

Wednesday 20 September 1978

Mr Speaker MacFarlane took the Chair at 10 am.

### PETITION

#### Proposed Concrete Batching Plant

Mr PERRON (Lands and Housing): I present a petition from 50 residents of rural Darwin expressing concern over a proposed development in the area. The petition bears the Clerk's certificate that it conforms with the requirements of Standing Orders. I move that the petition be received and read.

Motion agreed to; petition received and read:

The ACTING CLERK: To the honourable Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly for the Northern Territory, the humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the Mumpety Doo district who have been informed that a company is considering erecting a concrete batching plant in our area, namely upon lot 32 section 353 Hundred of Strangways. We wish to advise you of our extreme dismay and concern regarding this project. Four grounds upon which we would be seriously inconvenienced by the presence of a batching plant are:

1. the condition of the road in the wet season will seriously deteriorate due to the heavy traffic;
2. the noise of the loader and of the trucks will be of considerable nuisance to some residents;
3. the dust will be a nuisance in the particular neighbourhood which has such a rural residential character about it; and
4. it will be unsightly and completely out of character with the area which, as you may know, is likely to be zoned rural residential under the Town Planning Ordinance of the Northern Territory in the near future.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that all Assembly members take whatever steps they can to prevent this project going ahead and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

### STATUS OF CHILDREN BILL

(Serial 170)

Bill presented and read a first time.

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a second time.

This is a bill to ensure that the law is in step with community feeling. In the past, the law has always regarded children born outside marriage as of lesser status than children born to married parents. At common law, an illegitimate child was classed as *filius nullius*, meaning no one's son, and suffered great disadvantages especially in matters of inheritance. In medieval times, this view may have matched social opinion but now the law is dragging behind. Today, a child whose parents are not married suffers no social stigma. Indeed,