



Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

HANSARD RUSH

REQUESTED BY:

Opposition Leader

CONDITION OF DISTRIBUTION

This is an uncorrected proof of the proposed Censure of the Chief Minister and the CLP government. It is made available on the condition that it is recognised as such.

Darwin
15 May 2014

MOTION
Proposed Censure of Chief Minister and Government

Ms LAWRIE (Opposition Leader): Madam Speaker, I move that this Assembly censures the Chief Minister and his CLP government for the lack of any ethical standards or leadership, and behaviour including:

- refusing to conduct a full and independent judicial enquiry into the actions of CLP slush fund Foundation 51 since its creation
- refusing to instigate an inquiry under the *Inquires Act* into the granting of water licences since September 2012
- failing to ensure that serious allegations of criminal behaviour are immediately passed on to police for investigation.

It is extraordinary that when a member of parliament raises grave and serious allegations of criminal nature that the Chief Minister, the Police minister, brushes them aside. He is not aware, has not had those discussions and does not go to the gravity of the allegations. He does not take a pause of concern that his first law officer, the Attorney-General, has been accused of grave breaches of the *Criminal Code Act*. He is not concerned that these allegations go to a magistrate of the Northern Territory, a member of the judiciary. These matters warrant investigation by the police.

The Attorney-General, who is also the Leader of Government Business, denied the member for Arnhem the opportunity to put the relevant information to do with these allegations on the public record, by tabling documents with the relevant information. If there is nothing to hide, why would you refuse to allow documents to be tabled?

The first law officer of the Territory, as far as the Chief Minister is concerned, is allowed to cover up and hush up serious allegations of a criminal nature. Inducement, bribery - this is extraordinary. This is a failure of leadership by the Chief Minister, who is also the Police minister.

These allegations must be investigated, and while they are being investigated the Attorney-General and the magistrate must stand aside. Allegations of a criminal nature in the public domain, as they are now, must be investigated and, as I say, the Attorney-General needs to be stood down immediately. The magistrate should also immediately stand aside, otherwise all matters that go to the magistrates' court risk arguments of disqualification because you have a magistrate accused of criminal behaviour.

Investigations need to occur, the police need to be able to get on with their job, and do it without fear or favour, under the supervision of the Director of Public Prosecutions. This is bearing in mind that it is the Attorney-General, the first law officer of the Northern Territory, who, ultimately, is required to be involved in appointing a judicial officer to investigate and conduct an inquiry

into the allegations against the magistrate. You cannot hold that position, Attorney-General, when you are involved the allegations.

You must stand aside, so as to allow justice in the Territory to occur. Justice involves the investigation of serious criminal allegations, and it is then a matter, after investigation by the Director of Public Prosecutions, to determine whether or not charges will be laid. However, to allow the process of justice to occur you need to step aside. This is because it is the Attorney-General who, ultimately, appoints a judge, or former judge, to form the inquiry into the allegations of a magistrate. You are inextricably involved in this, the allegations are about your behaviour as well, Attorney-General - you must stand aside. Let justice prevail and let the investigations occur. I have not seen the evidence the member for Arnhem wanted to table in this parliament. I am not aware of the details in that evidence.

I am astounded this parliament has, through the CLP government, blocked that evidence from being tabled. If there is nothing to it, if this is just 'he said, she said', why would you block the evidence? What have you got to hide? We see a trend emerging in the CLP, because it blocks everything.

The water allocation is of such significant concern to the Northern Territory. The Ooloo Aquifer, that is now over allocated, will be the source of future agribusiness in the Northern Territory, yet it has been over allocated in a very swift amount of time, before the aquifer's allocation plan has been signed off. How can this occur? Why is it, time and time again, that we see recipients of our water resources, the Crown's water resources - recipients of those vast water allocation licences are from the CLP. They are CLP members, lots of CLP connections. What is going on? In other jurisdictions you hold inquiries into these matters. That is what we are asking for and if you have got nothing to hide why would you not have an inquiry? This is our future we are talking about. This is our resource being allocated before an allocation plan has been approved and signed off, allocated in such vast numbers now that it is over the allocation model for that region.

It is not just Labor that holds these concerns. It is the Northern Land Council representing the traditional owners of the land. It is NAILSMA. It is AFANT, the Amateur Fishermen's Association. It is the Environment Centre. Watching the 7:30 Report, it was the fishing tourist business operators of the Daly Region. The list of people who have grave concerns with the actions of the CLP government in water allocation in the Territory is lengthy as it is broad. It crosses a very broad spectrum of small business people, traditional landowners and people who are expert in science modelling. We know through the Freedom of Information application process we followed around the Tina MacFarlane water allocations, that the minister had his hands all over it.

The toing and froing of the e-mails between the minister and the Water Controller, who also happens to be, by the way, the Chief Executive of the department. This has never been the case before but is the case now under the CLP. The Water Controller always was an independent, separate

statutory officer; but no, under the CLP the Water Controller is also the Chief Executive of the department. As we saw through Freedom of Information: in and out of the minister's office, e-mails to and fro with the minister, hands all over the allocation to Tina MacFarlane. N

We have not even commenced the Freedom of Information applications around these latest allocations. But, really, do you think Territorians are so foolish as to say that is okay? Peter Maley, magistrate, has now become interested in agriculture in the Territory; he happens to have landed on a station right in the heart of where the Ooloo aquifer is about to be granted a whole raft of significant volumes of water allocation. Territorians can, and are, joining the dots and the dots are so disturbing as to absolutely warrant an inquiry. It is extraordinary.

We have a Chief Minister who is just washing his hands of it and saying, 'Well, I do not know. It has nothing to do with me.' Rubbish, Chief Minister, you are the Police minister, so the allegations of criminal behaviour are everything to do with ensuring an adequate investigation occurs. Also, as Chief Minister you are responsible for the actions of your ministers. So why would you not support an inquiry into water allocations and fundamentally Foundation 51. The tentacles of that slush fund are right through this government and the connections of the people who run the slush fund are right through this government. They are benefiting from decisions of this government. The water allocations to Peter Maley's station are worth how much? CLP government, do you want to put a figure on it? He got them for free, but if he was to sell them — millions? Is there a figure? Have you done any analysis? Can you advise Territorians? It is extraordinary.

Graeme Lewis, director of the slush fund, has three senior government positions — not one, you were not content to give him one — three senior government positions. The Land Development Corporation — holding the land resources of the Crown. Really? Have you had no shame in the extent to which you will go to ensure that the decision makers are able to bring annual benefits? It has been extraordinary.

In the early days of the CLP government the discussion around Darwin stated that the silver circle was back, the actions of the CLP of old was back, and after a few months it turned into discussions around town that it is worse than ever and the corruption of the past has come back with a vengeance but it is worse. Of course, this government will not answer questions in Question Time.

This government will not have any transparency or accountability to it, and this CLP government will do everything to block inquiries into Foundation 51, into water allocation, and is accepting the first law officer of the Territory, the Attorney-General, who has been a recipient of serious and grave allegations can continue without standing aside when that role is inextricably required for a fair inquiry process into a magistrate, also subject to the allegations. It is little wonder people have completely lost faith and trust in this government.

You have an opportunity to clean this up and stop hiding the evidence you tried to hide today in this parliament. Stop hiding access to information around the allocation of water licences; open it up to an inquiry. Stop hiding the operations of Foundation 51 and its connection to the CLP and key decision-makers in high influential beneficial roles appointed across a range of government boards.

We deserve an accountable and transparent government; instead we have the tentacles and stench of corruption all through these matters raised gravely in the parliament. You do your utmost to prevent debate on it, your utmost to hide the evidence on it, but if you have nothing to hide accept the inquiries. If you have nothing to hide from the allegations by the member for Arnhem, ensure there is a police investigation. If you have any understanding of the course of justice in the Northern Territory, the Attorney-General stands aside and magistrate Maley stands aside.

These are grave and serious allegations. She aired them in the parliament and they go to potential breaches of the *Criminal Code Act* and I will read them: section 58, Influencing a Legislative Assembly member, penalty seven years imprisonment; section 59; Bribery of a Legislative Assembly member, penalty seven years imprisonment; section 104, Compounding crimes or concealing a crime, penalty seven years imprisonment; section 228, Blackmail and extortion, 14 years imprisonment; section 286, Conspiracy to pervert justice, penalty 15 years imprisonment.

Attorney-General, you have a conflict of interest because of your involvement in these allegations. You need to stand aside. If you do not, the Chief Minister needs to insist that you resign. If you do not, you need to be sacked as Attorney-General. It is the Attorney-General who has to arrange for an inquiry using either a retired judge or a similar eminent person into the allegations surrounding magistrate Peter Maley.

An inquiry would report to the Executive Council. The Executive Council will then use its findings for the basis of a decision to refer to the Administrator of whether or not there is removal of a magistrate.

These are extremely grave allegations. Justice needs to prevail in the Territory. You need to do the right thing at some stage as a government. Accept an investigation will occur. It will be an investigation by police. Attorney-General, you cannot stand as Attorney-General while these allegations are hanging over your head, nor can Magistrate Peter Maley practice as a magistrate; he needs to stand aside.

You cannot sweep this one under the carpet. It is there to be dealt with through the processes of the justice of the Territory. You cannot be the first law and order officer presiding over the justice of the Territory while this is occurring.

We do not know, in opposition, the details and the nature of this, but we know these are serious allegations that require a full and thorough investigation. It

is ultimately for the DPP to decide whether or not there is sufficient evidence for charges to be laid, but the allegations exist and they must be attended to. I have been shocked at everything I have heard in relation to the operations of Foundation 51. I have been appalled at what I have seen in the allocation of water licences in the Northern Territory's heart of our agribusiness area. I am truly, deeply sickened by the refusal of this government to accept and acknowledge, despite clear website links, their relationship with Foundation 51. Two clicks and you get to the happy smiling face of the Chief Minister on Foundation 51. Go to it: www.foundation51.com.

Two clicks and there is the Chief Minister, but he stands and pretends it has nothing to do with him. Territorians are not fools, they can see what is happening under this CLP government and if you maintain that it is not, then what are you hiding? Investigations are there to be done, the inquiries are there to be held and you can clear your name. Let justice prevail and stand aside as the Attorney-General while the investigations occur.

That is why we are censuring the government; these things must be thoroughly investigated. They are of such serious and grave concern, they require investigation. Be open and accountable and transparent with Territorians.

Mr ELFERINK (Attorney-General and Justice): Madam Speaker, I did not know that she had run out of evidence so early in the piece. I will respond to this, I was intending to before this censure motion was started. You may not I had already slipped onto your table a request to make a personal explanation in relation to this, but I no longer require that as I now have that opportunity.

I have spent the last 10 minutes suppressing my irritation and anger, because we have seen from the Leader of the Opposition - a strategy she used on day one and continued to use since coming into this place - which is straight up and down slander, protected by this House. In the privilege of this House, she tried it against the member for Daly. She has mentioned it in relation to public servants and has named public servants in the committee process to roll out slander. She says she knows nothing about these allegations, but clearly she has colluded with the member for Arnhem to run this censure motion.

She clearly must have been aware of what the member for Arnhem was going to ask, because she walked in here with a pre-prepared censure motion. That is collusion between herself and the member for Arnhem. She is colluding with the member for Arnhem, and, I presume, others on this side of the House. That collusion is leading to a default position of the continued slander that she is pedalling out. I will tell you why we refused to allow that letter to be tabled. I want that letter in circulation, but I would like the member for Arnhem to do it outside because the contents of that letter, if it is the one I think it is, which she sent some months ago to the Speaker - I have a nod? We are talking about the same letter; it fundamentally and completely misrepresented the nature of the conversation between me and the member for Arnhem, as to be defamatory. Let us be clear ...

Ms Lawrie: Have you seen it?

Mr ELFERINK: Yes I have seen it, because I was shown it briefly by the Speaker. However I did not have an opportunity to fully read it, but I read enough. I have said all of this in the public domain; I have read enough to know the contents of the letter fundamentally misrepresent the nature of the conversation I had with the member for Arnhem. I am sure my recollection of that particular conversation will bear out the truth of that.

However I will proceed - there is clearly collusion between the member for Arnhem and the Leader of the Opposition to run this line, saying whatever they like under the protection of this place, and I am sick of it. Privilege is a rare and precious right that is the preserve of politicians, and it is being used for slander and slander only.

I will defend myself in any environment, but in relation to that conversation and every single conversation I had with the members for Arnhem, Arafura and Namatjira when they were members of the CLP - I have always sought to guide, council and assist each of those members in a polite and respectful way, and I am certain my memory of that conversation will reflect that truth.

It was a conversation of about 20 minutes, and it finished on cordial, even ~~friendly terms. It finished, if memory serves me, with even a small joke.~~ Nevertheless, because the member for Arnhem has determined to set a path for herself - and had done so in advance of that conversation, with the assistance of the member for Namatjira - that conversation was fundamentally and completely misrepresented in a letter to the Speaker. It was snuck out into the media world, so I had to answer some questions. My response to the media at the time was to ask the member for Arnhem - because I did not want the member for Arnhem using parliamentary privilege to besmirch my name.

We come to the nature of this censure motion, and I pick up, particularly, on the third bullet point:

- *Failing to ensure that serious allegations of criminal behaviour are immediately passed on to the police for investigation.*

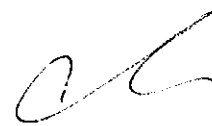
This means the Leader of the Opposition was fully cognisant and aware, in advance of walking into Question Time today, of the allegation the member for Arnhem was going to raise, in spite of the fact I heard no suggestion of criminality

Ms LAWRIE: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Just for clarification, I read the *NT News* this morning, as I am sure lots of Territorians did.

Madam SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Sit down.

Mr ELFERINK: Then you must have known the contents of the letter last night.

Ms Lawrie: I read the *NT News* today



Mr ELFERINK: This is because - or you must have been aware of it when the news was published at 3 am today? When is the *NT News* published? There is no reference to an individual in that article that I am aware of, so the Leader of the Opposition is up to her eyeballs in this. She is now starting to squirm.

Mr ELFERINK: It is clear the 'Delia and Alison Show' will be running in the Northern Territory, and they will plumb to no depth too low to satisfy their steps forward.

Members interjecting.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: A bit of order, please. Remember that one of you is already on a warning, and member for Johnston, you are now on one as well.

Mr ELFERINK: They will stop at no depth. There is not a mineshaft on this planet that could go low enough for the 'Delia and Alison Show' as it rolls out into the future. They will use every slander. I will say to both the Leader of the Opposition and any other member; let us have this discussion but let us do it outside of this Chamber.

~~**Mr GUNNER:** A point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker! The member for Port Darwin knows that you are meant to refer to members by their title.~~

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a censure debate.

Mr GUNNER: That does not rule out the standing orders applying to how you should refer to members in this Chamber. All it does is suspend the Order of Business to allow the censure motion to occur. You still must obey the standing orders.

Mr Elferink: Mr Deputy Speaker, for the sake of *pax parliamentaria*, I will refer to members ...

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will seek some clarification myself on that.

Mr Vowles: How about we get Kezia back.

Mr GILES: A point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker! The member for Johnston on his way out of the Chamber made an unparliamentary comment about you and the Speaker of the Chamber, by reflecting that you should be removed — not verbatim — and Kezia, the member for Goyder, be brought back. I ask that you have the member for Johnston withdraw that comment and suggest that he stops making similar comments throughout parliamentary debate on a regular basis.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Johnston, just a minute. Chief Minister, I will hand over to the Speaker.

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, it is a censure debate and Standing Orders are suspended; however, I would still expect a certain level of professionalism, integrity, in the debate that is currently before us. I understand the Deputy Speaker was seeking advice from the Clerk and did not hear the comments. But I warn members that they should be referring to all other members by their electorate and not by first names. Who is speaking?

Mr Elferink: I was, Madam Speaker.

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Port Darwin, you have the floor.

Mr ELFERINK: So we have this model which is now operating by the members opposite: say anything, do anything; the Graeme Richardson school of whatever it takes. Being fully cognisant of the issues that were going to be raised by the member for Arnhem, the Leader of the Opposition walks in here because she has spoken to the member for Arnhem and the member for Namatjira, with a pre prepared censure motion. She now trots it out. She trots it out and she wants to read things into the parliamentary record like blackmail and extortion and all those sort of things.

Ms Lawrie: Meaning the Criminal Code.

Mr ELFERINK: The quality of the Leader of the Opposition's argument is defeated by her own comments. She says she knows nothing of these things. She knows nothing of these things, so, 'I am going to start accusing people of engaging in all sorts of criminal conduct, when I know nothing of these things'.

Let me tell you about a very simple system of inquiry. I would happily subordinate myself to an inquiry and that is through the civil courts, when I am trying to defend my reputation against this outrageous slander which is being perpetrated in this House. I want that inquiry to occur. I will embrace such an inquiry because that would be an independent inquiry and I would be happy to subordinate myself to that inquiry.

Now let me tell the Leader of the Opposition how the system works.

Ms Lawrie: What about a police investigation?

Mr ELFERINK: If a person believes that an act of criminality has occurred then they can refer that matter on to the police for investigation. It does not take a parliament to do that. It can be done by any citizen in the community at all. When the police receive such a complaint, they will take it seriously. I am absolutely certain that the police will take that seriously and take whatever steps are necessary. But once again, the whole allegation orbits around a specific conversation, a single conversation that I had with the member for Arnhem. The position of the Leader of the Opposition, on the basis of the conversation she has had with the member for Arnhem — or, if the Leader of the Opposition is to be believed, that there is no conversation — on the basis of a single question being asked by the member for Arnhem, all of a sudden a

criminal investigation should be launched without even reflecting briefly on the motives the member for Arnhem may have for her behaviour.

All this noise, all this gumpf, all that being run here today by the Leader of the Opposition orbits on a single conversation between me and the member for Arnhem. I would welcome the member for Arnhem to pursue those things outside this House because I will stridently defend my reputation. I am saddened attempts to guide, counsel and show leadership have been twisted and distorted in the fashion they have. That is the end, as far as I am concerned, of this conversation and I look forward to whatever comes out of this process.

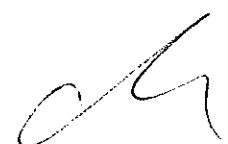
Let us talk about the second component being painted. The Labor Party is quite happy to take on a member of the judiciary because he used to be a member of the former CLP opposition, a former member of the Country Liberals until very recently and, yes, my personal friend.

Let me tell you what I know about that magistrate. He is Taminmin High School guy who gets a law degree, lives in the Northern Territory, builds a reputation in this town as being a hard-working lawyer, builds a business which employs Territorians, engages in developing himself every step of the way and, through developing himself in the Northern Territory, he comes to prominence. ~~This is the tall poppy syndrome at its finest. Anybody who rises to prominence must automatically be attacked, particularly by the Labor Party.~~ If you are not Labor and are prominent you are a fair target.

Let us look at the nature of the assertions being made by the members opposite. 'You are meeting with businesses'. Yes, we are meeting with businesses. We meet with businesses every day we work as members of parliament. I meet with businesses. I am sure every person in this House meets with businesses, including members opposite. I do not doubt they have met with many businesses since going into opposition. I would like to know how many businesses they met with when they were in government because I suspect they met with thousands.

According to the Leader of the Opposition, we have to live in a vacuous and splendid isolation where we have no contact with anybody whatsoever because that might be a conflict of interest. That is the assumption built into the arguments from the Leader of the Opposition. I will not live in splendid isolation from the community to which I serve and represent, nor would I suggest any member of parliament live in splendid isolation. One of the most common criticisms we hear about politicians is they live in ivory castles. However, shock, horror, if you come down from one of those ivory castles and make connections with people all of a sudden you are engaging in corrupt behaviour.

If organisations are associated with that political party that must be automatically corrupt. Where is the evidence? We have heard the allegations, but because there was a want of evidence she was not able to



sustain a half-hour censure motion because there is no evidence, there is speculation.

Did the Leader of the Opposition meet with INPEX representatives when she was government? My gosh, there might be a conspiracy theory in that. Look at the success INPEX has had. Clearly there is a conspiracy involved there, and I should hope so because it is a conspiracy to advance the true welfare of the people of the Northern Territory. I invite members to continue conspiring in that fashion for the true welfare of the people of the Northern Territory ...

Mr Giles: Look at the Toga group.

Mr ELFERINK: The Toga Group, there is another one. I pick up on the interjection from the Chief Minister. What about the Toga Group – clear conspiracy there. Things happened, people got paid, people made money - this is what governments do.

Let us look at the evidence she supplies in her contribution. What can she point to? The conversations she has had with the member for Arnhem? Some speculative comments about Foundation 51?

Tell me about the Chifley Research Centre, Harry Nelson holdings and Emily's List. On the website, you will see a Northern Territory senator ~~registered as a member for Emily's List, who will have received donations~~ from Emily's List. If you go into Emily's List, I do not doubt that you will find other female members of the Labor Party who have received donations from them, which is a criminal act according to the Leader of the Opposition, because they give money to influence policy to women in parliament. Yet ...

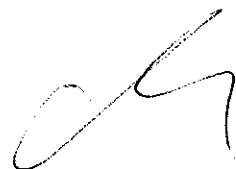
Ms Lawrie: Rubbish.

Mr ELFERINK: Yes, they do, it is precisely what they do. I pick up on the denial from the Leader of the Opposition. That is what they do. Your members have been taking money from Labor associated organisations outside of the Labor Party. You have been receiving donations from Emily's list and they proudly put it on the website. This is part of the process of creating and developing a noise, if you like, around government, because if you can create this noise - an odium - and throw enough mud, some of it will stick. That is the philosophy here; let us throw mud and make outrageous allegations of criminality without a skerrick of evidence.

She said it, that she has no idea about these criminal allegations, but she is more than happy to run a censure motion saying that these allegations are fact. I find it hypocritical that the Leader of the Opposition would build these sorts of pictures when she is involved in these organisations. Are you a member of Emily's List?

Ms Lawrie: You are bizarre.

Mr ELFERINK: I ask the Leader of the Opposition by way of interjection. Have you taken money from Emily's List?



Ms Lawrie: Getting desperate, are you?

Mr ELFERINK: Have you taken money from - I will take that as a yes.

Look at this - Emily's List website, Delia Lawrie, member for Karama and Opposition Leader of the Northern Territory, takes money from Emily's List. Oh my God. Directly takes money from Emily's List. How much did you take, Leader of the Opposition? How much did they pay you? What about Harry Nelson Holdings? How much have they paid to the Labor Party?

Mr Vowles: See you later, John.

Mr ELFERINK: The member for Johnston is claiming to be a member of Emily's List.

Mr Vowles: I am saying see you later, mate.

Mr ELFERINK: I think there is a requirement for some reassignment before you can do that, member for Johnston.

Mr VOWLES: A point of order, Madam Speaker! I do not know if I should ~~use Standing Order 62: offensive or unbecoming word.~~ I am happy to support women, but to say that I am on Emily's List is a far stretch. I know he is struggling ...

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Johnston, it is not a point of order. Please be seated.

Mr ELFERINK: This is all about painting a picture. When I addressed these issues the other day - and by the way, Natasha Fyles and Lynne Walker are also members of Emily's List.

Mr VOWLES: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 65. Can he refer to them by the electorate, please?

Mr ELFERINK: Okay, for the sake of the member for Johnston, the member for Nightcliff and the member for Nhulunbuy take money from Emily's List.

This is 'throw the mud, make the odium stick'. That is what this is all about. I had never accused members opposite of anything untoward because they are on Emily's List, but they will. I had never made any allegations about the members opposite doing anything wrong because of Harold Nelson Holdings, which is a direct conduit for money to the Labor Party. This is the way these things work.

Mr Vatskalis: It is not a slush fund

Mr ELFERINK: By your definition, it is a slush fund.

There are two Labor slush funds. What about the Chifley Research Centre; does it share information with the Labor Party? I bet it does. It is not the Menzies Research Centre, it is the Chifley Research Centre, and I bet you it shares information with the Labor Party.

I wonder how much information Labor has received. It is all about creating an odium, that is all it is about. I am fascinated this passion the Leader of the Opposition has with slander as a political tool.

Ms Lawrie: Oh, really?

Mr ELFERINK: Yes, really.

Ms Lawrie: If you have nothing to hide, have the inquiry.

Mr ELFERINK: Take your allegations about me outside, and make them. I will relish the moment.

This is what the Leader of the Opposition has chosen to do, and she has form. It now comes to the issue of the water licences. I am not as across the water licences as the minister is...

What I have heard in this whole process is the minister has quite deliberately ~~kept himself at distance from this issue. Why? It was to avoid exactly the~~ allegations the Leader of the Opposition is now making.

This is the intriguing thing. So she cannot directly target the minister, she thinks nothing of having a go at the Water Controller.

Mr Westra van Holthe: And the public servants who work for him.

Mr ELFERINK: The public servants as well, so there is a massive conspiracy throughout government. It is a wild and fanciful web, one which percolates its way right across government. There is a sinister, dark organisation that meets - maybe in the Freemasons Lodge - and secretly runs the Northern Territory. The problem for governments in the Northern Territory, historically, has been that the Northern Territory is not a big place. It has 250 000 and is growing, I am glad to report. However, it also has business and business connections.

The Labor Party has connections with local businesses. A quick look at the names of businesses that have donated to the Labor Party in the past will reveal it has close connections with businesses. We accept that, and those businesses had connections with the Labor Party whilst it was in government. Some of those businesses did well whilst it was in government, because one could allege the Labor Party had all of these connections, but the allegations were not made.

To walk into a parliament and say, 'Oh there is complete impropriety here, there is criminal conduct', and then not offer a single shred of evidence other than to say that governments have contacts with businesses, and that

somehow is a vehicle to alleged corruption - to say me being a friend of Peter Maley is somehow a vehicle to alleged corruption., to go out of your way and to use any connection, no matter how tenuous in a small community to allege corruption is a bastardisation of the process of parliamentary privilege. It is designed to create as much noise as it possibly can, but I urge all observers, whether in the media or people watching, to ask what evidence there is to support anything being done wrong, and there is none. There is no evidence because none exists, and as far as I am concerned, the continued use of parliamentary privilege in such a reckless way will only diminish this House in the minds of people out there.

Ms Lawrie: Your action diminishes this House.

Mr ELFERINK: Do you ever keep quiet? I am sure she has said as much during this debate as I have while I have been on my feet.

The problem is, and this is where I have been trying to suppress my irritation, that on a no-evidence basis, she has gone after the member for Daly until she was corrected by one of her former staff. She has made it very clear out there that she is coming after that bloke as well. She has mentioned other public servants by name and she just uses this as a political tool. She now has a close alliance with the member for Namatjira and

Members: Rubbish.

Mr ELFERINK: Oh yes she does, evidenced by the fact of this close alliance. The frustration I have is that some of this will get traction in people's minds because it raises the doubt. That is why I appeal to the media and appeal to all observers. Let us actually see what evidence there is for these assertions and these allegations. I am happy for that letter to find its way into the public domain but I want it done in such a fashion that I can protect my reputation in front of the appropriate board of inquiry, which is a court of law. I will happily protect my reputation in that environment. Let us see if the member for Arnhem has the courage to make the allegation she would in this place, outside of this place.

Let us see if she has the courage to release that letter and say, 'I stand by what is in this letter'. I suspect that that will not occur. Do you know why I think it will not occur? Because she knows the contents of that letter are untrue. They misrepresent the conversation I had with her so fundamentally as to be defamatory. For the Leader of the Opposition, on the basis of that, to launch an attack on my reputation and the reputation of this government, strikes me as desperate gutter politics. I would urge that this House not go that low.

Mr HIGGINS (Daly): Madam Speaker, my statement is very simple. My challenge to the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Karama, Delia Lawrie, the member for Arnhem, Larisa Lee, the member for Fannie Bay, Michael Gunner, the member for Johnston, Ken Vowles and the member for Wanguri, Nicole Manison, is simple: if you believe your claims to be true, then

take it outside and make them public. If you do not have the courage to make them outside and name people, then clearly you do not believe these claims and are simply playing politics in coward's castle.

Ms LEE (Arnhem): Madam Speaker, I rise to speak to the censure and seek leave to table all the documents in the best interest of the public.

Leave denied.

Ms LEE: Obviously there is no due justice. You want transparency? You want to look at what I have if you want to accuse me that I cannot do it outside?

Madam SPEAKER: Leave is not granted, member for Arnhem.

Ms LEE: I will speak to the censure and read into *Hansard* all this evidence.

Mr Tollner: Coward.

Mr McCARTHY: A point of order, Madam Speaker!

Madam SPEAKER: Yes I heard it. Withdraw, member for Fong Lim.

Mr Tollner: What?

Madam SPEAKER: Coward.

Mr TOLLNER: Sorry, I withdraw the fact.

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Arnhem.

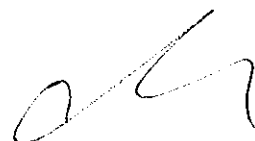
Ms LEE: Thank you. The member for Fong Lim just called me a coward.

Madam SPEAKER: He withdrew the comment, member for Arnhem.

Ms LEE: And he withdrew it. I think the people of Gapuwiyak would like to know that. Trying to stand over a woman, a cultural one too. The Madayin law.

File note Sunday 23 February 2014: phone conversation with Peter Maley, magistrate. I missed a call from Peter Maley at 11.27 am in the morning. I returned his call at 11.37 am.

That was during the weekend of Central Council in Alice Springs. He stated he had a discussion with Norman Fry and others about my intention of becoming an independent. He advised me to stay away from my colleague, the member for Namatjira, Alison Anderson MLA. 'Do not listen to her, let her go off on her own' he stated. 'Stay put with the CLP because something very good is coming your way soon'. He stated if I go independent I will not be protected by the CLP and everything will come out against me. He stated he



loved me and I am a good person and good things will come to me if I stay with the CLP. He stated I would have my own cheque book. He stated Matt Conlan was basically a no brainer and he wanted to catch up again.

File note number two, Sunday 23 February 2014. Phone conversation with John Elferink MLA, Attorney-General. I missed a call from Mr Elferink, the member for Port Darwin, at 8.16 pm. I called him back at 8.50 pm. He stated he also heard rumours about me being upset with the party and wanting to walk out. He stated he heard the conversation that my colleague, Francis, member for Arafura MLA, had with Tollner, member for Fong Lim, during Central Council in Alice Springs. That was on 21 March 2014 and 23 March 2014.

He stated that Francis was asked a question by the member for Fong Lim, Dave Tollner whether the rumours were true that the member for Namatjira, Alison Anderson, and myself, the member for Arnhem, were walking out of the party and that Francis MLA, member for Arafura, stated yes, and he was also walking out.

I stated to the member for Port Darwin that we were upset about the bush being neglected and that more representatives from the bush need to be in Cabinet. He then asked me whether I wanted a ministry and I said no ...

Mr Elferink: Not true.

Ms LEE: True, true. I continued to say the bush needed a stronger voice, representation and thought this was especially the case when implementing policies and legislation. I have a rough copy of my file notes of that night.

I said the bush members are isolated in government and we needed to be respected more. We felt we were being left out. He stated if I leave I will lose all support from the CLP and the government - no protection from the CLP government. He stated he wanted to work more with me to help me play this game better on how to achieve these demands. He stated we needed to meet regularly and I need to lead and meet him halfway, which we did. He stated there was no use being angry or irritated with the government, it would not get me anywhere.

He stated he would work with me closely and guide me to become a better MLA.

I have the phone records from my phone, e-mailed, of a conversation I had with Peter Maley and you. The timing is there. Would you accept this? I seek leave to table this and my file notes. I seek leave to table all relevant documents.

Mr ELFERINK: A point of order, Madam Speaker! She has sought leave to table her file notes and her telephone records. I ask she be restricted to her file notes and telephone records not the second component of her seeking leave, which was all relevant documents.

Leave granted.

Ms LEE: I sent an e-mail on Thursday 27 February 2014 at 10.30 am to Kezia Purick, Speaker of the House. On the cover of the e-mail note I put:

Dear Madam Speaker

For your information I am forwarding you this complaint.

*Thank you
Larisa Lee MLA.*

As members of parliament we have to follow laws, I thought approaching Madam Speaker would be the best place to do it.

In the letter I said:

Dear Madam Speaker

I write to lodge a formal complaint against what I regard as a clear breach of parliamentary privilege by the Magistrate Peter Maley and, ~~potentially, associated actions by the Attorney-General John Elferink.~~

I base my complaints on the definitions of parliamentary privileges that refer to the special rights and immunities which belong to members of the Legislative Assembly, and which I considered essential for the proper operations of the Assembly. These rights and immunities allow the Assembly to meet and carry out their proper constitutional roles, for committees to operate effectively, and for members to discharge their responsibilities to their constituents and to carry out their duties and responsibilities without obstruction or fear or intimidation or bribery.

On Sunday the 23rd of February 2014 I received a telephone call from Mr Maley at 11:27 am and I returned this call at 11:37am.

Mr Maley stated he had a discussion with my advisor, who at the time was employed under the Chief Minister's Office, Norman Fry, and other members of the CLP about what he regarded, quite incorrectly, were my intentions about becoming an Independent member of parliament. He advised me not to communicate at all with my colleague, the member for Namatjira Alison Anderson MLA, who he inferred should be let go of on her own. I was also unaware that Ms Anderson was considering at this stage to become an Independent member of the Legislative Assembly.

He stated, 'Something very good is coming your way soon'. I would have my own cheque book. He further stated that if I were to become an independent, the Country Liberal government would attack me. He indicated that he wished to catch up again in the near future.

As Mr Maley is a Magistrate and a member of the judiciary, I found this discussion most inappropriate. I could only conclude that he was acting on behalf of the Country Liberals executives in government. On the one hand I felt that I was being intimidated if I did not follow what he regarded as the established directions of the party. On the other hand, I believe there was a clear attempt to bribe me with an offer of a future senior government position and a high level of associated resources.

Further, on Sunday 23rd of February 2014, I missed a call from Attorney-General Elferink at 8:16 pm. I returned his call at 8:50 pm. The Attorney-General stated that he had heard rumours that I was upset with the Country Liberals government and that I intended to leave the party. He stated that he had overheard a conversation that Francis, the member for Arafura, had with minister Tollner, the member for Fong Lim. He stated that Francis was asked the question by minister Tollner whether rumours that Alison Anderson, the member for Namatjira, and myself, Larisa Lee member for Arnhem, were leaving the party. He indicated that Francis said yes to this question and stated that he was also leaving the party.

I explained that while we did not at this stage wish to leave the party, we were upset about the bush being neglected by the government and that ~~we needed more bush representation in Cabinet. Attorney-General Elferink~~ then asked me if I wanted a ministry. When I said no to the question, Attorney-General Elferink stated that if I were to leave the party I would lose all support and protection from the Country Liberal government.

You should be honest.

Given the judicial linkages between the Attorney-General and magistrate Maley, and the published available information that Mr Maley had made a substantial donation to the election campaign of Mr Elferink, I felt that I was being intimidated in a potentially improper manner, and the fact that I was rung by both individuals, who had similar points to make, that such telephone calls were not likely to be a simple coincidence.

Further, on 24 February 2014, I received a voice mail message from Mr Maley, requesting that the telephone number of my brother, Preston Lee - Mr Maley, when a barrister had previously represented my brother in a family matter. I did not understand why Mr Maley, who was now a magistrate, was unable to discuss such matters with my brother, given his position as a magistrate - would wish to try to contact him at this time. I can only conclude that this request was associated with the telephone conversation he had with me the previous day, and that he was trying to further influence and pressure me, through family members of my family. I regarded this telephone call as threatening and intimidating. I know of no reason why my brother would wish, at this stage, to talk to Mr Maley.

Any act which obstructs or impedes a member of the Legislative Assembly in the importance of their functions or which has a tendency, directly or indirectly, to produce such results needs to be treated as either contempt of the Legislative Assembly or a breach of parliamentary privileges. Provisions such as those to be found in Division 3 of the Criminal Code of the Northern Territory, concerning offences against executive and legislative power, are designed to deter people from interfering in the free exercise, by the parliament or its authority, or intimidating members or attempting to bribe members in order to influence them. I am particularly concerned about what I perceive as attempts to intimidate and bribe me and wish, given the potential serious legal implications of such approaches to me, that these matters be thoroughly examined.

Regards Larisa Lee, member for Arnhem, 27 February 2014.
That was sent to Madam Speaker. I seek leave to table this letter.

Leave not granted.

Ms LEE: This is from Madam Speaker, Kezia Purick, and was sent to me on Thursday, 27 February 2014 at 5:31 pm, cc Michael Tatham. This was in reply to my letter. Attached was:

Hello Larisa

Attached is a copy of my letter in reply to your letter of complaint. Do you agree for me to release your letter to Mr Elferink as a person of complaint? If you agree could you advise me accordingly? Thank you and regards.

The letter says:

Dear Ms Lee

I refer to your letter dated 27 February 2014, concerning a claim of a matter of privilege. Your letter raises very serious concerns. Should you wish to pursue your allegations they may only be addressed by way of proceeding in the Assembly, seeking to refer the allegations to the committee of Privileges. Both the Assembly and the committee, should the matter be referred, will expect substantial arguments to be made to support any allegations, and I anticipate a very robust debate would ensue.

As Speaker, it is my responsibility to consider a matter raised to me in writing, pursuant to Standing Order 83. On that basis I seek clarification that you have written to me seeking to reply upon that standing order. Is the intention of your correspondence to ask me to determine whether precedence should be given to the member raising the matter to move a motion which would take precedence over all other business at the next sitting of the Assembly?

Should you wish to clarify this process prior to responding to me I suggest you contact the Clerk to discuss procedures. The Clerk can be contacted on a confidential basis, and he will assist you in respect of understanding the procedural requirements of Standing Order 83. The Clerk can also provide advice and guidance on the operation of Standing Order 84, concerning a contempt motion should you so require.

If you decide that it is your intention to move a motion in the Assembly to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges, then the next step for me is to consider the request pursuant to the rules of Standing Order 83, in conjunction with the Order's continuing effect, made by the Assembly, to 23 May 2016. Once I have given such a request for consideration then I would respond in writing to advise whether the matter will have precedence over all other business on the next sitting day.

I await your advance in this regard. In order to assist you, I have enclosed a copy of Standing Order 83 for your consideration.

*Sincerely
Honourable Kezia Purick, MLA.*

From Madam Speaker again, Kezia Purick on Friday 28 February 2014 at 11:44 am to me, cc to my electoral office and the Clerk.

Good morning Larisa,

If I could get a response to my letter today please, because if you wish to proceed with the complaint as detailed in my letter, I need to make arrangements for the next sittings and to inform Mr Elferink of the complaint. Thank you.

Regards.

And the same letter was attached to that, that I read out just before.

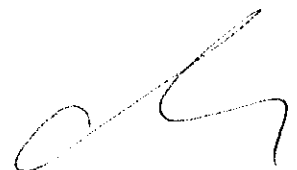
From Linda Heidstra sent on Monday 3 March 2014 at 9:49 am to me: correspondence from minister Elferink.

Good morning Larisa, please find attached correspondence from Minister Elferink. The original will be sent in the mail today.

That is the personal assistant to Honourable John Elferink.

Dear Larisa

Yesterday, Kezia rang me about a letter that you have sent her as Speaker regarding my conduct and recommending that I be referred to the privileges committee. The letter, which I have seen, but have yet to be given a copy of, arises from my phone call to you on Sunday night. I have a clear recollection of the call and I am surprised that you now



allege that I bullied or threatened you. The letter also asserts that I offered you inducements as part of a conspiracy between myself and Mr Maley to influence you in one fashion or another.

Mr GUNNER: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 77: I seek an extension of time for the member.

Motion agreed to.

Ms LEE:

I am sure your memory of our phone conversation last Sunday is as fresh as mine. I have a comprehensive recollection of that conversation. Frankly, I am very surprised at the letter you have written. There is no conceivable way that any interpretation of bullying or inducement could be construed from our last or even any conversation. It was a cordial conversation that ended in a cheerful tone and fundamentally a genuine offer to appropriate assistance and personal support in making your role as a member easier and more fruitful.

As I recall, you agreed to take up my offer to help you promote issues of importance to you and your electorate with my ministerial colleagues. As always, when dealing with you I remain respectful, supportive and offered suitable counsel for you in my role, not only as the Leader of Government Business, but as your colleague and fellow party member.

During the conversation you acknowledged the efforts that I have gone to in the past to make certain that you felt like part of the team. To suddenly be confronted with a letter alleging some form of serious impropriety on my part and recommending a referral to the privileges committee is, to say the least, disappointing.

This deliberate misrepresentation of our conversation and our relationship generally is hard to understand. It is even harder since my conversations with you have always been conducted in the most proper and appropriate fashion, motivated only by a sincere desire on my part to offer assistance.

Our relationship is important to me. I would like to move forward in the spirit of trust and respect. I remain available to you, should you wish to discuss these matters further.

*Yours sincerely
John Elferink*

It is dated at 16.10 pm on 28 February 2014.

From Larisa Lee on Tuesday 4 March 2014 at 2.06 pm to Kezia Purick
Dear Madam Speaker

Attached is my letter in response to your letter dated 24 February and your e-mail dated 27 February 2014.

Dear Madam Speaker, thank you for your formal of 24 February 2014 reference 1433.3 and your covering note sent by e-mail of 27 February 2014. I note that your letter to me is dated 24 February 2014 even though I did not send my letter of complaint to you until 27 February 2014. Following the matters raised in your correspondence I intend to seek further advice.

Thank you for bringing to my attention the opportunity to discuss the required procedure with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. I intend to take up this valuable suggestion with respect to your request and your covering e-mail of 27 February 2014 regarding the Attorney-General. I do not wish my letter to be released to Mr Elferink at this stage.

As soon as I have received the additional advice I am seeking I will write further to you.

*Yours sincerely
Larisa Lee*

It is dated 4 March 2014.

From Kezia Purick, Tuesday 4 March 2014 at 2.52 pm to me.

Thank you Larisa, I will let the Clerk know you will be in touch with him in due course on this matter. Regards.

From myself to Madam Speaker, Friday 7 March 2014 at 8.39 am

Dear Madam Speaker

I requested confirmation that you had received my correspondence to you of 4 March 2014 in an e-mail to you on 6 March 2014. As I have not received an answer from you I would be most grateful if you could confirm receipt of this correspondence.

From Kezia Purick, Friday, 7 March 2014 at 9.50 am.

Hello, I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 5 March from myself Wednesday 5 March 2014 at 9.01 am. Dear Madam Speaker, please find attached my letter concerning a letter to me from Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, John Elferink. I look forward to your response to these serious matters.

Regards.

I will read out the letter.



Dear Madam Speaker

I have received a letter from the Attorney- General and Minister for Justice, John Elferink dated 28 February 2014 in which he states he has seen a copy of my letter to you of 27 February 2014.

You asked me in your e-mail covering note to me of 27 February 2014 whether I would approve release of my letter to Mr Elferink as a personal complaint. I advised in my correspondence to you on 4 March 2014 that following matters raised in your correspondence dated 24 February 2014 that it was necessary for me to seek further advice. This included confidential advice from the Clerk on appropriate procedures with respect to your request in your covering e-mail of 27 February 2014 regarding releasing my letter of complaint on 27 February 2014 to Mr Elferink.

I stated in my correspondence to you on 4 March 2014 that I do not wish my letter to be released. Given that I have replied to your initial request with respect to the release of my complaint within three working days, I cannot understand how my letter could have been seen by the Attorney-General. I would be most grateful if you could kindly please explain the situation to me, as I was of the view that my correspondence to you would be treated with the utmost confidentiality and that this was a matter for discussion at this important time between myself and the Office of the Speaker.

I am most concerned that there appears to have been an important breakdown of appropriate process and confidentiality essential to the proper and impartial consideration of my complaint and to the proper functioning of the roles of the members within the Legislative Assembly. I sincerely trust that such a precedent has not been extended to Magistrate Maley.

I intend to write to the Attorney-General expressing my concerns that he appears to have been a party to this situation. One would have thought, given his role as the Attorney-General, he would have a keen interest in protecting and preserving the rights and obligations of all members of parliament.

*Yours sincerely,
Larisa Lee
Member for Arnhem
5 March 2014.*

From Kezia Purick, Madam Speaker, sent on Wednesday 5 March 2014, at 2.12 pm:

Hello Larisa,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter today's date being 5 March 2014 and a reply will be sent to you in due course.

From Madam Speaker, Kezia Purick, Saturday 8 March 2014, at 11.42 am:

Hello Larisa,

Here is a copy of my letter to you dated today's date.

Regards.

Dear Ms Lee,

Thank you for your letter dated 5 March 2014, asking me about the status of your correspondence dated 27 February between us in my role as the Speaker.

Upon receipt of your letter I had an informal conversation with the Leader of Government Business, who is also the Chair of the Privileges Committee, about a possible reference to his committee and the related procedural matters. During that meeting, the Leader of Government Business asked for a copy of your letter and I undertook to advise him whether a copy could be provided, thus I wrote to you seeking your approval to release the letter. I note you have requested the letter not to be released. I understand you have provided the signed original to the Clerk who has retained the letter on file.

*Yours sincerely,
Hon Kezia Purick*

That was on 8 March 2014.

Mr BARRETT (Blain): Madam Speaker, I speak to this motion as well because even though I have only been here for the proverbial five minutes, I am amazed by some of the things that happen in parliament. Coming from a non-government background, I am concerned about this issue about privilege and what you are and are not allowed to say in this room. It has been a very steep learning curve for me and I am amazed at some of the things that have happened and, frankly, I am pretty disappointed with a lot of things that happen inside this room.

With regard to things that have been said and things that have been insinuated, I think it is appalling that individuals can stand up in this room and make all kinds of crazy, outlandish accusations against people for whatever reason, I assume it is political or personal. In this case, given that individuals within this parliament are bringing into question the integrity of members of government and bringing into question their integrity, regarding who they are, their character and who they are as a person. I find that disgusting and my challenge to these individuals who are bringing such allegations of illegal activity and those sorts of things - I recommend they have the courage of their convictions, and take it outside this room. Make those allegations outside this room, where these things can be looked at by third parties because that is

what they really want. Be it on themselves for the things they say outside this room.

Ms ANDERSON (Namatjira): Madam Speaker, I support this censure motion, because it is done in the best interest of the public. This government has always come out and said it is about honesty, transparency and real leadership, and that takes people to be honest and allow other members to put documentation before the House. You calling for people to go outside and say it is irrelevant. This is, as you call it, a coward's castle, and you have used it on many occasions, when in opposition, and we will use it. You have used, in opposition, the names of bureaucrats and other stuff, and you are protecting them now. The member for Blain, quite rightly, walks out because he knows he could not call the CLP ...

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Namatjira, withdraw that comment.

Ms ANDERSON: I withdraw. He did not ask the CLP whispering campaign - his own team that was whispering bad things about him during his campaign did not say to them 'Go in front of the camera and say that about me'. He allowed that process to go on, but he is denying us that process, and we will use parliamentary privilege to make sure there is no transparency. There is cover up, and this motion is, quite rightly, a broad motion that allows ~~journalists and members of the public to understand how you operate.~~

I will go on, after I put my colleague's letters on record - because we cannot table them - and I will read what is left over from those articles. I will make sure I talk about Foundation 51 because that is very important we link the Country Liberal Party to Foundation 51. There are certain questions you have to ask, as to whether people outside, who are members of Foundation 51, have gotten jobs through the Country Liberal Party? What about Nightcliff island? Did the person proposing that donate to Foundation 51? I believe so. We have to make sure we put all of those sorts of things out in the open, so you are accountable, transparent and people can see how you really operate.

This letter from my colleague is to the Attorney-General. It says:

Dear John

I refer to your letter to me of 28 February 2014. I am particularly concerned about your letter, given that it indicates a clear breach of confidentiality required in consideration of such a complaint to the Speaker by a member of the Legislative Assembly concerning potential breaches of privilege.

Upon receipt of my correspondence of 27 February 2014, concerning a claim of matter of privilege, the Speaker advised, amongst other things, that I contact the Clerk for further advice. She also asked me, in a covering email note to her letter to me of 27 February 2014, whether I could approve release of my letter to you. I replied to this request within

three working days, on 4 March 2014, indicating that, as suggested by her, it was necessary that I receive further advice.

This included confidential advice from the Clerk on appropriate procedure. I further indicated in my letter to the Speaker on 4 March 2014 that I did not wish my correspondence released to you at this stage. I am therefore most concerned that you indicate in your letter to me of 28 February 2014 that Kezia rang me about a letter that you had sent her as the Speaker, regarding my conduct.

Further, in paragraph two, you state the letter, which I have seen. I am of the view that the important requirement to maintain confidentiality in this matter falls primarily on the Office of the Speaker. However as you currently hold the position of Attorney-General and the minister for Justice, one would have thought that you too would appreciate the gravity of this matter, and the utmost importance of confidentiality, if the rights and obligations of members are to receive appropriate and due protection before the law of the Northern Territory.

I remain, therefore, most concerned that you have seen fit to become a party to this breach of confidentiality.

I look forward to an early response to my concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Larisa Lee

There is an e-mail from the Attorney-General, John Elferink, to Larisa.

Dear Larisa

Thanks for your letter. If you have concerns, please contact me. I have offered polite and professional advice to you consistently since you entered parliament, something that you have acknowledged repeatedly. I do not know who is giving you advice now, but I do not believe that it is good advice. Whoever you turn to for guidance is your choice. In the meantime my door remains open to you and I encourage dialogue on all matters, as I have always done.

And that was on 11 March 2014, at 11.44 am.

And this one is to Madam Speaker from Larisa, Kezia Purick, Friday 14 March 2014 at 8.48 am.

Dear Madam Speaker,

See attached response to a letter of 8 March 2014 regarding Larisa Lee.

Dear Madam Speaker,



Thank you for your letter of 8 March 2014. I wrote to you on the 4 March 2014 indicating that I did not wish to have my letter to you of 27 February 2014 released to Mr Elferink at this stage. I have asked you to acknowledge receipt of this correspondence to you on 4 March on a number of occasions. I note that you have not done this.

You state in your letter of 8 March 2014, that on receipt of my letter to you of 27 February 2014, you had an informal conversation with the Leader of Government Business about a possible reference to the privileges committee on related procedural matters. I am most disturbed that such a conversation has taken place and regard it as clear breach of the level of confidentiality that needs to exist in such matters between the Speaker and members of parliament.

This is particularly the case, given your advice to me that it was necessary to secure additional confidential advice from officers, such as the Clerk, with respect to procedural issues. For example, it is clearly my decision following such advice as to when this matter should be taken forward and in what particular manner it should be taken forward.

It is not matter of private, informal conversation between the Speaker and the Leader of Government Business. When necessary, it is my right and responsibility to make the Leader of Government Business aware of my concerns, not the position of the Speaker.

In addition, I fail to understand how the Leader of Government Business has such a different view of what occurred in this discussion with you to the extent that he wrote to me on 28 February 2014, stating that he has seen a copy of my letter to you of 27 February 2014. I remain very concerned about the level of privacy accorded my concerns from both the position of Speaker and the Leader of Government Business in this serious matter.

Yours sincerely,

Larisa Lee

14 March 2014.

And this letter is from Madam Speaker, Kezia Purick.

Good morning Larisa,

Attached is a letter of today's date in reply to your letter of 14 March 2014. For your records, I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the following dates, 27 February 2014, 4 March 2014, 5 March 2014, 14 March 2014.

Regards



*Honourable Kezia Purick
MLA Member for Goyder*

Dear Ms Lee

Thank you for your further correspondence, dated 14 March, concerning my previous reply to you, dated 8 March 2014. My letter of 8 March states that I note you have requested the letter not to be released. I advise that I have not released a copy of the subject letter from you to me dated 27 February. The only copies of that letter are with me and the Clerk.

As previously advised, unless you seek agreement for precedence to move a motion at the earliest opportunity, I have no formal role under Standing Orders to intervene, or investigate the matter you have raised.

The next letter is from the member for Arnhem, Larisa Lee, on Monday 31 March 2014, 3.18 pm to Madam Speaker.

Dear Madam Speaker,

See attached response to your letter which I received on 17 March 2014, but dated 18 March 2014.

Regards

Larisa Lee

Dear Madam Speaker,

I refer to your correspondence to me reference 4 14-3312 which I received on 17 March 2014, dated 18 March 2014.

I note to advise that a copy of the subject letter dated 27 February 2014 from me to you has not been released by you. How then is it possible for the Attorney-General and the Minister for Justice, John Elferink to be in a position to write to me in correspondence, dated 28 February 2014, in which he states that he has seen a copy of my letter to you of 27 February 2014.

If indeed Mr Elferink has seen a copy of this letter, then surely this involved the release of the letter to a third party without my permission. In a legal sense, the key issue is one of disclosure of the contents of a confidential document, whether there be a physical passing of a document to a third party, electronic transfer of such document or, indeed, displaying or reading the contents of the documents to a third party while maintaining possession of the original document.

I also note you state in your correspondence to me of 8 March 2014 reference 143310, that upon receipt of the letter I had an informal



conversation with the Leader of Government Business who is also the Chair of the Privileges Committee about a possible reference to his committee and related procedural matters.

I regard this also has a serious breach of the confidentiality I had requested that you maintain. This is particularly the case given Mr Elferink occupies the position of Leader of Government Business and Chair of Privileges Committee. This also constitutes, in a legal sense, a potential disclosure of important contents as well as overall trust and concerns outlined in my letter of 27 February 2014. I am not, therefore, currently in a position where I can feel any comfort or assurance from your correspondence to me dated 18 March 2014.

*Your sincerely
Larisa Lee*

There is an e-mail from Madam Speaker on Tuesday 1 April 2014 at 10.38 am:

Hello Larisa

I acknowledge receipt of your letter ... electorate office and Speaker's office ... and the mobile number ... on 31 March 2014 at 1.48 pm, Larisa Lee, Dear Madam Speaker, see attached response to your letter which I received on 17 March 2014 but dated 18 March 2014 regards, Larssa Lee.

There are e-mails from the member for Arnhem, Larisa Lee:

Good afternoon John, My response to your email of 11 March 2014.

Dear John, I refer to your e-mail response to me of 11 March 2014. Matters raised in my correspondence to you of 11 March 2014 are most important as they involve a possible breach of confidence in an important matter of privilege that I have brought to the attention of the Speaker in formal correspondence.

I do not regard private conversation as the means of answering my concerns given the serious nature of this matter. It is because the matter is so important that I have seen the need to bring this to your attention through formal correspondence. The manner in which you perceive the advice you proffered me previously has no bearing on important matters raised in my correspondence to you of 11 March 2014. As outlined in your previous correspondence to me of 28 February 2014, Kezia rang me about a letter that you had sent her as Speaker regarding my conduct. You also stated in this correspondence, 'The letter which I have seen'.

I would therefore be most grateful if you could please confirm me formally how such a breach of confidentiality could have occurred and

how this is acceptable in any procedural sense involving what clearly should be a confidential exchange between myself and the Office of the Speaker. Yours sincerely Larisa Lee.

This was e-mail from Linda on behalf of the Attorney-General, Mr John Elferink to Larisa Lee - my letter of response to Attorney-General.

Larisa, your correspondence is more about politics and positioning than anything else. Real politics is about the art of communication for the benefit of the people of the Territory. That is all that should matter. That means talking, listening and cooperating. This is something I try to do with all members of parliament often and across the political spectrum. Whoever is advising you is not thinking about communication and that is sad because every day wasted manoeuvring is a day wasted for the good of the Territory, but it is all your choice. Good luck.

That is from the Attorney-General. Lastly, this is a letter from Madam Speaker:

Dear Ms Lee

Thank you for your letter dated 31 March 2014. I refer to my earlier response on the same subject. Given six sitting days have elapsed since your original correspondence and you did not seek precedents pursuant to Standing Order 83, nor did you give notice of a motion to refer the matter raised in your correspondence to the Committee of Privileges, I cannot see any further role for the Speaker.

Any dispute you may have with the Attorney-General of the government is a matter between you and them.

*Sincerely
Kezia Purick*

This is to Madam Speaker:

Dear Madam Speaker,

I refer to your correspondence to me, reference 143312, which I received on 17 March 2014, dated 18 March 2014. I note you advise that a copy of the subject letter dated 27 February 2014 from me to you has not been released by you. How then is it possible for the Attorney-General, the Minister for Justice, John Elferink, to be in a position to write to me in correspondence dated 28 February 2014, in which he states that he has seen a copy of my letter to you from 27 February 2014?

If indeed Mr Elferink has seen a copy of this letter then, surely, this involves the release of the letter to a third party without my permission.

In a legal sense, I think I have already put this letter on the public record. I go on to talk about transparency, open honesty, leadership and trust that the Country Liberal Party has always said.

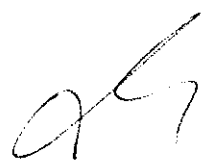
Like I said to the member for Blain, he did not at any stage stand up and say to his own party members, when they were passing around all these allegations about him leading up to the Blain election, 'We will see you in front of the cameras', because there are certain journalists that were given a background on your past and that is not for me to judge you, but your party was doing that. I think if you have the guts to stand up in parliament and try to say the things you have said to my colleague, make sure you hold your party members accountable and act like a man - if you are a man.

I want to talk about Foundation 51, like I said earlier on in the introduction. People who are in Foundation 51 are being rewarded. One of the things we would like the Country Liberal Party to do, in their openness, transparency and honesty, is talk about Nightcliff Island. The contractor looking into Nightcliff Island, or whatever they are doing, has that person donated money to Foundation 51? If so, have they declared it to the tax office or has the Country Liberal Party put it down on their register?

Some of the things we have to put on record are things we were talking about all last week. I would like confirmation that my points raised during the meeting are formally requesting these people go through the proper processes. We are asking for an inquiry that can determine the honesty and transparency of this government. If you can call an inquiry under assumption on Stella Maris and the things that happened under the Labor Party, I am sure through your honesty and transparency you can call one upon yourself.

I have a couple of dot points and questions:

- provide a complete and transparent makeup of the CLP's banking and investment financial structure and the nominated signatories on the party's account
- explain why the CLP accounts have not been audited in the past five years to date
- provide a timeline of when the accounts will be in compliance and audited by a certified practising auditor/accountant
- What is the correct legal structure, and who are the directors or the office bearers of Foundation 51?
- What is the purpose of Foundation 51?
- What is the current balance of Foundation 51?
- When was this account established?
- What is the objective of this account?



- What disclosures are required to be made in line with current fiduciary requirements by law?
- What disclosures are required to be made in line with AEC and NTEC regarding Foundation 51?
- Provide evidence of our compliance to AEC and NTEC regarding Foundation 51, if applicable
- Has there ever been such an inquiry into this account? If so, why has this information not been made available?

If you are talking about a government that is on a journey with Territorians about transparency and openness, you need to make sure you answer some of these questions on behalf of Territorians who are asking these questions.

I thank the Opposition Leader for bringing this censure motion forward. These things are what we need to talk about. The water issue is another, in general business we spoke about that, the member for Nhulunbuy brought the motion forward. If you are talking about a journey of taking Territorians forward then you need to make sure you are inclusive. You need to make sure there are economic opportunities for Indigenous people, and they are involved in this journey with you, so we can take all Territorians forward. There is discussion with the NLC and the CLC, and there are discussions with NAILSMA. It is not about pushing one group of people aside, in order to give water rights and have benefits for your mates, but this opportunity – I take this opportunity to say thank you to the Leader of the Opposition for bringing this censure motion forward.

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Johnston, before you start, I would like to draw members' attention to Standing Order 62, 'offensive or unbecoming words', point three. The provision of the standing order relates to – sorry, it is point two. It is not so much words that I will be ruling offensive, but I will be having all mobile phone numbers and phone numbers you referenced in your speech, member for Namatjira, expunged from the *Hansard* record. These are not relevant, and do not need to be on the *Hansard* record, whatever phone numbers you used.

Mr VOWLES (Johnston): Madam Speaker, I will start off by saying what a sad state of affairs it is that I have to support the Leader of the Opposition's censure motion against the Chief Minister, about how badly they are doing and the constant cover ups of the CLP. We are hearing all of these allegations, and we are doing our job as the opposition to hold the government to account. It is certainly a sad state of affairs, and I am sure members on the other side have offices, which they attend, and people must come in to tell them how bad they are because ...

Mr Styles: Go to some of the breakfasts.

Mr VOWLES: ... they are smashing my door down to tell me how bad this government is.

I heard the interjection from the member for Sanderson, but if I was you I would be out there doorknocking your electorate and meeting people. You will have a very sad state of affairs in 2016, because yours will be the the first seat that goes.

Mr Styles: Thank you for that piece of advice, member for Johnston.

Mr VOWLES: No problems, member for Sanderson. As I said it is a sad state of affairs that we have to support the motion against the Chief Minister and the government that is on the nose because of its inability to care for Territorians, show it cares for Territorians and do the right thing. That is why we are here.

We, fundamentally, believe we have to do the right thing, and I am sure, deep down - maybe long ago – these were some of your ideals on that side, to do what is right for Territorians, not for your mates or for your children's mates. This budget, securing the children's future - it should be securing the CLP's children's future, because that is what we are seeing here.

~~You found it too easy to have an inquiry in Stella Maris. We did that and will move forward. We are calling on this government to hold inquiries into water licensing, as well as the slush fund of the CLP, Foundation 51. We have now heard serious allegations from the member for Arnhem, which I will have – I will not often agree times with the member for Blain, but in this Chamber, there are things we do not want to discuss. However, there is a reason why we discuss them in this Chamber. It is so we can get the truth out, hold the government to account and say this is not good enough. Yes, we will name people. Yes, we will name departments. We will name other people, because it is the right thing to do. It is our job as opposition to do that, and hold you to account.~~

A wise man once told me about government. He said 'Liberal governments will come in and the power will go through their veins, and they will make stupid, silly decisions'. That is all it has done for 18 months. You are a part of this, member for Sanderson, the Minister for Infrastructure. You are delivering nothing, you are doing nothing, and that is why we have a censure motion against the Chief Minister.

The only way the Chief Minister can clear the name of his government is to hold the inquiries which are the subject of this censure. There are too many doubts, too many common threads and mounting evidence for the Chief Minister to turn a blind eye and do nothing again. If he does not have an open and transparent inquiry into Foundation 51 and the granting of water licenses to CLP cronies, the doubts will continue to remain around this dodgy government. If he does not refer the action of the magistrate, Peter Maley, and the Attorney-General to the police, it leaves them both in limbo. It is not tenable for the administration of justice in the Northern Territory for the first

law officer and a magistrate to have allegations such as these hanging over their heads.

Sadly – I genuinely feel sad about this - after just 20 months in power there is a stench about this government that can only be cleansed by open and transparent inquiries.

Sadly this censure is about how the CLP does business. I will show there is a common thread through everything we have heard today, and it is the CLP. The slush fund, Foundation 51 - CLP. The water licence for cronies before the aquifer plan is complete – CLP. We now have the most serious of them all, an alleged attempt to bribe and intimidate a member of parliament - CLP. It gives me no pleasure to outline the case for two inquiries and a police investigation today.

This should be a government still in its honeymoon phase, on top of its game. Instead, what do we see? Week after week we expose allegations of breaches of either the *Electoral Act*, contracts, valuable licences for CLP mates and, now, alleged criminality.

It has to stop. This is happening on your watch. To have any credibility at all you must act; you must show some leadership and you must show it today. ~~Each day this is allowed to fester you are diminished, your leadership is eroded and your democracy is the poorer.~~

I do not know why a magistrate would want a massive water licence in the Douglas Daly-Katherine region, but that is not the issue. The unanswered questions are these: Why would licences be granted before the Aquifer plan was completed? Why has the government approved a maximum allocation of 62 886 ML from the Ooloo Dolostone Aquifer, which exceeds the limit proposed in the draft water plan for the aquifer? Why were the objections of the Amateur Fishermen's Association and the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory disregarded? When did magistrate Maley purchase Blackbull Station?

How did magistrate Maley know Blackbull Station would be worth acquiring? Did anyone in government tip off magistrate Maley that Blackbull Station would be worth acquiring? Is Blackbull Station paying a fee for the water? How much has the water licence added to the value of Blackbull Station? I am sure there are other questions to be asked, but that is why we need an inquiry.

Your water allocation system is not transparent, and smacks of cronyism. Surely, you would want the air cleaned. If this was happening in New South Wales it would be before the ICAC today. Magistrate Peter Maley's name keeps popping up. He is a former CLP MLA your Cabinet appointed, who thought it was fine to hand out how to votes for the CLP, while a magistrate, in contravention of the Chief Justice of Australia Code of Conduct, and we learnt he is a magistrate who thinks it is fine to be a director of a CLP slush fund.

This is the problem with appointing mates and not following due process. It comes back to bite; there needs to be a full inquiry into Foundation 51. Its other director, Graeme Lewis, is another mate. He is on three government boards, totalling nearly \$200 000 of taxpayers' money, and he is a director of your party's slush fund.

That is a conflict of interest writ large. He is Chair of the Land Development Corporation board and Chair of the Darwin Waterfront Corporation board. He is also the director of your CLP slush fund. Unfortunately, this could only happen in the Northern Territory under a CLP government.

He should be fired from these positions, and remaining as the bagman for your party is untenable. We need to know who has become before the two boards in question. What have they been granted, and who are the donors to Foundation 51? Blind Freddy can see the conflict I am mapping out today. The member for Arnhem's allegations, Chief Minister, are very serious indeed. We know a phone call was made by Peter Maley to the member for Arnhem. Peter Maley confirms it in today's *NT News* quote:

I had a conversation with Ms Lee;

He told journalist Ben Smee. Why is a magistrate calling an MLA? The mere fact the phone call took place is reason enough to investigate it further. If the member for Arnhem is right and an inducement was offered to her to remain a member of the CLP, it is a criminal matter. Section 59 of the *Criminal Code Act* - bribery of an MLA ...

Mr ELFERINK: A point of order, Madam Speaker! If the ALP did not know about the allegations by the member for Arnhem, how can he have a pre-prepared speech and read it out?

Madam SPEAKER: It is not a point of order.

Mr VOWLES: In response to that point of order, we multitask. While you were waffling on mate, I was writing my speech. That is what we do on this side.

Members interjecting.

Mr GUNNER: A point of order, Madam Speaker! I ask for the member for Johnston to be heard. I cannot hear him over the members for Fong Lim and Port Darwin.

Madam SPEAKER: Members, could you cease interjecting please. Member for Johnston, you have the call.

Mr VOWLES: If she was threatened in any way, if it was suggested to her that she would no longer be protected politically if she left the CLP that is blackmail - section 228 of the *Criminal Code Act*. I do not know what

happened, but we know some things from what the member for Arnhem said this afternoon.

Peter Maley has already demonstrated his lack of judgment by thinking it was okay to be a director of a slush fund whilst still a magistrate. We know he lacks judgment.

He has confirmed a call was made corroborating the member for Arnhem's story. We heard further about that today. In his case, unfortunately, it was another lack of judgment. Why was he calling her? We have heard today why. It was not about going fishing or hunting, it was made to keep the member for Arnhem in the CLP because they were nervous about the numbers in parliament and the outcome of the Blain by-election.

We have heard a follow-up call was made by the Attorney-General, also with the implied threat that she would no longer be protected politically. Attorney-General, sadly, your position is untenable too. If you will not stand aside voluntarily, the Chief Minister must stand you aside pending a full police investigation. You are the first law officer of the Northern Territory and the implied threat is blackmail.

Madam Speaker, these are the most serious allegations. There is a stench about this government and only two transparent inquiries and a police investigation will do.

Mr TOLLNER (Deputy Chief Minister): Madam Speaker, the member for Johnston is dead right, there is a stench and it is of gutlessness. If the other side are so concerned all they need to do is step outside. I am disappointed with what has happened today. This has been nothing but slander of the worst kind of people who cannot come into this House to defend themselves. A magistrate, for goodness sake! A person above disrepute! His wife, for goodness sake, handed out how to vote cards for the member for Fannie Bay. No one is beyond touch by this other side. It is disgusting and the whole place stinks because of the way you mob have gone into the gutter.

My challenge to the Leader of the Opposition and the members for Arnhem, Fannie Bay, Johnston and Wanguri, and any other of this ragtag mob who want to drag us all into disrepute, is simple: if you believe your claims to be true take them outside on the front steps of parliament and make these claims publicly. If you did not have the courage to make these claims outside and name the people you have named inside coward's castle, you clearly do not believe these claims. You are muckracking and playing cheap political games.

Get out of coward's castle, make your accusations outside and see how you fare, you will get your inquiry.

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE (Primary Industry and Fisheries): Madam Speaker, I have listened carefully to the debate today and I am disappointed

that the opposition has used this opportunity to bring this entire House into disrepute, it is outstanding.

What I see and hear often from the opposition is a complete lack of courage; today's effort is nothing different to what I have just described. My challenge, as with the other members on this side of the House, is for the Leader of the Opposition, and for the members for Arnhem, Fannie Bay, Johnston and Wanguri to take these claims outside of coward's castle and make them public. Why do you not do that?

You can stand on the front steps of Parliament House, repeat these claims, name the people that you have named in this House - a place often referred to as 'coward's castle' - and you will get your inquiry. You are playing dirt, cheap, politics and bringing this House into disrepute. You are a disgrace.

Mr STYLES (Transport): Madam Speaker, my challenge is also to those opposite, the members for Karama, Arnhem, Fannie Bay, Johnston and Wanguri. Is you believe that it is true, take it outside and make it public. If you do not have the courage to make these claims outside and name people, clearly you do not believe your claims and they are simply just playing politics here in coward's castle.

Mr CONLAN (Central Australia): Madam Speaker, I will not miss an opportunity. ~~Let this be a lesson for those who dedicate their good time to the~~ Labor Party, because when the opportunity strikes they will throw you under a bus. That is what they have done to the good people of the Northern Territory today. We are talking about Bethany Maley, for crying out loud. She served you with distinction and all you have done is throw her under a bus to suit your own political agenda. What a joke.

I repeat the lines today, if you have something to say and you firmly believe it, why do you not take it outside? What is wrong with that? If you firmly believe there is a problem, take it outside. You have no authority in this place, Leader of the Opposition. You have dragged the Territory through the mud and through financial ruin. You sit here and pontificate and the holier than thou, sanctimonious approach by you and the rest of this rabble over the other side - as for this liar right here - is unbelievable.

Mr McCARTHY: A point of order, Madam Speaker!

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Greatorrex, withdraw that comment, please.

Mr CONLAN: I withdraw it, but I think we are in a censure motion and the word liar is okay.

Madam SPEAKER: Minister, no, please pause. Honourable members, it may be a censure motion, but standing orders still prevail in all other aspects, which includes offensive words.

Mr CONLAN: I withdraw, but I think I made my point abundantly clear. You will not hear me quoting Nigel Adlam very often in this House, but he was right

a couple of years ago when he said that the member for Namatjira will rat on her mates for her own vanity. She has done it again today and will continue to do it. She has done it to you and she is now doing it to us. You guys have attack the public servants, the police, the Water Resources Board and now you are attacking the good reputation of people of the Northern Territory.

You have no authority in this place, whatsoever. You have trashed the Territory's reputation and dragged the Territory's finances to ruin. You are a disgrace the whole lot of you, take it outside if you have any guts.

Mr GILES (Chief Minister): Madam Speaker, my challenge is also to Delia Lawrie, Larisa Lee, Michael Gunner, Ken Vowles and Nicole Mansion. It is simple, if you believe your claims to be true ...

Madam SPEAKER: Chief Minister, please refer to members by their electorate names.

Ms Lawrie: Cannot get it right, can you?

Mr GILES: Thank you, I can get it right. You cannot ...

Madam SPEAKER: Opposition Leader, I remind you that you are on a warning.

Mr GILES: You cannot even accept your name being presented in this frame. My challenge to the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Karama and the members for Arnhem, Fannie Bay, Johnston and member for Wanguri is quite simple. If you believe your claims to be true, take it outside and make them public. If you do not have the courage to take it outside, then surely and clearly you do not believe these claims to be true and you are simply playing politics in a coward's castle. If you are true to your words about elements of corruption and wanting inquiries - I challenge you, member for Barkly, that you misled the Stella Maris inquiry ...

Mr McCarthy: Will you call me Gerry Obeid outside? Bring your *Hansard*.

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Barkly!

Mr GILES: I ask you to step aside from your position for misleading an inquiry under the *Inquiries Act*, of which has been proven to be true and correct. Should you believe the professional standards of politics and inquiries, I ask you to resign because of your misleading of the Stella Maris inquiry, of which you admit and of which you were found guilty.

Ms FINOCCHIARO (Drysdale): Madam Speaker, my challenge to the members for Karama, Arnhem, Fannie Bay, Johnston and Wanguri is simple. If you believe your claims to be true then take them outside and make them public. If you do not have the courage to make them outside and name people, then clearly you do not believe these claims and are simply playing politics in a coward's castle.

Mrs PRICE (Community Services): Madam Speaker, I will briefly contribute to this censure debate, regarding, most seriously, allegations raised by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Karama, and the members for Arnhem and Namatjira. Those in glass houses should not throw stones. Member for Karama, how quickly you forget the Tennant Creek Red Rooster incident where you inappropriately intervened in a court prosecution.

Mr Vowles: Let us not talk about your senior advisor, (inaudible) girls to be raped. Do some research on your senior advisor in charge of Women's Policy.

Mrs PRICE: Member for Arnhem, how is the fuel card going? I also recall, as suggested by the member for Katherine, a meeting in your electorate regarding water, and you refused. What a hypocrite!

Mr GILES: A point of order, Madam Speaker!

Madam SPEAKER: Chief Minister, please pause. Member for Johnston, I heard that, and it is very unbecoming in this parliament. May I also remind you that all comments are picked up by microphones. You are already on a warning, and I will have something to say after lunch in regard to the behaviour of members.

Mrs PRICE: Say it to me outside if you want to say things about me. Member for Namatjira, what is the name of the book written about you? It is the one Chris Burns used to quote from. Was it King Brown something? What we have seen in this House today is an absolute disgrace, an abuse of this House and the principles of parliamentary privileges. If those opposite us are aggrieved and confident of their information, why are they are not on the front steps of this place repeating themselves? It is because they are not; they continually tell this House of their concerns for Aboriginal people. How is today's use of parliamentary time advancing the cause of Aboriginal people? How is it addressing their needs and concerns? How is it building their roads, health clinics, or the infrastructure they need or getting kids to school?

Ding Ding: in the last six hours, more children will be beaten, abused, eating rubbish food, being neglected, not attending school, and probably being sexually abused. Why is this happening, and why are they not out there fighting for their constituents?

Ding Ding: another six Aboriginal women beaten because it is their culture. They are spending their money on grog instead of their kids. They know this stunt is nothing to do with Aboriginal people, truth or justice. This is all about muckraking, point scoring and defaming good men and women in this House. It is about using this place to advance their cause of destruction, racism and divisive politics.

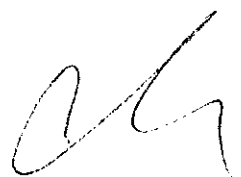
This motion, along with their behaviour, should be condemned most strongly.



The Assembly divided

Ayes	Noes
Ms Anderson	Mr Barrett
Mr Gunner	Mr Chandler
Mr Kurrupuwu	Mr Conlan
Ms Lawrie	Mr Elferink
Ms Lee	Ms Finocchiaro
Mr McCarthy	Mr Giles
Ms Manison	Mr Higgins
Mr Vatskalis	Mrs Lambley
Mr Vowles	Mrs Price
Ms Walker	Mr Styles
	Mr Tollner
	Mr Westra van Holthe

Motion negatived.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'AL' or similar, located in the bottom right corner of the page.