

In closing I just want to make this point. It is the Chief Minister who said he was prepared to talk to the Prime Minister and the attitude that the Chief Minister adopted in saying to the Prime Minister: 'I am prepared to discuss with you these matters'.

Ms Martin interjecting

Mr REED: You only start chirping when there is a political point. I note you were very silent when I was discussing the matter of you having the tenacity to stand up to your Labor colleagues, but it was the Chief Minister who was prepared to say to the Prime Minister: 'Prime Minister, these are Territory issues'.

From the point of view of mandatory sentencing we have been to an election. The Territory electorate has decided what they require and what they demand of a Territory government. We had the tenacity to stand by that and in due course the Chief Minister spoke with the Prime Minister and was able to come away with a satisfactory resolution including a sizeable amount of funding to be able to proceed with some programs that will be advantageous to the Northern Territory, and saw a solution that maintained the wishes of Territory electors.

That is something that this government, through the Chief Minister, has been able to achieve. That is something that the members opposite pushed off the end of the plank on the ship, and they gave into Kim Beazley. We stood by our commitment to Territorians and the Chief Minister walked away from the Prime Minister with a satisfactory outcome. There you have the comparison between what this government is prepared to do in standing up for the rights of Territorians, promoting their cause, bettering the services that will be available to them, as compared to the walking-off-the-end-of-the-plank attitude that was adopted by the members opposite.

On behalf of my constituents and as Police Minister, I'm very satisfied with the outcome. I think that this legislation is very logical. It will see some improvements to the circumstances that beset those people who unfortunately fall on the wrong side of the law. I congratulate the Chief Minister for the approach that he took on behalf of Territorians to the Prime Minister and for the very rewarding outcome that we will experience well into the future.

Mr BURKE (Attorney-General): Mr Speaker, I thank the opposition for their support of this bill and their support also for these straightforward changes so that this bill can pass with urgency. I also thank the Deputy Chief Minister for his comments.

With regard to the issues on the case cited by the

member for Nhulunbuy, concerning a breach of community corrections orders, I undertake to have a look at the transcript of his comments and get back to him as soon as possible.

One needn't dwell on this matter any more than necessary, except to say that the meeting with the Prime Minister was very constructive. It wasn't in an atmosphere of any pressure. It was in an atmosphere of cooperation and understanding. Certainly, the agreements we struck were struck quickly, and the remaining time there was simply spent with officers drawing up the wording of the communique.

As the Deputy Chief Minister said, the results to my mind preserve Territorians' rights to govern themselves, yet at the same time assuage some of the concerns - concerns that came out of ignorance, as I pointed out to the Prime Minister - within a small section of the Coalition ranks. 'Small' needs to be emphasised. At the Liberal convention a few days later the strength of support throughout the whole Liberal Party became clearly apparent.

The criticism that I levelled at Victoria essentially came from the fact that it was the Victorians themselves who were most critical of the Northern Territory, most critical about how the Northern Territory was breaching UN conventions by our mandatory sentencing laws. The age of juveniles and whether they were treated as adults or juveniles was a hot topic during the mandatory sentencing debate and that was one issue that I felt the Northern Territory could move on and Territorians would support that change.

With those few comments, I move that the bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to; bill read a second time.

Mr BURKE (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.

SALE OF NT TAB BILL
(Serial 195)
TOTALISATOR LICENSING AND
REGULATION BILL
(Serial 196)
RACING AND BETTING AMENDMENT BILL
(No. 2)
(Serial 197)

Continued from 20 October 1999.

Mr STIRLING (Nhulunbuy): Mr Speaker, we