me as a person concerned about sport and young people. It refers to a young gymnast who is having financial difficulty in getting to the Pacific Alliance competition. It claims there are certain inadequacies in the ACT because of our past reliance on the Commonwealth. Is there anything the Minister can advise in the way of programs that might assist this young athlete or any others?

MR WHALAN: Mr Speaker, yes, I am aware of the article in today's "Valley View" concerning Julie Anne Monico. I am pleased to advise that Julie's parents are being assisted by officers from the office of ACT sport, recreation and racing with an application for travel assistance under the ACT sports development program. We recognise Julie's talents and already we have assisted her and her coach with travel grants to attend recent competitions in Canada and the USA.

Julie has also received a talented athlete's award in recognition of her outstanding potential. I have also asked the department to address the question generally of assistance to talented athletes and will be announcing a program of assistance under the newly established ACT Academy of Sport. I might add that not only would we seek to send people overseas, but next year the ACT Academy of Sport will be bringing to Australia a Bulgarian coach in gymnastics, and so we will be seeking to assist that sport in other ways.

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WOMEN - PRIORITY IN EMPLOYMENT

DR KINLOCH: My question is addressed to the Minister for teaching, undertaking, gardening, golf, education, rugby, athletics, nasturtiums, organic compost, nags and gymnastics.

Mr Whalan: What is the acronym?

DR KINLOCH: Work it out! In the case of both the ACT Schools Office and the ACT Institute of TAFE all senior officers are men. What actions are being taken to ensure that women, who are such a large proportion of the teaching and administrative resources in both institutions, will in future be given priority in appointments to major decision making positions?

MR WHALAN: The Government has a general policy in this particular area, and we are setting in place mechanisms which will ensure that the objectives which Dr Kinloch clearly espouses will in fact be met. I can assure him that I will be making a ministerial statement on that issue as it relates to all components of my department at the next session of the Assembly.

SHARE TRANSFERS

MR KAINE: I would like to direct a question to the Chief Minister and Treasurer. Chief Minister, in May of this year - and I know you are going to say this is before your time, but I am going to give you some details and ask you for a comment - the Collector of ACT Revenue put out an information circular which said that a determination had been made by the Minister which changed the method of assessment of duty on the transfer of private company shares and units in private unit trust schemes where that company or trust owns an interest in land in the ACT.

My information is that there was a change made on 5 May by the Minister. That change was made to the levying of a tax with no publicity whatsoever, no public consultation, and that the change that was made in effect goes way beyond any legislation affecting land holding companies anywhere else in Australia. For example, in other places in Australia where there is a transfer of shares related to value of land a levy is imposed only where the transaction exceeds \$1m. This affects even a transfer involving \$1. It appears on the face of it to be quite draconian. It has been done without publicity and consultation. First of all, are you aware of this? Secondly, if you are not, will you undertake to have this reviewed? If you find it to be as unacceptable as I do, will you move to have this information circular rescinded and give further consideration to the matter after public consultation before any such change is made?

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MS FOLLETT: I thank Mr Kaine for the question. Basically, the answer is no, I am not aware of it and, as you say, it was a matter that took place before the Government came into operation. I will undertake to obtain information on the matter and provide it to the Assembly as soon as I can.

PRESS OFFICER

MR JENSEN: My question without notice is directed to the Chief Minister. I refer to the Deputy Chief Minister's answer to a question without notice from Mr Humphries on 23 May 1989 when he said, "I do not even have a press secretary". I ask the Chief Minister what is the difference between a press secretary and a media officer, especially as there was a media officer shown in the list of telephone numbers of Mr Whalan's staff, correct as at 18 May 1989, although the latest edition of the same document has changed the position of this officer to be one of two private secretaries. If there is no difference, has the Deputy Chief Minister misled the house, and why did this change in the directory occur?

MS FOLLETT: The Deputy Chief Minister's staffing arrangements do not include a press officer. If there was a circular printed that contained information contrary to that, it was in error, and that is really the end of the matter. There is no press officer provided for the Deputy Chief Minister.

MALKARA SCHOOL

MR MOORE: My question is directed to the Minister for Industry, Employment and Education. The Malkara School has lost, without warning, a part-time resource teacher position that provided specialist services to deaf, mentally handicapped children at the school. Considering the lip service that the Government has paid to social justice, is the Minister prepared to protect the interests of such children?

MR WHALAN: Yes.

MR MOORE: I have a supplementary question. Will the Minister undertake to clarify the circumstances surrounding this particular situation and provide an explanation?

MR WHALAN: Yes.

SPORTS FACILITIES

MR DUBY: My question is directed to the Minister for Industry, Employment and Education. I would like to

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apologise to Mr Stefaniak. This question relates to a matter that he has raised as a matter of public importance, but I had given a commitment that this question be asked today, anyway. In the light of the proposal to allow the Canberra Raiders to take over Bruce Stadium in 1990 and so deprive the Canberra community of a first-class athletics facility, will the Minister give an undertaking to upgrade the present Woden athletic field by the installation of floodlighting and the laying of a racatan track. Does he agree that because of what will almost be the exclusive use by the AIS of the remaining warm-up track and facilities at Bruce, the upgrading of the Woden ground will enable other athletics groups, such as local, regional and interstate schools as well as local community athletics organisations, to participate on a good, standard, all-weather facility that would go some way to replacing that at the stadium?

MR WHALAN: On Monday of this week I had a very long and extensive meeting with representatives of various athletic organisations in the ACT and we discussed specifically at that meeting the redevelopment of the warm-up track at Bruce. Present at that meeting were representatives of the senior clubs, little athletics, and the Australian Institute of Sport. The outcome of that meeting was that the athletics groups acknowledged that the redeveloped facility on the warm-up track will be far superior to the existing facility which exists within the ACT. They have one criticism remaining there, and that is that for certain international meets it would fail to meet the requirement in one respect, and that is that it would itself lack a warm-up track. It would not have to be a full-size warm-up track, but it would lack such a track. So that is the only way in which it would be deficient.

The question of the use was discussed, and I emphasise this as it is central to your question in relation to Woden. It is clear that the requirements of the Institute of Sport are not such that it would have the exclusive use of the facility. In fact, it is quite clear that the senior athletics groups, the little athletics and the veterans athletics can all be very comfortably accommodated within the program of the Institute of Sport. Given that arrangement, the facility there will more than adequately meet the requirements of athletics. That would seem to answer the point that Mr DUBY has raised in relation to the Woden facility.

RETAIL INDUSTRY

MR COLLAERY: Is the Minister for Industry, Employment and Education aware of the very serious plight of many retailers in the ACT region at this time, and, if so, will he be undertaking a review of the retail industry situation? Will the Minister be reviving the Business Leases Review Ordinance, last drafted in 1984, and establishing a business leases review board or like-minded body in the very near future?

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MR WHALAN: During the election campaign the Australian Labor Party took a very strong position in relation to the matters which are raised by Mr Collaery. The plight of retailers is a genuine one and it is one that we acknowledge. It has been aggravated by the fact that the figures published for the last quarter show that there is a downturn in real terms in retail sales. Obviously there is an expanding range of facilities and this year will see the completion of the section 38 development, the completion of extensions to Monaro Mall, the extensions at the Westfield Plaza at Belconnen Mall, further extensions and alterations at Woden Plaza, and significant new retail space has become available in the Tuggeranong town centre in addition to that which is already available at the Hyperdome and Homeworld. What is happening is that sales are contracting in real terms at a time when there is an expansion of retail space. Inevitably, this will result in hardship for retailers.

We are concerned that retail tenants, as indeed all commercial tenants, should not be disadvantaged. Therefore, during the election campaign we indicated our commitment to legislation to provide for the establishment of a business leases Act which would contain the power to review the relationship between commercial tenants and their landlords.

As we have said on a number of occasions, we do not believe that it is appropriate for governments to intervene in the commercial relationship between commercial landlords and their tenants. However, we do believe that there is a justification for ensuring that these two parties meet each other on a level playing field. It is for that reason that we would seek to make the relationship fairer. In short, I will answer yes.

MR COLLAERY: I ask a short supplementary question. Will the Minister be looking at the situation in the Village Centre in Manuka where in one case a retail tenant, a jeweller, has had a rent rise in the first year of 32 per cent, in the second year of 58 per cent, and this year of 98 per cent? How soon will the Minister bring in some regulation?

MR WHALAN: The legislation is in the pipeline, and we will seek to give it priority, but I must emphasise that it is not our policy to make legislation retrospective. It is very difficult to see how we can assist in relation to the specific example given by Mr Collaery.

HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION

MR HUMPHRIES: My question is to the Chief Minister. I refer the Minister to the controversy in the media surrounding submissions by the ACT Administration to the

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Remuneration Tribunal concerning the salary and conditions payable to the Head of Administration. What is the Government's reaction to the claims of impropriety put by Ms Rosemary Nairn of the ACT Self-Government Campaign Committee, and what will the Government be doing about the matter?

MS FOLLETT: I am indeed aware of the stated reports on that matter, and it is my understanding that there is a Federal parliamentary committee at present investigating the issue. I have asked for a detailed report on the matter and when I have got that report I will be happy to provide the Assembly with some further information.

DOG CONTROL

MRS NOLAN: I have a question for Mrs Grassby, the Minister for Housing and Urban Services. Given that last week Mrs Grassby recognised that dogs in the ACT cause enormous problems, what does the Minister intend to do in relation to this matter? Can we as members of the community assume that mechanisms will be put in place by the Government to ensure that front fences are available to residents if they so choose and, if not, why not?

MRS GRASSBY: This is a very interesting question. During the election, when shadowing this portfolio, I was asked by many people about front fences. May I tell you that on our ticket we were very divided. Half of us said there should be front fences and the other half said there should not. The Chief Minister felt very much the same way as the questioner does about dogs and felt that there should be a front fence to keep dogs from her place. I felt that there should not have been, but at the moment our department is looking at that matter. When I have an answer, I will come back to the member with it.

MRS NOLAN: I ask a supplementary question because I think, with respect, the Minister referred only to the second part of my question. I would draw the Minister's attention to the current enforcement of municipal legislation, which encompasses items such as dog control. Will the Minister undertake to review that legislation?

MRS GRASSBY: We will be reviewing the legislation but, as I said yesterday, despite the fact that dogs have to be licensed, members would be amazed at how many unlicensed dogs are running around Canberra. At the moment we have a staff of only nine officers doing a most wonderful job in the whole of the area and, as I said, in a calendar month 1,967 dogs were impounded; 1,197 were humanely destroyed; and 27 dogs were shot in rural areas of the ACT for attacking livestock. I understand the RSPCA has also destroyed a large number of animals. Dog control is costing the taxpayers of this city \$460,000 every year. We have to decide just how much further we can go on that or

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whether we become big bad policemen and go around grabbing dogs and, if they do not have tags on them, destroying them. This problem has to be thought of very carefully. One gentleman went away on holiday and did not register his dog or the dog's tag fell off; I am not quite sure how it happened. Unfortunately, when the man returned he did not know that his dog had not been looked after by the people who were supposed to have been doing the job, and the dog had been picked up by the dog patrol. It had been kept for the required number of days and when the man got back he discovered the dog had been destroyed.

The man was a pensioner, the dog had been his only companion, and he was very upset at its loss. There is a nice end to this story because we were able to give him another dog, but of course it was not the same animal.

TRANSYLVANIA

DR KINLOCH: This is to follow up a question asked on another occasion by Mr Stefaniak. Mr Speaker, I well recognise that it is not the concern of this Assembly to deal with foreign affairs matters, but I put this in the connection of ethnic communities in the ACT. The questioner notes a recent meeting at which Mr John Langmore, MHR, represented the Labor Party and Senator Baden Teague represented the Liberal Party at a Transylvania awareness evening involving themes related to Romania and Hungary. Could the Minister assure the Assembly that representatives of the Transylvanian Association of Canberra, specifically Dr Kazar, its president, be given free access to the staff of the Schools Authority in the association's campaign to eliminate ignorance concerning violations of human rights and civil rights in Transylvania?

MR WHALAN: I shall have to take that question on notice.

DRIVING LICENCES

MR WOOD: I direct a question to the Minister for Housing and Urban Services about driving licences. Is she aware of steps taken elsewhere in Australia, for good reasons, to introduce new systems for licensing car drivers on a graduated approach? Does she plan to examine such a system for the ACT?

MRS GRASSBY: My department has already moved a long way in the area of photographic licences. We are looking at graduating licences so that initially 17-year-olds would have a licence for two years. If during that period they have had no offences or have never been picked up on an alcohol charge, they would then progress to the next stage of the licence. If they have committed an offence, they

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would have to take out another two-year licence. My department is looking at this proposal, for the simple reason that we feel that it will cut down on road accidents. We are also looking at ways of giving 15-year-olds a better chance of understanding how to drive a car, the rules of the road, and the effects of drugs and alcohol on the system. Yes, I can say that my department is looking at this matter.

YARRALUMLA BRICKWORKS

MR JENSEN: My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Industry, Employment and Education. In view of the extreme surprise expressed by the Chief Minister on election day regarding the decision of the Federal Labor Minister for the Capital Territory to proceed with the redevelopment of the old Canberra brickworks, and the attendant risk to the heritage assets in that area, will the Minister advise precisely what stage negotiations have reached and when the details of these arrangements will be open to public scrutiny?

MR WHALAN: The proposal for the development of the Yarralumla brickworks site followed a tender process involving a stringent and independent review of the contenders. Negotiations with the preferred tenderer resulted in agreement on a number of issues and reached the stage where considerable expenditure in specifying the full development was required of Hookers for the proposal to be advanced. The company was entitled to have a further commitment to that given in December so that the development, which will return \$7m to the new Government in premium and up to \$120m to the ACT economy, could proceed.

The offer accepted by Hooker Projects on 17 March is subject to compliance with heritage and environmental legislation and the degazettal of a formerly proposed tourist road. The offer also required Hookers to pay a deposit of \$700,000. Policy changes to the Yarralumla policy plan and the Yarralumla brickworks policy plan are required. It is expected that the Territory planning authority will release the draft policy plans within the next month. This process will involve full community consultation.

There are currently 20-odd tenants occupying space at the brickworks. The tenants are aware of the redevelopment proposal. While notice to quit of only one month is required, Hooker Projects has agreed that the tenants may remain on the site until such time as work on the project commences, and this is unlikely to be until at least September or October of this year. It is envisaged that the proposed development will allow for uses similar to those now at the brickworks.

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MR JENSEN: I ask supplementary question, Mr Speaker. In relation to that question, was one of the principal Hooker negotiators formerly a senior officer of the ACT Administration, and did Hookers originally tender for that particular project?

MR WHALAN: I do not know the answer to that question.

MR JENSEN: Mr Speaker, I presume that if the Minister does not know the answer to the question he will be providing it to us in due course.

MR WHALAN: Mr Speaker, I would have to look at the time frame. This Government has responsibility for a period which dates from the time of the formation of the Government in this chamber. I will get a brief on it and, if it is relevant to the time frame in which we have been in government, then I will answer it appropriately.

DEATH OF BUS DRIVER

MR STEFANIAK: Yesterday I asked the Chief Minister a question in relation to the tragic death of a bus driver who went to the aid of some school children on his bus. I have a further question. Can the Government tell the Assembly what arrangements, if any, are being made to compensate the dependants of that bus driver?

MS FOLLETT: No, I do not have that information with me at the moment. I will take the question on notice and provide the Assembly with a reply.

TOBACCO

MR KAINE: I would like to address a question to the Chief Minister and Treasurer. Chief Minister, your Government, I understand, is committed to establishing a policy on advertising, promotion, sales and pricing of tobacco in the Australian Capital Territory - and I draw attention to that last part "and pricing". Is there an inference that one can draw from that that, despite your election promises, you are contemplating increasing the taxes on tobacco products in the ACT?

MS FOLLETT: Mr Kaine has referred to our election commitment not to increase rates and taxes to individual households and individual citizens as a result of self-government. The question of further arrangements about tobacco franchising and tobacco taxes and so on has been taken up by my colleague the Minister for Health and is a matter on which he will be making a ministerial statement quite soon.

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MR KAINE: I ask a supplementary question: Is the answer yes or no?

MR SPEAKER: I think the question has been answered.

GOVERNMENT HOUSING

MRS GRASSBY: Yesterday Mr Collaery asked me the following question:

In view of the ACT election commitment to ensuring that public housing is directed towards the most needy, could the Minister please inform the Assembly how often government tenants are means tested?

The answer is that, as to public housing tenants eligible for rent rebate, currently 65 per cent of all tenants are means tested and reviews occur every six months, or 12 months in the case of age pensioners. Other tenants who pay normal rent are means tested when they apply for assistance and prior to allocation of dwellings. Our current strategy is to move progressively towards market rents so that those not eligible for rental rebate will pay full rent.

This strategy is generally in line with the practice within the States, and it is preferable to continue means testing for the tenants not on rental rebate. To force tenants no longer meeting the initial eligible criteria out of public housing is against Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement principles and would have the following negative outcome: tenants would have no incentive to improve themselves; public housing would develop a stigma due to poor social mix; the Housing Trust's ability to help the needy would decrease as revenue from rents declined; and extensive additional staff resources would be required to carry out the means testing.

COACH TRANSPORT

MRS GRASSBY: A question asked by Mrs Nolan yesterday related to the operation of New South Wales based charter tours in the ACT while ACT operators are unable to operate in the State in a similar way.

The Government has been made aware of this problem. There have been a number of recent developments which may assist ACT coach operators to compete more equally in New South Wales. These include the gradual deregulation of coach services by the New South Wales Government and the effect of the ACT (Self-Government) Act, giving the ACT State-type rights to freedom of interstate trade.

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A study done for the ACT Administration last year suggested ways by which ACT charter operators could gain access to business in New South Wales. The ACT Government will be examining these matters taking into account the needs of the ACT public and coach operators. Mrs Nolan may wish to contact Mr Greiner in New South Wales. Operators can come into the ACT and pick up, but a coach that is on its way to Sydney from the ACT cannot stop at Batemans Bay and pick up a passenger. If she gets in touch with Mr Greiner he may like to change those laws. We are talking to him at the moment, hoping that he will.

ACT PARKS AND CONSERVATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MS FOLLETT: Yesterday Mr Moore asked me a question about the reconstitution of the ACT Parks and Conservation Consultative Committee. The reply to his question is that it is expected that the Government will be seeking nominations to the committee from interested community organisations this week. Appointments will be made following the receipt and consideration of these nominations, and the objective would be to have the reconstituted committee in place as quickly as possible.

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

MR BERRY: On 25 May, Mr Moore asked me what my position was on the proposal for a mental health Act and I supply this answer: After discussions with some of the sponsors of this proposal, I formed the view that more work needs to be done before it can be given serious consideration by the Government because there might be some resource implications. Accordingly, I have asked the ACT Council for Social Service to develop their thinking further on the matter and prepare a proposal for further consideration. That will then be discussed and evaluated both with the Mental Health Services Advisory Committee and with officers of my department.

It may be possible for the Government to consider this proposal in the budget context, subject to any community contribution on the matter. Whilst I appreciate that some people suffering from mental illness could benefit from an advocate to protect their interests, I will be concerned to see the extent of need for the service and whether there are areas of greater or equal need. For example, people with intellectual disability may have the same need.

I will also be concerned to establish whether the proposal for mental health advocates will duplicate or supersede existing services, or whether those services, with some refinement, can meet the needs of people with mental illness. I thank Mr Moore for bringing that matter to the attention of the Assembly, it is an important one, and I am

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sure that our commitment on consultation is the best way of proceeding with it further.

HOSPITALS

MR BERRY: The second question raised with me by Mr Moore related to the recent appointments of representatives from the ACT Trades and Labour Council to the steering committee investigating the principal hospital concept. Mr Moore asked the following question:

On Friday, 26 May, after consultation with the Residents Rally, and I presume others -

He was correct, there were others -

the Minister appointed two union representatives to the steering committee investigating the principal hospital concept. I congratulate Charles McDonald and Prue Power on their appointments.

Is the Minister aware that other bodies have an equivalent claim, and would he consider calling for nominations from people to represent long-term patients and the Returned Services League, which had approached Mr Holding and which was told that he would "bring the views of the Returned Services League to the attention of the incoming Government".

Firstly, the representatives are in fact representatives of the Trades and Labour Council, and I would like to draw to the attention of the Assembly that the Trades and Labour Council is the biggest community body in the ACT. It represents through its affiliates 50,000 workers. That is the principal reason why the Trades and Labour Council was one of the first considerations that I made in adding to the steering committee.

I should also add that the steering committee is a committee that will be reporting to government and its deliberations will be the subject of government scrutiny. In accordance with this Government's principled position on consultation, I expect that its deliberations will be subject also to public scrutiny. So it is important to consider the steering committee in that context.

Serving on the committee will be the chairperson, Mr John Bissett, the General Manager for ACT Community and Health Service, who needs no introduction; Mr Alan Woods, the deputy chairperson, a former senior public servant; Dr Clark, a deputy chairperson and a medical staff committee member on the interim hospital board; Mr Len Withers, the Chief Executive of Hospital Services, who will be providing both management and service delivery support services input to the committee; Mr L. Daniels, a deputy chairperson of Calvary Hospital. As Calvary Hospital is a component of

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the overall delivery of acute health services in the ACT, his position on the committee is entirely relevant.

Also on the committee will be Mr Hicks, the executive manager for ACT Community and Health Service, who will provide a management and coordinating role in the planning processes associated with the redevelopment of the ACT hospital systems; Dr McLaughlin, the Director of Policy Planning and Research, ACT Community and Health Service, who will provide specialist resources and advice that is required in determining the strategic health directions of health in the ACT; Dr Richard Madden, of course, the Head of Treasury, ACT Administration; Dr Care, a director of Infrastructure Division of the ACT Administration, who will provide specialist advice to government through the Office of City Management; Mr Collins, who is in the Policy Development Branch of ACT Administration. I think that list really exemplifies the need - - -

Mrs Nolan: There are not many women - in fact no women.

MR BERRY: I am coming to a woman.

Mrs Nolan: The token woman.

MR BERRY: I would draw Mrs Nolan's attention to the fact that Dr Vin McLaughlin is a woman, but those people were appointed of course before this Government came to power. I can assure Mrs Nolan that, had the circumstances presented themselves to this Government, the balance might have been quite different. But, contrary to what the Leader of the Opposition said yesterday, we have improved the balance and I thank Mr Moore for his congratulatory message to those two appointees.

I do not think other people have an equivalent claim to that of those who have been appointed, particularly the people who have been mentioned. Whilst it would be best if all facets of the community could be represented on the steering committee, it would be somewhat difficult to manage if we had single representatives from all facets of the community. The appointment of Mr McDonald and Ms Power - another woman - to the committee will strengthen it and provide the broad community base which is necessary to ensure that its deliberations are in the best shape possible when those deliberations come forward for this Government to consider.

I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that the appointment of those people was not done on the basis of patronage and favouritism, as he accused yesterday. It was done on the basis of community members who can provide a very strong input to a very important issue which will face this committee in the very near future. The Leader of the Opposition will be well aware that the Secretary of the ACT Trades and Labour Council was a former Health Authority member and has a long history of representing the community in this fair city, as has Ms Power.

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QUIT FOR LIFE - ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN

Ministerial Statement and Paper

MR BERRY (Minister for Community Services and Health), by leave: My observation is that there will not be many members of this Assembly concerned with this matter though I expect that at the end of this delivery I will have unanimous support for the Quit for Life campaign. Today is the second World No Tobacco Day, a day dedicated by the World Health Organisation to highlighting global concerns on the use of tobacco and its ill effects on the health of individuals and communities.

The 1989 theme for World No Tobacco Day is "Women and Tobacco". It has been chosen because of the rapid increase of tobacco use by women throughout the world and the specific consequences that tobacco can have on their own and their children's health. I think, Mr Speaker, our members will agree that the issue is an important one for consideration by this Assembly.

At least 23,000 avoidable premature deaths occur annually in Australia because of tobacco use. This makes smoking and its effects the leading cause of premature death and the major single cause of preventable illness and disease in Australia. I am sure members will agree that this is a staggering figure. In its local perspective, it equates to 368 deaths per year in the ACT - one death per day. This is an unacceptable situation and it is the responsibility of the ACT Government and the community at large to reassess the place of tobacco in our society.

As I have said, World No Tobacco Day this year is targeted at women. While there has been a substantial decline in smoking amongst adult males in Australia - from around 70 per cent at the end of World War II down to 33 per cent in 1986 - smoking rates for adult women have remained at around 30 per cent.

On the surface the battle may appear to be being won or, at worst, the line is being held. Unfortunately, there is another front on which the war is not going well, and that is with young women. An increasing number of young women are taking up smoking, and taking it up at an earlier age. It is now common for young women to be regular and established smokers before they are 15. This increase in the prevalence of smoking by young women is of tremendous concern to both health and welfare bodies and leaders of the commercial sector. Health risks to young women extend well beyond the now commonly known risks of lung cancer, emphysema, stroke, chronic bronchitis, gangrene and heart attack.

I think members would agree that is a nasty range of complaints that one can suffer as a result of tobacco use. Women who smoke are more likely to suffer from osteoporosis, a severe bone weakening disease that is often spoken of. Women who smoke are more likely to develop

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cancer of the cervix. Women who smoke are more likely to have fertility problems and, should they succeed in achieving pregnancy, they have an increased risk of miscarriage, twice the risk of having a stillborn child, and twice the risk of having low birth weight babies. Further, women who smoke and also use oral contraceptive pills run 10 times the risk of heart attacks, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases.

Mr Speaker, the effects on the female contribution to the economy of this disturbing trend towards increased smoking amongst women can only increase the burden of health care expenditure and lost production in the workplace, a concern for all of us. Already the annual cost to the Australian economy is estimated to be in excess of \$2.5 billion.

I have already publicly stated this Government's commitment to review legislation - and this might answer the Leader of the Opposition's question on that issue - and to establish policy on tobacco advertising, promotion, sales and pricing in the ACT. These reviews will take particular note of recent developments in Victoria and South Australia.

It is now time to draw attention to the continuing and increasing need to reduce the demand for cigarettes and other tobacco products - in particular, here in Canberra, for promoting anti-smoking campaigns and healthy lifestyle messages.

At this moment a number of community and government agencies are demonstrating, as part of World No Tobacco Day, a variety of ways these messages can be conveyed - through the electronic and print media, street theatre, community development activities and public demonstration.

I am pleased to be able to add another dimension in the political arena. I am also pleased to report that earlier today I launched the Quit for Life anti-smoking campaign in Canberra at the ACT Community and Health Service building in Civic. At this launch I announced sponsorship of the Canberra Cannons basketball team to take the anti-smoking message to our schools. Students at those schools will benefit by the sponsorship through the Cannons' extensive school visits program.

We are all aware of the Canberra Cannons' efforts to retain their national basketball league championship status, but most of us would be unaware of their extensive school visits program involving basketball workshops and camps for school children and aspiring basketball players. This program is an ideal promotional vehicle to deliver the anti-smoking message to a large number of Canberra's young people. This sponsorship program, a first for Canberra I believe, includes the personal involvement of Cannons' team members in delivering the Quit for Life message and material directly into Canberra schools in a way which will impact positively on Canberra's young people.

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Also, the sponsorship will involve the Canberra Cannons in promotional activities relating to a number of other community and health programs in Canberra over the coming year.

I have a very generous offer from the quit smoking cessation service for members of the Assembly. I have agreed to convey the generous offer to the Assembly. The service, which runs programs for people wishing to kick the habit, has offered free programs for any Assembly member who would like to try to give up smoking. Mr Speaker, I present the following paper:

ACT support for "Quit for Life" anti-smoking campaign - Ministerial statement, 31 May 1989.

CANBERRA RAIDERS Discussion of Matter of Public Importance

MR SPEAKER: I have received a letter from Mr Stefaniak proposing that a matter of public importance be submitted to the Assembly for discussion, namely:

The implications of the move of the Canberra Raiders to Bruce Stadium.

MR STEFANIAK (3.22): I asked for this to be put on the agenda because, although a lot of people have been very concerned about this move, there has not been all that much publicity or facts actually issued in relation to it. I thought it most important that the topic be debated by this Assembly before it becomes an eventuality. There are a number of implications in relation to it, a number of matters that I think should be considered by us, and a number of facts which still have to be brought out into the cold light of day for consideration.

There has been a large amount of concern in relation to this, and there have been in the "Canberra Times" some 60 letters written against the move or expressing reservations about the move compared with three letters for it. Reservations have been expressed by some major athletics associations in relation to the move. I should note that most of those associations are quite happy to see the Canberra Raiders move to the Bruce Stadium, but they express a number of very understandable and justifiable concerns. I think those considerations should be addressed and I wonder whether due consideration has been given to them.

I share the Deputy Chief Minister's love for the rugby codes of football. I also grew up in an area where the major codes, when I was at school, were rugby league and rugby union. I had the pleasure of playing both, and I still have the odd trot around - old fool that I am - in social rugby union, hence the cut on my head. I did not

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get involved in a fight. I thoroughly enjoyed playing both codes of football and enjoyed watching them. I have a great deal of time for the sports, and have had a long association with rugby union in particular.

I for one would have no objections to the Canberra Raiders going to the Bruce Stadium, but there are a number of issues that should be considered. I am pleased to see that amongst the athletics associations - and many of those associations and many people have written to me and to my colleagues in relation to this in recent weeks - very few of them, per se, express any problems with the idea of the Raiders moving to Bruce. Most have no objections to the Raiders' move, but they want certain safeguards and they want certain things looked at.

Firstly and most importantly is the question of cost. Some months ago it was stated by Mrs Kelly, the member for Canberra, supported by the then Minister for Territories, that the Raiders would move to Bruce - end of story. Some questions were raised about the cost, and it was indicated in very vague terms that the Raiders would cover the costs of the move. But what does that really involve?

When one looks deeply at the costs of the move one sees that they are quite substantial. Under current proposals they involve the spending of approximately \$6.5m. The question is: Who will pay for it? It would appear that the Commonwealth will not do so. Do the Raiders intend to pay for that and, if so, how? Is the ACT community going to pay for that? If so, how much? What percentage is it going to pay? On 23 May I asked the Deputy Chief Minister a question in relation to the cost and he could not give me at that date details of just how much, if anything, the ACT community was to pay. I submit that the ACT community at this stage will almost certainly have to foot a considerable bill for this move.

The estimated cost of upgrading the warm-up track to the specifications outlined in plans that were shown to various interest groups on 18 April this year in the old NCDC offices indicated that \$2.9m would need to be expended in upgrading the warm-up track under the proposals, while the cost of the proposed changes to the main arena, the National Athletic Stadium, was \$3.5m. There were, I am reliably told by the athletics people, some further points that had to be covered in relation to upgrading the warm-up track. One of the requirements was the provision of a synthetic warm-up facility, and they were also uncertain whether the required underground cabling had been included in the specifications. If it had not been included, that would be an additional cost. So we are looking there at about \$6.5m.

It would seem that the most the Raiders can afford to pay in relation to this move is \$1m, leaving \$5.5m. Where will that come from? There is a problem there because, as we know, we have very tight financial restraints. We, and

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especially the Government, have a responsibility to administer the ACT in as cost-effective a way as possible. Who is to pay that \$5.5m? Is it meant to come from the community? The question then is: Can we really afford it? I have seen no proposal in recent months which would indicate that that money would be paid other than by the ACT community.

There was one statement from a public official in relation to payment for the move, and that was from Mr Tony Blunn, the Secretary of DASETT at the Senate Estimates Committee on Tuesday, 11 October 1988. In reply to a question from Senator Puplick in relation to the payment he said, "Payment will be the responsibility of the ACT Administration in terms of the lease. Where it will get the money from is a matter for it, but there will be some arrangements. It will be its responsibility as the lessee also to upgrade the training track". That is reported in Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) in the Senate Estimates Committee, Tuesday, 11 October last year.

One question that must be asked when we are talking about this move is whether there is any other way, apart from what appears to be the current proposal, to rip up the main track, returf the field and upgrade the warm-up track, to satisfy some of the athletics requirements, thus expending some \$6.4m to \$6.5m if the costs are right?

Another question is: Will football games - especially rugby league because basically it is the Raiders who will be using it, but rugby union as well because it has the facility - be able to be played there under any other circumstances? Detailed consideration should be given to the alternatives to ripping up the running track, which is very much the key to the economic equation.

In 1987 the city-country league game was played at the stadium. On 18 February of this year there was a four team knockout, which the Raiders won. On 10 May the Canberra Kookaburras rugby union team played the AIS and I am pleased to say they won too. My colleague Mrs Nolan and I went out there to watch the game.

Mr Humphries: I went too!

MR STEFANIAK: No; you went to Seiffert. That is a different oval. It is in Queanbeyan. On those occasions the game was played within the confines of the grassed area there. I can appreciate that that is within the specifications for rugby league and indeed within the specifications for rugby union, albeit on a slightly narrower scale.

On that occasion, too, there was a limited dead ball area, which is very important when you are talking about rugby league and rugby union. Some provisions were made, as indeed there would have to be, to protect players tackled outside the sideline. That is virtually where the

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athletics track is and obviously something will have to be done there. I will come back to that in a minute.

Firstly, let me take the problem with the dead ball line. It is very important - and I can say this as an ex-player - when you are playing either rugby league or rugby union to have a reasonably sized dead ball line. You do not want something only about five metres because of the nature of the game, and especially now with the prevalence of the bomb in rugby league.

Mr Wood: It might be a good idea to get rid of the bomb.

MR STEFANIAK: It might open the game a bit; you might be right there. However, anyone involved in either of those codes would agree you need something more than about a five metre dead ball line. However, people who know the Bruce Stadium know that there is a long jump facility down at the southern end. I am reliably told by the athletics people that that could be easily moved. There is an extended finger there on the southern end leading up to that long jump area which athletes use and which can indeed be grassed. You would get an extra 40 or 50 metres of use, length-wise on that field, thus covering any problems in relation to the dead ball area.

We then come back to the problem of the sideline. For the games that have been played there synthetic material has been put on the sideline. I know there is a problem perhaps with some synthetic material. Indeed, if players are tackled outside the field of play on to material, that can cause burns. However, technology has advanced to the extent that grass could be put down on a temporary basis, perhaps on some cover over the sideline, to ensure the protection of players. I am also reliably informed by the Deputy Chief Minister, and I have no reason to doubt it, that certainly five metres of turf would be needed over the sideline to ensure player protection. That, I would submit, Mr Speaker, can adequately be done without the necessity of ripping up the running track. Therefore, one has to examine whether there is a need to rip up the running track.

Football matches throughout the world are played on areas where there are athletic tracks, and there are a couple of major fields in New Zealand where test matches have been played within athletic stadiums. If that running track is not ripped up and if some other arrangements can be made, there will be considerable savings in the move and the relocation of the Raiders there, especially to the community. It looks as if the community will have to foot that bill unless there are some other indications to the contrary, with significant savings to the Raiders themselves.

People who are very much in favour of the move there and of ripping up the track have said that it would be better as a spectacle if the track were ripped up. I somewhat query

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that view. A number of matches have been played there, they have all had large attendances, and we have to assess the necessity for spending the proposed amount of money at the risk of ripping up this facility. I submit that the track can be used all year round not only by the Raiders and by the odd international rugby union match, but also by major athletic events without the necessity for preparing and upgrading a whole new warm-up track. Those questions have to be addressed, and addressed quickly.

Mr Speaker, I call on this Government to provide this Assembly with full details of the costs. They have not yet been provided. The Deputy Chief Minister has undertaken to do so, but I think time is marching on and I would call for those costs as a matter of urgency. I call for this Assembly to be provided with full details of the proposed alterations, including the costs. I also call on the Government to provide this Assembly with full details of any alternatives to ripping up that main running track, including costs. Finally, I call on the Government to justify the proposal as it currently stands.

MR WOOD (3.37): Mr Speaker, as an enthusiastic member of the Canberra community and now as a member of this Assembly, I am most interested in the image of Canberra and the character of our city. Indeed, it is a city that has sometimes been described as one without character. I am concerned about all the tangible and intangible factors which determine the character of any city. I guess some of those would relate to the type of predominant employment in a city. In this place it is the public service. It is not rural or industrial. It flows from the socioeconomic background of people, their cultural interests and the manner in which they express them. All these factors contribute to a city's character.

A most substantial factor, more than we ever realise, is sport. It hit me some considerable time ago now when for the first time I stood on the sideline of a sporting field here and shouted, "Come on, Canberra". I was barracking for my son who was playing in the under 11s second ACT hockey team. Through sport, perhaps more than other areas given our somewhat ocker culture, we identify with our city. I did not just support a hockey team when I was barracking; I was supporting the Canberra community.

The Canberra Raiders and the Canberra Cannons have played an enormous role in establishing a loyalty, a community feeling and a support for this city. I can mention those two perhaps at the top of the list because they are the most successful symbols. But there is a vast range of sporting groups in every imaginable sport that send people away carrying the name Canberra, and they do a great deal to help in a community feeling.

The move of the Canberra Raiders to the stadium is not just a move, in my view, for the Canberra Raiders. It is a move for sport generally. I do not expect that the Bruce

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Stadium is simply going to be a home base for the Canberra Raiders, and that that will be it. I have little doubt that the Bruce Stadium will be the base for a whole range of sports far more than we are able to see now. Perhaps as I express my support for the Canberra Raiders' move to the Bruce Stadium, and in keeping with the style of this Assembly, I should declare my interest. I am an avid rugby league fan, I also live as close to Bruce Stadium as anybody in this town and I can easily walk to see their games rather than join the traffic crawl out to Queanbeyan.

This morning I expressed the view that I was somewhat of an expert in another field. Though I am a rugby league supporter, the state of my knees today, if nothing else, indicates that I do not think I am any great expert. Mr Stefaniak said that we have to protect the players from the synthetic running track. Judging by some of the fields I have played on, given the country areas where I have played it and the level at which I played, that would be a good surface.

Let me assure the Assembly, and Mr Stefaniak in particular, that the decision to relocate the Raiders to the Bruce Stadium was made in the first instance by the Commonwealth Government. But let me point out that the ALP in the election campaign and subsequently supported that proposal.

I understand the concern as to athletics. I have a son who is enormously keen, who jogs out to the track and makes great use of those facilities. He expresses his concern, and I understand it. But let us face the fact that the stadium is valued at some \$40m and it is absolutely under-utilised. It is a marvellous resource and it is not being used. We cannot allow that to continue. We have got to use that stadium more. At present it is costing something like \$300,000 a year just to keep it going, and that will go up. We have to endeavour to make it a profit-making venture. There is no suitably developed stadium in Canberra that will take what I think are termed rectangular sports - those that will fit into a rectangle on a large playing field. There is no such stadium. This will be that stadium. Do not tell me this is not a sport conscious community. It certainly is, and perhaps more so than in other areas. We have got to get more use out of that stadium.

I am informed that the Raiders and the ACT Administration spent a great deal of time looking at proposals for the redevelopment of Manuka Oval and Northbourne Oval, but they have been discounted for a whole variety of reasons, most of which I am sure you would well understand.

The Bruce Stadium will become a multipurpose venue for the maximum benefit of the ACT community, just as the indoor stadium has become. I am sure it was not always envisaged that the stadium would be the venue for indoor concerts and have elephants and horses and all sorts of things moving around inside it.

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Mr Whalan: Jimmy Barnes.

MR WOOD: Yes, exactly. It will be used as the Raiders' home ground and there is no doubt that that will be its major use. It will then get us coverage. It will be used for Panasonic Cup games, international matches of league and of rugby and of all sorts of other representative games.

I see a use for the stadium as a cricket venue. In discussions on this matter I asked whether there was any synthetic cricket pitch that could be taken out and laid down, as there are so many other synthetic surfaces. I understood there was not, but I also have information that people are talking about picking up a cricket pitch from some part where it is laid down and planting it there for cricket matches. I am sure that is possible. But I am confident that we will have day and night cricket matches there.

In keeping with the ALP's commitment to consult, Mr Whalan has met with a whole range of sporting groups and he may well elaborate on that. I know that he has seen people from rugby, league, cricket and Aussie Rules, and I am sure he will meet soccer people. I understand that in general they are in firm agreement with the proposal to shift to Bruce Stadium. As a trade-off for obtaining a lease of the main stadium, the ACT Administration has agreed to upgrade the athletic warm-up track and thus enable international standard competitions to be arranged. That is very important.

It is true that the warm-up track will not have the seating available. I went out there for the World Cup event a few years ago, and on occasions when there has been a large crowd there for athletics. On every other occasion that I have been out there for athletics - and I have been there often - I have noted that you can fit the crowd into a fairly compact area.

Mr Stefaniak raised the important point of leaving the existing track. That simply cannot be done. The whole area has to be grassed. Only by doing this can the ground be given a true multipurpose facility. Consideration was given to the possibility of covering the athletics track in the main stadium to make it available for future use. However, major drainage problems would occur due to the lack of subsoil drainage. Significantly increased costs in altering the levels of the arena to accommodate the extra depth of coverage would also be incurred. Along with that, there would be long-term damage to the synthetic surface anyway if something were laid above it.

If part of the track were left in the main stadium so that could be used as a warm-up area for the adjacent major track, drainage and run-off problems would occur and a safety problem for the players would be created in relation

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to the reduced grass safety verge. The acceptability of the arena for long-term rugby league and other sports is dependent on the adequate provision of grassed areas around the field.

Although Aussie Rules is not my major sport, I still enjoy watching it, and you could not have cricket and Aussie Rules without that grass verge. Let us face it, those events will attract more people than will athletics.

If any synthetic surface remains in the arena, the venue is going to be altogether too limiting for the multipurpose use of the facility. The areas identified for redevelopment are the minimum works that are required to ensure the successful operation of the stadium and the athletics track. The New South Wales Rugby League, through the Canberra Raiders, is providing \$1m to works already identified in the project. I am informed that the Institute of Sport, the ACT Athletics Association and the Canberra Raiders have been extensively consulted during the design phase. They have expressed satisfaction with the design proposals.

Athletics remains a very important activity in this town. Having taken kids to the stadium myself, I recognise how many people are interested in the little athletics. I know, however, as I go out to the track, and as sometimes I cycle past it and stop and watch, the relatively small usage that track gets for most of the time. We have a marvellous resource there at the Bruce Stadium and we must see that it is fully utilised.

DR KINLOCH (3.49): Mr Speaker, I recognise that this is a contentious matter. I thank Bill Stefaniak for raising it as a matter of public importance and I recognise the strong arguments on both sides on this question. You will appreciate the Residents Rally has a strong interest in this. One of our nine candidates in the recent elections - recent, if that is the right word now - was Kelvin Giles, who was a coach of the Raiders. So we have a keen interest in it, especially as Kelvin has the best legs of any member of the Residents Rally.

I am about to commit political harakiri, Mr Speaker, and you will realise the very great difficulty in which I am about to place myself. I think I should perhaps speak in a very soft voice and ask the Assembly gallery to be cleared as I make this declaration.

I recognise before me keen followers of rugby league and I now have to confess I have never in my life seen a live game of rugby league.

Mr Wood: Come with me to the next match.

DR KINLOCH: I point out to Mr Wood, however, that I have seen games of rugby union. I make no comparison. I think whether it is mass or holy communion, both are done in the

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name of the Lord. The kinds of films I see do not have much in them about rugby league, although I would be prepared to accept the assertion that Baron Munchausen once coached the Raiders, or as they are sometimes known, the Vikings - that great race of warriors who used to play rugby league, I understand, on their incredible ships with Hagar back in the twelfth century. I should say, by the way, I am wearing the tie of Penn State University and this is the symbol of the Penn State football team, the Nittany Lions. I hope one day that great game of gridiron will be played at Bruce Stadium.

I do recognise the problems, but I stress the national significance of the Bruce Stadium, not regional and local significance. My worry is that a national facility that has held the World Cup, as Bill Wood has rightly said - and I was there for all three days of it - will be dominated by a local team from one code of football and that that one code would be given an unreasonable advantage over other sports. What about netball, men's or women's hockey, an international sport in which Australia is pre-eminent? What about equestrian sports?

Mr Whalan: You cannot swim on the grass, Hector.

DR KINLOCH: But I worry that one code of sport will get this particular stress at the Bruce Stadium. I am quite prepared to be a convert, if Mr Whalan will take me to see a game, and perhaps I could do a review of it.

I now come, however, to a prejudiced view and a particular care. I have been a continuing member of the Achilles Club, the Oxford and Cambridge Athletics Club. I ran 100, 220 and a quarter for Cambridge for three years - you would never know it now - and I have travelled in those chariots of fire. I care a great deal about track and field athletics. I deeply worry - and I join with Bill Stefaniak in this - about the playing down of the importance of track and field athletics, not only for little athletics and for the general athletics of Canberra, but for the kind of international arena that Canberra represented for the World Cup and for the athletic activities of the Australian Institute of Sport. I do ask, deeply and caringly, that it not just be a question of a warm-up track, but that that stadium - the venue, after all, for the World Cup, which is surely historic - be maintained as a track and field stadium, whatever else it may be used for. I do recognise the other uses to which the stadium can be put.

I am also worried - and this is perhaps a subsidiary point - about our friends in New South Wales. The Deputy Chief Minister quite rightly talked this morning about our regional associations. I would want this Assembly to be well aware of our friends across the border in many directions, and especially to be in close connection with the people of Queanbeyan, the people of nearby New South Wales, who also have a great concern for a code of football

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to which they are greatly committed. I recognise the kind of financial and economic reasons that are being talked about in this expensive stadium. I do ask, deeply, that the concerns of track and field athletics, of international athletics, of an international sport, in this national arena be looked after.

MR DUBY (3.55): I am very pleased that Mr Stefaniak has raised this subject today. The thought of the Canberra Raiders moving from Queanbeyan to the Bruce Stadium has been a matter of concern to me for some time. Of course, I am sure all of us here are aware of the great benefits that the Raiders have given to the Canberra spirit, the spirit of this city. I well remember the build-up to the 1987 rugby league grand final when the whole town was united behind them and there was a feeling of oneness through the community at the time. It was a great feeling and something that I am thrilled we all shared in.

It has been well recognised in the past that through the supporters of the Canberra Raiders a bipartisan approach has been adopted by our local politicians in the Federal sphere. Ros Kelly, as I am sure everyone is aware, is a great supporter of the Raiders; and I believe that Senator Reid is also in that category - she classes herself as a great supporter of the Raiders. I would like to think that that carries over into this house and that we identify the Raiders as being the epitome, the symbol, of the sporting prowess of this city. I would like to think that that bipartisan approach is shared by all. We are all very pleased when the Raiders have success and a bit downcast on the Mondays after a Raiders' loss.

I am unfamiliar with the financial implications of the move of the Raiders to the Bruce Stadium, but the issues that I raised in a question without notice today to the Deputy Chief Minister are the ones that concern me. I feel that the underutilisation of the stadium is apparent to anyone who has lived in the ACT for some time. We all know that it is a magnificent venue and it is simply underutilised. If the redevelopment of the stadium were to lead to a whole number of sporting events being played there, with better utilisation of the stadium, I think that would be a good thing.

As I have said, I am unfamiliar with the financial implications, but our party is concerned with the needs of the local athletics associations. I would like closely to examine the reply that Mr Whalan gave today to the question. If it turns out that the needs of the local athletics groups can be met by the redevelopment of the Bruce Stadium, so be it; it will have our support. If, however, that will not be the case - and I stress that I am not sure of what is contained in the answer that was provided today - it would have only our qualified support on the basis that suitable athletic facilities will have to be provided within the city of Canberra. I think we are all agreed on that in some regard. Whether they have to be

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provided at Bruce Stadium is another issue. My understanding is that the athletic association will be perfectly happy for development to be done at the Woden track, as long as a racatan track and floodlighting are put in. I do not know what the implications of that are in terms of cost, and on that basis I shall not contribute more or delay the debate this afternoon. I would just say that we all share Mr Stefaniak's concerns in this matter, and would like to make sure that the interests of all the sporting groups in the ACT are catered for.

MR HUMPHRIES (3.59): I rise to speak briefly in support of my colleague Mr Stefaniak on this important matter. I must confess to having no enormous love either of athletics or of rugby league. Therefore, I speak as a totally unbiased member of this Assembly on this matter.

Mr Whalan: I will get you some "Life. Be in it" pamphlets.

MR HUMPHRIES: I will explore that idea at some other stage, Deputy Chief Minister. I recognise, however, that the idea of the Canberra Raiders moving to Canberra accommodation is an exciting prospect. They are only Canberra Raiders in name in some respect at the moment, and I certainly see the excitement factor in such a move. Everybody is in favour of it, I suppose, from the point of view of getting the Canberra Raiders more closely associated with this city. Mr DUBY has already spoken about the excitement of the 1987 grand final, and the great esteem that brought to this city.

Discussion interrupted.

ADJOURNMENT

MR SPEAKER: Order! It being 4 pm, I propose the question:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr Whalan: I require the question to be put forthwith without debate.

Question resolved in the negative.

CANBERRA RAIDERS Discussion of Matter of Public Importance

Discussion resumed.

MR HUMPHRIES: Mr Whalan, like the rest of us, is an import to the city, but now supports the Raiders against his former home team of Newcastle. I suppose we all like to adopt the values of our home and of the tribe that we join over time. Football is one of the most powerful of those

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cultural values we like to adopt, and that is important for all of us.

There must be some considerable unease about some aspects of this move. The symbolism is terrific, but two questions spring to my mind. What exactly are the costs involved, both hidden and apparent, in this move? And more importantly, who is going to pay those costs? These questions have been put to some extent to one side in the course of all the hoopla about the move of the Raiders.

Tina Turner tells us that what you get is what you see. I am being very cynical, but what I see in this move is that the ALP will get some votes out of it. Its enthusiastic support, particularly by Federal members, for the move does associate very directly with the votes entailed in that kind of support. Although I think that is a not unacceptable kind of political equation to work out, it is also one which bears a price tag. I think we, the Assembly, and the ratepayers and taxpayers of the ACT, should be fully entitled to know the price tag associated with that particular bit of long-term electioneering.

I understand there is about a \$1m subsidy from the New South Wales Rugby League and presumably some contribution also from the Raiders themselves. The cost the ACT taxpayer is bearing appears - and I say "appears" without any better knowledge at this stage - to be in the form of paying for some form of upgrading of the facilities at Bruce, if you call tearing up a world class athletics track "upgrading". But the costs have not been specified. They have not been indicated by the Minister, and that does cause me concern. We are certainly talking about a world class athletic track, which was the site of the World Cup athletics in about 1986, and the venue was obviously an excellent one. We stand to lose it, according to what Mr Wood has told us.

Is this proposal really necessary and are there not any alternatives? That has not been put properly before this Assembly. I would like to see evidence that it is the only alternative, and I hope that the Minister will make some attempt, as Mr Stefaniak has called on him to do, to explain fully what the reasons are for this move and demonstrate beyond any doubt on my part and on the part of others in this place that there is no alternative to ripping up the track. I think it boils down unfortunately to a very simple equation - that there are more votes in rugby league, cricket and things of that kind than there are in athletics. There is the national status of the Bruce Stadium, as Dr Kinloch has pointed out, to be considered. There are many venues for football, but very few for athletics at a standard provided by the Bruce Stadium.

I ask the Government to take into account very seriously the problems that have been raised in this debate about this move and to provide the Assembly, as I have said, with

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a clear and irrefutable case for the track being torn up there. It has not been put so far, and I hope that if it is put we will all be able to change our point of view and accept wholeheartedly the move to the Bruce Stadium by the Canberra Raiders.

MR JENSEN (4.05): I will try not to take up too much of the valuable time of members gathered here. I also would like to thank Mr Stefaniak for raising this important issue today, especially in the lead-up to the budget deliberations. We must, unfortunately, continue to remind ourselves that the Federal Government saw fit to lock up \$22m in a trust fund. I refer, of course, to the suggestion that there will be a considerable cost to the ratepayers of the ACT following an arrangement sponsored by the member for Canberra from the other place and the previous Minister.

It would be most unfortunate if we in the ACT found ourselves saddled with the cost of running what is really a national facility. It is a national facility, Mr Speaker, that should not be allowed to become a millstone around the neck of the ratepayers of the ACT, especially when the proposal seems to suggest that major changes will be made to the stadium to prevent the sort of activity for which it was designed being conducted.

During the campaign and subsequent to the 4 March election, we in the Rally received numerous comments, as I know the rest of my colleagues in this place also did, from concerned members of the public and athletic organisations. One has only to read the local paper to see the numerous questions and comments that have been raised by the residents, ratepayers and voters of the ACT on this important question. The key to their concern seems to be the need to ensure that the proposed changes to the stadium can cater for the move, but they may end up in costly modifications which would damage the ability of this important facility to support the type of activity that would encourage the international level of activity that was one of the reasons for its construction.

During the earlier debate on tourism within the ACT, it was suggested that it was important to encourage international tourists to visit this city. The holding of the World Cup in the ACT some years ago, to which Mr Humphries referred, was such an event. It will be unfortunate, Mr Speaker, if we are unable to conduct a similar sort of meet to that in the future with the expected improvements in the ACT's economy. What is being proposed, it would seem, is the spending of a considerable amount of money to cater for 12 to 15 games of rugby league per year at some considerable cost, especially if we as a community have to pay the cost of this move.

Before I go on, Mr Speaker, I would like to comment briefly on my own feelings in relation to this. As a Queenslander I have played both codes of rugby, so I enjoy my game of

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rugby like any other person who comes from those particular States, or the majority anyway. It is a pity that we have to see such a great national facility destroyed to provide that for the people of the ACT and surrounding districts.

Having attended games at the Seiffert Oval, I would suggest that there is nothing more enjoyable than getting close to the game of rugby league, right down to the wire, so to speak, where the field is much closer. I suggest that that is what really rugby league is all about. As Mr Stefaniak has already said, it is still possible to play the various codes of football at similar stadiums throughout the world. I noted that Mr Wood suggested that the stadium must be made to pay for itself, and that is the key to my whole argument.

Once again it would seem that the major problem is the cost of maintaining the facility and making sure that it is fully utilised. I note also with interest the comments by Mr Wood that athletic meetings could be held in the stadium - that is, the one that is to be upgraded or the warm-up track. My understanding is that a major event like the World Cup could not be held without a warm-up track. The International Athletics Association would not run such a facility unless a suitable warm-up track were constructed.

That means that if we were to go back to what happened some years ago the main stadium would have to be reconstructed so that the track would have to be relaid. The question we must ask ourselves is: Who would pay for that major cost? One of the reasons that we in the Rally have some concern about the proposal relates especially to the cost. I suggest that if the Raiders are to move to the stadium, they should do so in such a way that does not allow the athletics track to be removed.

In closing, Mr Speaker, I wish to raise one point that has been overlooked in this debate, and that is a major planning issue. I refer, of course, to the access facilities to the stadium before and after an event that is being held out in that area. Those members who have attended a concert or any other major function at that particular facility will know the problems that that particular traffic causes. That has also been the cause of some complaints to us in the Rally regarding concerns about the use of the facility for major events.

Therefore, we must once again ask ourselves: Who is to pay for the upgrading of the access facilities to this particular area? Who is to pay for the road system? Has it been included in the costs about which we have been hearing - the \$5m or \$6.5m? No one more than I would like to see the Raiders come to Canberra, as I have already said, but it should not be at the expense of much needed health, welfare and education facilities for our community, because I am sure that that is what will happen in the stringent budgetary constraints that we are about to face.

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MR WHALAN (Minister for Industry, Employment and Education) (4.11): This issue is fundamentally concerned with Canberra's identity as a significant Australian city. This morning the Assembly debated at some length the need to change Canberra's image as a stuffy, static community full of politicians, great buildings and monuments. In fact, this Assembly agreed this morning "to support sensible measures to ensure better promotion of the ACT as a tourist destination, and balanced development of the ACT's tourism infrastructure".

The expansion of the role of the Bruce Stadium as Canberra's foremost sporting venue is a perfect example of the application of this policy. Given the clear support for that policy expressed in this morning's debate, I have been surprised at the negative attitude and the general tone of some of this afternoon's remarks. This issue is not about the Canberra Raiders. It is about the Bruce Stadium and its role in Canberra's community and tourism infrastructure.

I think that this matter of public importance could have been more appropriately worded to talk about the implications of the upgrading and acquisition of the \$40m Bruce Stadium as a territorial asset for use as a multipurpose sporting venue. Then we would have been near the mark and would have been able to have had a constructive discussion about it.

The expansion of the role of the Bruce Stadium is perfectly consistent with our aim to promote Canberra's role as the centre of an integrated tourist region. In that context the overall interests of the region should transcend the particular interests of local communities within it. The games played by the Raiders at Seiffert Oval regularly attract crowds which exceed Queanbeyan's population. Surveys show that up to 70 per cent of that crowd regularly consist of Canberra residents. Anyone who has driven through Queanbeyan at a time when one of these games has finished would be well aware of that fact: the roads back into Canberra are choked with traffic.

I am confident that the use of Bruce Stadium will attract bigger crowds for Canberra and the region creating a clear impact on our tourist industry. The promotion of Bruce Stadium as a significant national venue will provide a clear attraction for other sports to use the facility. This point has been raised by several speakers in the misapprehension that this is a sole Raiders' facility.

In my capacity as Minister for sport and with responsibility for the Bruce Stadium, I have had discussions with codes that will use the Bruce Stadium as a national venue. Those codes include Mr Stefaniak's rugby union which has written endorsing this proposal and expressing support for the upgrading of Bruce Stadium as a national sporting venue. I have had support from ACTAFL,

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the Australian Rules people, who in response to a specific request from me as to whether or not they would use this facility have indicated that they wish to use the facility next year for an evening for at least one Panasonic match; and they would seek to use the same facility for possibly one club game which they hope to locate in Canberra next year.

The Cricket Association has been consulted and has indicated that it would use the facility, particularly for day and night matches. Canberra is not on the current day-night match circuit, and this facility would make it possible. This would be after the association had examined the plans and the details of the boundaries.

In the past it has been suggested that the size of the field, the size of the paddock and the location of the boundary would preclude the stadium from use for Australian Rules football and for cricket. But I have had assurances from both the Cricket Association and from ACTAFL that they would want to use the upgraded facilities, so we have clear usage there. Similarly, the Soccer Association has expressed support for the upgrading of the facility and to utilise the facility for its football code. So quite clearly it is a multipurpose facility.

The provision of the facility is also totally appropriate in a community which is the most sport-minded in Australia. I had a meeting this week with representatives of the ACT Sport, Fitness and Recreation Advisory Committee chaired by Dr Alan Roberts. At that meeting he pointed out that sport is a major factor in our community in that 116,000 residents are registered to play officially.

They are not all rugby league supporters. Mr Humphries suggested that there were great votes in rugby league, but there are 116,000 people who are so interested in sport that they are registered to play officially. They cover 94 different sports, and they do not include the people who undertake sport without being registered players, such as recreational tennis and indeed jogging. It is an amazing percentage of a population and would, I suspect, be unique in the world. We know that the people of the ACT want sports facilities and like watching sport. The structure of my portfolio has been designed to provide a focus for that aspiration.

I would like to go quickly to some of the points which have been raised by speakers, and I hope to address the issues that have been raised. Mr Stefaniak raised the question of the removal of the running track and whether there was any alternative to its removal. In fact, for reasons that relate to the size of the pitch, the dead ball line that was mentioned, but also its use for multipurpose activities for Australian Rules football and others, it is necessary to remove the track.

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It was a decision made only after consultation with R.A. Young and Associates, who were engaged to look at the possibility of covering the running track. They advised against it on the grounds of cost, physical level of the edge of the track and the effect on the subsoil, which would turn the area into a quagmire, and finally damage to the track when it was being restored for use on the occasions when it was required. In general, there is no prospect at all in the redevelopment proposal of retaining the track in those circumstances.

Mr Humphries referred to rugby league and again there was the misapprehension that rugby league was the only code that was to be played there. Rugby league will be played there for 12 home and away matches next season, and it will be available for all other sports - in addition to those 12 matches which will be played by rugby league.

Dr Kinloch raised the question of the national significance of the stadium. In 12 years there have been only two national sports events there. One was in 1977, and the World Cup in 1985 required a multimillion dollar upgrade before it was held and was run at an enormous loss. There is no future in the current situation. Quite clearly for an international meet to be held there would need to be a multimillion dollar upgrade because the track surface itself has deteriorated under our extreme weather conditions of heat in summer and cold in winter. It has deteriorated to the point where it is warping and bubbling, and it would require a complete relay for an international event. In relation to Mr Duby's remarks, clearly there is underutilisation.

MR SPEAKER: The discussion is now concluded.

Assembly adjourned at 4.22 pm