

Mr FINCH: A point of order, Mr Speaker! The honourable member knows that he should address his comments through the Chair and not direct them straight across the Table to the honourable member for Fannie Bay.

Mr SPEAKER: The member is quite right. The member for Wanguri should address his comments through the Chair, and should refer to the Chief Minister by his proper title.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, the Chief Minister is well aware that what he has done over the last few months has caused his government to grind to a halt. It has hindered the ability for anything to be done while everyone is rushing off having material drafted and redrafted and ministerial officers are involved with a private member's bill. His own ministerial staff have been chasing the issues related to his private member's bill. That is totally inappropriate. His role as Chief Minister has been taken over by his ambition as the member for Fannie Bay. What he should have done, and what would have been in the best interests of the Territory, is that, when he decided that he no longer had a major goal that he wanted to achieve in government in the Northern Territory ...

Members interjecting.

Mr Finch: He reduced your numbers by 2.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I accept that he won the last election. I have no problem with that, but there is a motion before the Chair that the Chief Minister lacks the confidence of this Chamber to continue in his leadership role. He is no longer leading. He is there as a figurehead and is doing nothing to promote the future goals of the Northern Territory. If he rose to make a resignation speech, I would be happy to recognise the positive contributions he has made over the years. However, his staying on, for whatever reason, is damaging the future of the Northern Territory. His own personal goals, such as euthanasia, should be pursued as a private member, not as Chief Minister. If his agenda as Chief Minister has concluded, he should stand down and allow those who have future goals and ambitions as Chief Minister to take over. The same thing occurred on the federal scene when Bob Hawke went beyond the time that he should have remained in office.

Mr Perron: He was kicked out. I will not be!

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, that may be the difference. In fact, that is what happens when the personal interests of politicians are put before the needs, not only of the party but of the territory or state or country. There is no longer any initiative or vision coming from this man opposite. The level of dissent among his Cabinet colleagues is such that decision-making has ground to a halt.

Mr Perron: I do not know why we keep meeting in Cabinet then.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, look at the quality of the decision-making at the moment. Consider the number of bills presented to this Chamber. We have been notified that the *Sentencing Bill* is to be withdrawn and another introduced. We have been told that there are 21 pages of amendments to the *Retirement Villages Bill* because members opposite stuffed it up so completely last year. The minds of members opposite are not focused on their work.