important that the chairman of the Committee of Privileges report to this Assembly giving some indication of where his committee is moving in relation to these 2 issues.

Mr STONE (Leader of Government Business): Mr Speaker, I move that the question be put.

Motion agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

RIGHTS OF THE TERMINALLY ILL BILL
(Serial 67)

Bill presented and read a first time.

Mr PERRON (Fannie Bay): Mr Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a second time.

The issue of euthanasia is not a new one and, in recent times, public debate has escalated in various parts of the world, including in Australia. The reason for this resurgence is generally attributed to a number of factors:

- an increasingly educated and assertive patient population;
- an ageing community which is thinking more about death and dying;
- less traditional religious authority;
- more liberty and a strong belief in the right to choose;
- increasing numbers of deaths from cancer and AIDS and ongoing limitations in what can be offered with palliative care;
- and tremendous advances in sustaining human life that, in some instances, prolong the dying process.

Those factors are, of course, all present in the Territory.

This is not a political issue; it is a human rights issue. I began preparing this bill after searching thought about the rights of those who face a distressing, undignified and possibly painful death and the dilemma confronting them and their medical advisers on the question of whether or not to actively terminate life. Through the laws in place today, society has made an assessment for all of us that our quality of life, no matter how wretched, miserable or painful, is never so bad that any of us will be allowed to put an end to it. I am not prepared to allow society to make that decision for me or for those I love.