

doubt they did not disappear without their parents. Honourable members were proposing that full school facilities and housing be provided there. There would have been houses and facilities there a year or so ago or whenever the committee visited. However, the member now realises that the people have all gone.

The member for Nhulunbuy quoted the committee's description of houses at Pigeon Hole as being approximately 6 m x 2 m. I have some feel for measurements. Whilst the houses that I saw when I was at Pigeon Hole last year were not large, it would be quite wrong to describe them as being 2 m wide. Maybe it is a reflection of the quality of the report from which the member was quoting.

The member for Nhulunbuy also made some nonsensical comments about teachers at Numbulwar. Whilst there is a need for additional housing there, he is aware that a new teacher/linguist has been added to the team. I understand that contracts are now being finalised for the construction of a duplex. That will provide 2 units and will stand them in good stead. There are approximately 8 houses for teachers at Numbulwar. For the member to suggest that 2 new recruits from Melbourne shot through within days as a result of the poor quality of the housing is total nonsense. The housing allocated to them was very well maintained. I believe \$160 000 has been spent on maintenance alone at Numbulwar in the last 3 years.

The government has had a very good program for the provision of facilities and housing for teachers and other essential workers in remote communities. Certainly, the policy does not extend to local recruits, as it would not anywhere else in the Territory or in the country. The programs that we have implemented over the last 3 to 5 years and our agenda for the next few years have been and are appropriate to the demand. I wonder if Warren Snowdon had any influence on the removal of AEP funding for schools this year. The AEP now prohibits the use of AEP funds for the construction of school houses. That is how much importance Labor in Canberra places on Territorians and the provision of services and infrastructure to remote areas. Enormous sums have been spent on these programs. If the Commonwealth channelled its funding alone efficiently and effectively, it would not take long to provide all the housing needed by all the Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory.

AUDIT BILL (Serial 52)

Continued from 1 December 1994.

Mr EDE (Opposition Leader): Mr Speaker, this bill sets out the method of operation for the Auditor-General's office. It is part of a package of bills. We processed the *Procurement Bill* last week. Tomorrow, we will debate the *Financial Management Bill*, the *Appropriation Bill (No 2)* and the *Financial Management (Consequential Amendments) Bill*. Hopefully, those bills will be dealt with cognately if we are able to sort out a few last minute matters.

The *Audit Bill* has been separated from the package of bills and is specific to the audit. At this point, I raise a small matter with the Chief Minister. I have just received amendment schedule 25 which was circulated by himself. Amendment 25.3 thereon relates to clause 15: