

dodge water dripping through the roof. Our euphoria at Lionel Bowen's agreement was very short-lived because the departmental people won again. Probably the local people who are involved with the federal Attorney-General's department believe that a completely new structure should be built for them and will not recommend that anything less is sufficient.

Mr Parish: Dominic Scaturchio was happy.

Mr MANZIE: That probably is very much to the point too.

However, I will not be letting up as long as I am Attorney-General - and who knows how much longer that will be. However, I believe that all members have an obligation to continue to bring to the attention of the federal authorities the need for the Federal Court to have a judge resident in the Territory. As well as improving access for Territorians, a resident judge would build up local knowledge and establish a feel for the place, thereby enabling the dispensing of justice to be relevant to the Territory. I thank members for their support and commend the bill.

Motion agreed to; bill read a second time.

Mr MANZIE (Attorney-General) (by leave): Mr Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to; bill read a third time.

FINANCIAL TRANSACTION REPORTS BILL (Serial 178)

Continued from 30 September 1992.

Mr BELL (MacDonnell): Mr Speaker, the opposition supports this bill. A briefing from the Attorney-General's Department of Law would have been of value because this is an example of a Territory bill which complements Commonwealth legislation. Essentially, it empowers the Northern Territory Commissioner of Police to seek further information from a cash dealer who has dealt with a sum of \$10 000 or more. The Commonwealth has taken a keen interest in this because of the problems which came to be recognised with bottom-of-the-harbour tax evasion schemes.

My initial reaction to this legislation was that it is fairly invasive of personal freedom. Not many of us make transactions of \$10 000 or more, but I have reservations about maintaining such surveillance on economic activity at this level. I suppose one has to balance those reservations against the very desirable aim that everybody should pay their dues and the smarties should not be permitted to evade tax. As with so much of the legislation that comes before this Assembly, there are competing policy objectives. As I said, we support this bill. Currently, there is no legislative power of control with respect to Territory laws, and my understanding is that this bill gives effect to that aim.

An example of the competing policy objectives to which I referred is in the secrecy provisions. I do not know of any Territory acts that have secrecy provisions which apply to people after retirement. In this bill, the secrecy provisions apply to the Commissioner of Police for life. To my knowledge, that is unique. The Legal Aid Amendment Bill with which we dealt yesterday applied secrecy provisions to officers and staff of the Legal Aid Commission but only while they are employed. However, there are common law provisions that apply in that regard. It is an indication of the