

Mr EDE (Opposition Leader): Mr Speaker, we on this side of House were chided this morning, as were all members. However, I think the remarks were directed more to our side in that the naming of the member for Wanguri resulted in him being suspended from the House yesterday. Perhaps it is suggested that this side of the House does not have respect for the forms of this House. Certainly, Mr Speaker, I and my colleagues have the greatest respect for the institution of parliament.

However, we have a situation where we have been kept here until 4.30 am because the government says that it has an enormous amount of urgent legislation. Despite that, the Assembly had moved into the adjournment debate before 3 pm today. I find it absolutely ridiculous! In fact, I find it disgusting! It would have been quite possible to have reported progress on the committee stage of the Pastoral Land Bill at a reasonable hour, perhaps at 1 o'clock this morning, and to have returned to the debate later today. That would have enabled members to have been fresher of mind and keener of wit during the debate and would have ensured that we were able to devote our full attention to that very important piece of legislation. We could have done that. However, the government decided that it would close the Assembly early today. Even after what was done last night, it is not as though there are no further matters available for debate. Ministerial statements from the previous sittings are still on the Notice Paper and should have been brought on for debate. What about important issues such as the disability policy that should have been discussed here today? One of my colleagues wanted to talk about the Cresap Report.

There is the extremely important matter of the report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. We expected that that would be debated today. We had the right to expect that when we saw the Notice Paper and learned that the government had pulled two-thirds of the legislation that stood against its name yesterday. That was a reasonable expectation on our part and it would have been in keeping with the forms of this Assembly if that had occurred. However, we could not do that because honourable members opposite wanted to watch the cricket. That shows the contempt that honourable ministers and members opposite have for this Assembly and for the forms of parliamentary democracy.

This is the shape of government in the Northern Territory in 1992. This is what we have after 18 years of CLP government. It is the arrogance that I am confident will lead to a fall. It is an indication, which we were talking about yesterday, of the paralysis that is besetting this government. There is a lack of drive and enthusiasm to get the Northern Territory going, an attitude that puts a cricket match before the business of this Assembly and the good government of the Northern Territory. Unfortunately, Territorians will have to wait.

Mr McCarthy interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Goyder is not even seated. He is yelling across the Chamber. After leaving the Chair, he should know better.

Mr EDE: Mr Speaker, the member for Goyder did no credit to the dignity of the Chair when he carried out what he thought was a very humorous little act a few minutes ago. He gave the call to members from the government side without giving the call to anybody from the opposition side. Those little games that he likes to play ...

Mr PERRON: A point of order, Mr Speaker! I wonder whether the honourable member is reflecting on a decision of the Chair by casting