Question Date: 27/08/85

Question: Alice Springs to Darwin Railway

Member: Mr EDE
To: CHIEF MINISTER

Status: Questions

Information:
Given the selective quoting he has been indulging in lately in the press, will he undertake to table in this Assembly the latest study on the Alice Springs to Darwin railway before the Assembly rises on Thursday?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, if I have adopted any habit of selective quoting, I have probably copied it from some people across the room who are pretty good at it themselves. I would not like anybody to think that I had a monopoly on selective quoting.

Mr B. Collins: Would you like us to move that dispatch box over to your desk to save you the trouble?

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, I am quite happy to stand at the dispatch box. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his interest in my comfort while I am addressing such a boring question from the opposition.

If the member for Stuart would like to be patient for a day or two, he will be able to learn in more detail about the proposal for the construction of the Alice Springs to Darwin railway. He will find the proposition most interesting and a little unfortunate because it will put paid to many of the propositions that the ALP has been peddling around Australia for a few years: that the railway is not an economic venture and should not be supported by the government, particularly the federal Labor government. The report to which the member for Stuart refers will become a public document later in the year but, in the meantime, he will have an opportunity some time this week to discuss the contents of a ministerial statement on the same issue. He will be able to give us his views on that.