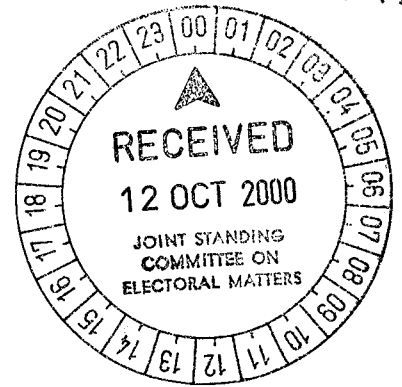


F+D

Andrew R. Coward
PO Box 244 Trinity Beach 4879 Queensland
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Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. <u>3</u>
Date Received <u>12 Oct 2000</u>
Secretary <u>R. F. [Signature]</u>

9 October 2000

SUBMISSION TO
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Electoral Funding and Disclosure Inquiry
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

CONTENTS

1. Submission Letter 5 pages
2. Copy of letters to Mr. G.R. Nairn 2.10.00 and 25.2.00
3. Copy of acknowledgment letter from D. Burke's office 28.2.00
4. NT News press clip NT Royal Commission Call 24.10.97
5. NT News editorial Questions on Polling 19.2.99
6. NT News editorial Why Did We Pay? 12.3.99
7. NT News press clip Poll Inquiry Call Rejected 16.4.99
8. NT Parliament Hansard Excerpt Mrs. Hickey / Mr. Stone October 1998 (3p.)
9. Testimonial from Mr. Perron 25.5.95 (2p.)
10. Handwritten note from Gary Nairn (undated; concerns item 11.)
11. Testimonial from Gary Nairn 3.7.95
12. Note of thanks from CLP advertising agency Stokes King DDB 13.11.90
13. Note of thanks from S.L. Stone as CLP President 21.8.89
14. Note of thanks from outgoing CLP director Peter Kidman 31.5.91
15. Letter of request from G.R. Nairn re: Eden-Monaro preselection 7.4.95

Andrew R. Coward
PO Box 244 Trinity Beach 4879 Queensland
Telephone 07 - 4057 5546

9 October 2000

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Electoral Funding and Disclosure Inquiry

Dear Sir/Madam,

This document is for the Joint Standing Committee's discussion and consideration. It responds to your request for submissions by 13th October in respect to the electoral funding and disclosure inquiry.

Confidentiality is not sought.

1. First Proposals

1.1 That no member of parliament can sit on the Standing Committee on Electoral matters if he/she is under investigation for breaches of electoral funding and disclosure law in Australia.

1.2 That a member of parliament proven guilty or complicit in such breaches, and the covering-up of such breaches, should, irrespective of any other judicial penalty, be required to immediately forfeit his/her seat in Commonwealth, State and Territory legislatures, and to so do forfeiting their superannuation entitlements.

1.3 That a member of parliament in receipt of queries and correspondence concerning their own possible impropriety in electoral funding and disclosure matters should endeavour to respond to those allegations within 30 days; and, further, be obliged immediately to inform the Standing Committee on Electoral Matters of them and the responses they intend to make.

1.4 That an official of a political party in receipt of queries and correspondence concerning possible improprieties in electoral funding and disclosure matters should be obliged immediately to inform the Australian Electoral Commission of them and the responses they intend to make.

These and other recommendations are supported by a rationale, and personal experience.

2. Rationale

2/..

The proposals are buttressed by the notion that in our democracy citizens are entitled to believe that members of parliament have not engaged in criminal acts for electoral gain - either as a candidate or in a previous or parallel role as an official of a political party.

Further, there ought be an absolute guarantee that members of parliament who sit on the Standing Committee on Electoral Matters have clean records insofar as breaches of electoral law are concerned, specifically the funding and disclosure provisions.

For example, no person convicted, or under investigation for criminal act, can sit in a judicial role. And nor should Australia's internationally respected electoral laws be subject to the opinions and influence of persons whose past actions have shown them to have been contemptible of those laws.

In vernacular, you don't hand the burglar the keys.

3. Personal Background, System Failures, Secondary Proposals

For myself, I have previously come under verbal and written threat to conceal certain matters known to me that have in recent years been ventilated in both the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Parliaments. And some aspects of those threats have been implemented against me through active campaign - often under privilege - to denigrate my personal reputation after I had revealed evidence of corrupt practices and breaches of the AEC's funding and disclosure requirements.

Moreover, the Federal Police have, it seems, been persuaded to ignore anything I might say, though some members of parliament do believe me, and newspaper editorials have been written in Darwin in support of my contention for a judicial inquiry into the Northern Territory's governance - specifically related to long misuse of public funds on behalf of a political party.

These matters, I have come to accept as having now been swept under the carpet.

The NT Chief Minister, Mr. Denis Burke, (who was not a member of parliament during those infractions, irregularities and illegalities that involved NT Cabinet sanction to which I refer), did express some interest in them to me on the telephone.

As soon however as Mr. Burke replaced Mr. Shane Stone, Q.C., as Chief Minister he showed a sudden disinterest in them and parcelled them up as ancient history and joined the chorus of vilifying my character.

From my own costly experience, it does no good to do "the right thing" in this country for the nation's electoral interest.

I have, for instance, written to both Messrs. Stone and Burke repeatedly citing numerous grounds for investigation of corrupt practices - inclusive of breaches of electoral law. Their choice of action was inaction - some might consider a betrayal of their oath-of-office, and in Mr. Stone's case a betrayal of his role as an officer-of-the-court, if being a Q.C. does actually oblige a proactive stance in the addressing of allegations of illegality brought to the Q.C.'s attention.

The joint committee has members, including the chair, who will recall some of these elements - how they finally entered the public domain and how they were disgracefully dismissed.

I am saying most forcefully that executive government cannot be trusted to investigate electoral corruption where its own party interest is involved. Thus, the parliamentary system must discover a method to guarantee the inviolability of the electoral law, which is, after all, a fundamental platform to our democracy.

To serve a useful purpose, successful prosecutions launched by the AEC should carry both punitive financial penalty and jail terms for party officials and any other person found to have not merely organised or sanctioned a breach but to have been complicit in cover-up. Up to and including party leaders.

Because in some parties - like the NT's CLP - the Chief Minister holds automatic appointment on the party's powerful Management Committee which decides and orders the party's financial arrangements - inclusive, as I continue to allege, of "off-ledger official theft" from taxpayer funds, and perhaps also secret dollar support from corporate entities under a number of illegal guises. I mean cash laundering.

The AEC's own resources should also be reviewed.

Apparently, the AEC now relies on the Federal Police to secure the evidence upon which a prosecution is based, however that agency confronts enormous challenges that cannot be decried. To them, the broad view that our democracy "works" must drive an opinion that places "low order priority" on claims of political corruption, compared with say the activities of drug lords, terrorist support groups and VIP security.

I can only conjecture what may have been said about me to the Federal Police. I went to them of my own volition just prior to the last federal election. Since then silence has reigned.

Not a single supplementary question.

And this silence has been in a prevailing environment where first Mr. Stone and next his successor Mr. Burke placed reliance for their show of disinterest on the strange notion that the alleged incidents had happened when they were **not** chief minister, plus the puerile and contemptible position that, in any event, the string of discomfoting allegations had been raised by quote "...an unsavoury character" - me. In one speech of my denunciation, Mr. Stone offered a repetitive claim that he disliked me intensely.

It beggars belief that such stupidities are sufficient to dismiss evidence-based allegations and signal the commencement of a cover-up that assails not the claims but the critic. Your committee indeed has a task ahead of it if electoral funding and disclosure laws are to have any meaning - at least in the Northern Territory.

The fact is a single citizen cannot long resist and fight an executive government that has chosen to be blind, with all the resources that can be mustered to quash the whistle-blower, including taxpayer funded media manipulators whose single goal is to destroy the credibility of the critic. There is evidence in this country that whistle-blowers are in the end destroyed, and sooner or later that is going to mean no more whistleblowers.

And so as the second half of the nineties closed I came to say less and less and finally nothing in the public arena.

However I have been corresponding on a specific matter with Mr. Gary Nairn, the Joint Standing Committee's chair, who formerly served as president of the NT Country Liberal Party before securing nomination to contest Eden-Monaro for the Liberal Party.

Regrettably Mr. Nairn has not acknowledged my letters.

Some correspondence in respect of this matter is attached. The issues raised are germane to some of the recommendations this submission makes and the attachments thus form part of the submission.

4. Attachments

- 2 October 2000; letter to Mr. Gary Nairn, MP - not so far acknowledged.
- 25 February 2000; letter to Mr. Gary Nairn MP - not so far acknowledged.
- 28 February 2000; note-of-acknowledgment from Chief Minister's office, Darwin concerning receipt of copy of 25.2.00 letter to Mr. Nairn.

And:

5/..

- testimonials praising my character in 1995; from Mr. Gary Nairn, and then outgoing NT Chief Minister, Mr. Marshall Perron, the readership of which, any fair minded person should discover reasonable apprehension for my having had more than a passing familiarity with the various funding issues that I have sought to bring into the public domain.

5. In Closing

The 2000 correspondence loop to Mr. Nairn has included Mr. Stone, Mr. Burke, present CLP President Mrs. Suzanne Cavanagh, her vice-president Mr. Marshall Perron and Mr. Mark Textor.

I cannot know why the chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters has chosen not to quietly put to rest what those letters ask. The simple expedient of a reasoned reply has been foregone. Perhaps the standing committee may now ask he seize the opportunity - to offer credible explanation or credible denial.

And further, to offer to his committee colleagues his opinion concerning the wider allegations:

- that during the Stone and Nairn CLP presidencies the party secured research benefits via clandestine subsidies of \$150,000-200,000 none of which has been disclosed to the AEC;
- that the 1994 use of push polling in Darwin was authorised by the then CLP president and in later panic the cost was buried in a transaction chain with a third party;
- the CLP has operated a secret cash fund paying some election workers cash, thus contravening both the electoral and tax laws, and,
- that strenuous efforts to avert independent judicial inquiry have been made by a string of CLP officials and ministers, the design of which has included denigration of my character and sometimes my sanity; a cover-up by character assassination.

This submission is recommended for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,


Andrew R. Coward

Andrew R. Coward
PO Box 244 Trinity Beach 4879 Queensland
Telephone 07 - 4057 5546

2 October 2000

COPY

Gary Nairn MP
Chairman
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Nairn,

I am considering lodging a submission by 13 October to the Joint Standing Committee concerning the recent advertised inquiry into Electoral Funding and Disclosure.

In view of concerns (Queensland recently) of political party integrity in the electoral process, I remind you of correspondence you have yet to answer in regard to your period as President of the CLP, Northern Territory.

Specifically citing my letter to you of 25 February 2000 and the possibility of an oversight in your signed return to the AEC for the 1994 NT general election.

Perhaps you may have discussed this by now with Chief Minister Denis Burke, Liberal President Shane Stone, and the CLP President and Vice President, Suzanne Cavanagh and Marshall Perron.

I do repeat my wish to be fair to you before taking any step that may prove unwarranted and injurious to reputations. The query of course concerns a market research specialist from Sydney who did contract work for the CLP immediately prior to the 1994 election and was paid. Yet that payment does not seem to be recorded in the CLP's returns to the AEC which were signed by you. I trust you do recall the contractor. If not, I am able to nominate a dozen persons who were aware of her work on your then behalf.

The door remains open. A credible explanation or a credible denial and that would be satisfactory to me.

Yours sincerely,


Andrew R. Coward

Copy: Mark Textor

Andrew R. Coward
PO Box 244 Trinity Beach Queensland 4879
Telephone 07 - 4057 5546

COPY

25 February 2000

Gary Nairn MHR
Liberal Member for Eden-Monaro
House of Representatives
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Nairn

I write in respect of the period of your presidency of the Country Liberal Party of the Northern Territory, and specifically your function as CLP Campaign Director for the 1994 Northern Territory general election.

It is presumed that your roles as chief party official, chief party liaison officer to the CLP's political wing, chairman of the CLP's Campaign Committee and senior member of the party's Management Committee allowed you to have an absolute knowledge of, and the overseeing of, all major party transactions for the period, inclusive of income sources and ledger debits for the payment of contractors and services associated with the election.

I have perused the CLP's returns to the Commonwealth Electoral Commission for the two financial years where income and expenditure related to the June 4 1994 election would normally be expected to appear. Perhaps, and your assistance would be appreciated, I may have misread the documentation because it does seem that through inadvertence, or some other reason, that the returns for the 1994 election may be incomplete.

There are in fact four matters which prompt this inquiry, however for the moment I shall limit this information request to the single matter of a southern contractor - a woman to assist your memory - who undertook contractual work immediately prior to the election in the cost range believed to have been \$40-60,000. This does not appear to have been declared, nor the source of finance, which, if either is proven to be the case, might well be regarded as a breach of the truthful and total disclosure requirement.

I have approached you in the first instance before accepting an invitation by an investigative authority because of my past high regard for you and the possibility that there may well be a reasonable explanation which has escaped me. Incontrovertible proofs do exist concerning this contractor's work on behalf of the CLP.

2/.....

COPY

25 February 2000 Gary Nairn MHR 2/2

I trust you may be able to enlighten me, shall we say by Monday 6 March 2000?

In any event, should you have reasons as to why this letter and associated material should not be copied to any government agency involved in legitimate and lawful inquiry your advice in that regard is invited before Monday 6 March 2000.

I do well understand your present distance from official CLP records. So in order to eliminate unwarranted delays the liberty has been taken to copy this letter to CLP President Suzanne Cavanagh, CLP vice-president Marshall Perron and NT Chief Minister Denis Burke, all of whom, I understand, presently serve on the party's Management Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew R. Coward



NT royal commission call

BY TIZ ZERONI

A former key adviser to the NT Government dropped a bombshell yesterday when he called for a royal commission into self-government.

Andrew Coward, who now lives and works in Queensland, said 20 years of self-rule had created "alienness" for Australian democracy.

He distributed a 30-page paper to back his call for an inquiry into the "status of the democratic institution in the Northern Territory".

He said the commission should:

- Scrutinise the Territory's bid for statehood with respect to the "Aboriginal minority";
- Inquire into whether executive powers had been "abused during the Territory's self-governing period resulting in any violations of the democratic process";
- Recommend to Federal Parliament the "desirability or otherwise" of statehood;
- Determine if any specific measures were needed to "enhance democracy".

He said Federal Parliament should set up the commission in the lead-up to a national referendum on statehood.

Mr Coward said in a covering letter: "The document makes no claims of ministerial corruption, but rather that it would now be appropriate for the Commonwealth to independently assess the democratic institution in the Territory in the 20th anniversary year of self-rule."

He also hit out at the plight of Aboriginal people, saying

Continued Page 2

Call for
NT to

face

inquiry

● Press Page 1
"being one in four in the population has meant no more than a hill of beans."

Mr Coward was a former adviser to the CLP Government for 10 years, one of his two NT stints included working in the Chief Minister's office from 1988 to 1995.

It is understood the paper has been circulated to a list of 90 people, including the Prime Minister, Aboriginal and church leaders and the media.

A spokesman for Chief Minister Shane Stone said Mr Coward had been employed by a previous chief minister and had not worked for Mr Stone.

The spokesman said Mr Coward was not allowed any ministerial appointment.

"NT NEWS"
Fri: 24 Oct 1997

EDITORIAL, February 19, 1999

Questions on polling

AS a newcomer to Parliament, Chief Minister Denis Burke can afford to hold an inquiry into how the CLP came to buy so-called "government research" at a tenth of the cost paid by taxpayers.

Mr Burke was a senior soldier in the army when the CLP's administrative wing bought a 65-page report used in the lead-up to the October, 1990, NT election for a bargain-basement price of \$3700.

About the same time, NT taxpayers wrote a cheque for \$35 550 to the same author for a much slimmer government report which covered about the same ground as the CLP's version, but without the juicy political advice.

The advice was the sort that helps government strategists win elections.

At election time, these advisers seem to have a boot in both camps.

The Labor Opposition is convinced that the government report was drawn up simply to please the public servants, who were unaware that the CLP was a client of the same research company which had been secured by the NT Government.

The then party president and former chief minister Shane Stone must have known that executive government had commissioned the independent consultant to conduct research on essentially the same subjects as those sought by the CLP.

Believe

It is difficult to believe that the two reports were commissioned by two different clients in splendid isolation.

On the evidence so far, it would seem the distinction between executive government and the political party has been blurred, so much so that the CLP has benefited from government expenditure.

In Parliament this week, Mr Burke ruled out an independent inquiry.

He said: "I am not going back to something from 10 years past and three chief ministers past."

What Mr Burke forgets, however, is that staff within his own office whom he inherited from past chief ministers may have information about the transactions.

These staff remain employed by the taxpayers and their actions — despite the years that have passed — should be subject to some form of independent review.

If the Government and these staff have nothing to hide, Mr Burke should have no fear of an inquiry into the affair.

In rejecting an inquiry, he leaves himself exposed to claims he has in fact something to hide, or people to protect.

Until such time as the allegations are laid to rest, questions will remain over why the Government commissioned such a report.

The Northern Territory News
 GPO Box 1300
 Darwin NT 0801
 Editorial facsimile: (08) 8981 6045



NEWS

EDITORIAL, March 12, 1999

Why did we pay?

TAXPAYERS are still owed an explanation for the Territory Government's extravagant use of an expert political pollster in the lead-up to the 1994 election.

Documents tabled in Federal Parliament show that Liberal Party's pollster Mark Textor was paid \$740 a day under a contract he signed with the NT Government in 1994.

For this, Mr Textor compiled "research" for the Government which the Federal Opposition claims was used to unfairly advantage the Country Liberal Party in the election.

In Federal Parliament this week Labor went further, claiming Mr Textor plied focus group participants with alcohol and lied about who had employed him to gather the research.

While there is no doubt an element of envy in Labor's pursuit of a pollster who helped craft Liberal victories in several state and Federal elections, the basic thrust of the allegations remain unanswered by Government.

That is, why did taxpayers foot the bill for the research in the first place?

The Opposition is convinced that Mr Textor was hired by executive government to conduct research which under our political system should have been paid for by the CLP.

This is a very serious allegation, and one which has not yet been denied.

To date, the Government has only been prepared to attack the credibility of the man responsible for the allegations - disgruntled former adviser Andrew Coward who signed the Government's contract with Mr Textor.

It is not good enough for the Government to simply side-step the questions.

If it has nothing to hide, then it should have nothing to fear from an inquiry.

Unleash the pokie cash cow

THE new Burke Cabinet should decide quickly what it intends to do with a benefit fund set up to distribute poker machine proceeds to community groups.

The fund was designed to distribute money for gambling addiction programs and other community benefit projects.

But since February last year, all expenditure has been frozen, yet the fund continues to collect about \$100 000 a month.

Dozens of community groups could benefit from the money sitting idle in the bank.

If the Government can't make up its mind what to spend it on, they should hand over control of it to somebody who can.

The Northern Territory News
GPO Box 1300
Darwin NT 0801
Editorial facsimile: (08) 8981 6045

Wycliffe UFO sto



'UFO's' over the Yunnan province in China, 1981. 'They're out

By NIKKI VOSS

Territory UFO hot spot Wycliffe Well is bubbling with excitement again after a string of sightings in the past eight days.

The latest sightings inspired a group of Queensland UFO chasers to visit the remote spot this week.

Lou Farkas, who runs the Wycliffe Well road house, 374km north of Alice Springs, said most of his staff had seen two UFOs on March 4 and 5.

Territory-born road house worker Wilma Bradshaw, 60, said she saw a strange "jelly-fish" type light in the night sky about 8.15pm on March 5.

She said the odd-shaped light turned from silver to red and had flowing tentacle-type lights flowing underneath it.

Around midnight the previous night, six staff mem-

'Don't call the scept

work when they spotted a similar shimmering light in the sky.

Tourists also reported strange lights on the horizon four days ago.

Ms Bradshaw said: "It was like jelly blubber with tentacles.

"It started out as silvery white then faded out and became a brilliant red in the western sky.

"It would go away and then come forward again.

"I was with another woman and we watched it for a few minutes.

"I ran inside to get a camera but when I came back out it was gone."



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28 February, 2000

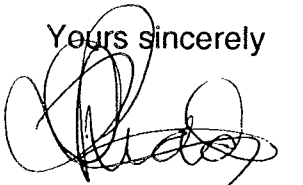
Mr Andrew R Coward
PO Box 244
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Mr Coward

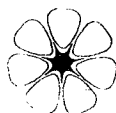
On behalf of the Hon Denis Burke MLA, I acknowledge receipt of your copy correspondence to Mr Gary Nairn MHR dated 25 February 2000.

Your correspondence will be brought to the Chief Minister's attention at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely



Terri Riddle
Records Officer



Poll inquiry call rejected

The NT Government has rejected calls by Territory Labor for an inquiry into a \$49 000 opinion poll conducted by the Country Liberal Party before the last federal election.

Territory Labor said yesterday the Harris Poll on native title had wasted taxpayers' money and benefited the CLP politically.

Labor Leader Clare Martin said the poll was conducted in March 1998 to determine how voters would react to a race-based election.

She accused the Country Liberal Party of "picking the pockets" of Territory taxpayers for a party political opinion poll.

Ms Martin said yesterday the Labor conservative government involved in the plundered \$141 120 of

taxpayers' money to test the waters for race-based elections.

"He (Chief Minister Denis Burke) sat on his hands when Labor demanded an inquiry into the Country Liberal Party ripping off Territory taxpayers to conduct party political opinion polling."

Issues

Mr Burke said the poll was part of a legitimate tri-government public opinion poll on native title.

Mr Burke said: "The issues canvassed were legitimate issues for Australians. I can't see how there is anything wrong with asking Australians whether they have opinions on something."

"This was an absolute legitimate use of taxpayer funds."

Stunned at silence

I AM stunned at the silence surrounding the Andrew Coward claims. These allegations have been the subject of no less than four editorials in the Northern Territory News calling for an inquiry, as well as being aired in the Parliament.

Territorians have a right to know if there has been substantial blurring of the boundary between the CLP and the Government.

How about an explanation from the new Chief Minister, please!

Kath Midgley
Nightcliff

Allegations Raised by Andrew Coward

Mrs HICKEY to CHIEF MINISTER

Long time senior Country Liberal Party operative, Andrew Coward, who worked at a senior level for the Country Liberal Party for 10 years has produced a paper titled *Dossier NT*. I seek leave to table a copy of the document which the Chief Minister received some time ago.

Leave granted.

Mr Coward makes alarming allegations of official corruption in the Country Liberal Party administration. Will the Chief Minister make a full ministerial statement to the parliament and the people of the Northern Territory about the accuracy or otherwise of Mr Coward's alarming allegations?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, Andrew Coward was never employed by me and he never worked for me. I did not like the man and I removed him from the Office of the Chief Minister on being elected as Chief Minister. I treated him fairly and I saw him on his way.

Allegations Raised by Andrew Coward

Mrs HICKEY to CHIEF MINISTER

Madam Speaker, the Chief Minister's dismissal of Andrew Coward's allegations merely by saying he did not like the man is not going to wash. Former Country Liberal Party boss and current federal Liberal MP Gary Nairn states that Andrew Coward played a key role in the Country Liberal Party's operations. I seek leave to table a copy of Mr Nairn's reference for Andrew Coward, which makes it very clear just how knowledgeable this man is.

Leave granted.

Madam Speaker, Andrew Coward has stated that the Chief Minister now has in his possession a document titled *How it is done - creating and running a clandestine subsidy for the Country Liberal Party from within a government department*. Will the Chief Minister make public this document and will he give a full explanation for the allegations that Mr Coward has raised?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, the document that the Leader of the Opposition is referring to is in fact one of Andrew Coward's nonsensical documents that he

faxes all around this country. It is not a document that is within my department. I make the point again that Andrew Coward never worked for me. I removed him from the Office of Chief Minister. He never worked for me. I did not like the man. I did not trust the man. I treated him fairly and equitably, but he never worked for me.

Mrs HICKEY to CHIEF MINISTER

Madam Speaker, my question without notice is directed to the Chief Minister, and I refer the Chief Minister to the earlier 2 questions that I have posed, and his response.

It is not good enough for the Chief Minister to say that Coward never worked for him. That is absolutely immaterial. Andrew Coward worked for 10 years for the Country Liberal Party. He worked for the former Chief Minister, Marshall Perron, and he worked with the Country Liberal Party when the Chief Minister was a minister in this government. He has a reference from the former Country Liberal Party president, Mr Gary Nairn, attesting to the work that he did within the Country Liberal Party.

I ask the Chief Minister again, Coward has stated the Chief Minister now has in his possession a document titled *'How is it Done - Creating and Running a Clandestine Subsidy for the Country Liberal Party from Within a Government Department'*. Will the Chief Minister make public this document, and will he give a full explanation for the allegations that Coward has raised.

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, when the Leader of the Opposition demands that I should give a full explanation, I reject the allegations of Andrew Coward entirely.

Members interjecting.

Mr STONE: They are allegations that are based in malice. The allegations of a disgruntled former employee of a former Chief Minister, and I repeat again, Andrew Coward never worked for me.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER: Order!

Mr STONE: Andrew Coward was not held high regard by me. I treated him fairly and I treated him squarely, but he never worked for me in any way. This so-called document is in fact in the possession, I understand, of the Leader of the Opposition!

Mr Bailey: Not true.

Mr STONE: ... so why doesn't she table this document?

Ms Martin: We would if we had it.

Mr STONE: These are the wide ranging ramblings of a man who is essentially a disgruntled former employee of a former Chief Minister and I repeat, he never worked for me, he was gone from the staff of the Chief Minister from the moment I became Chief Minister. I didn't trust him, I didn't have any regard for him and I saw him on his way.

Members interjecting.

A member: Table the document.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Members of the opposition.

Mr STONE: I believe that the document that the opposition are referring to is one of a number of documents that have been faxed willy nilly around this country to everyone from the media to the opposition to the Prime Minister and, in fact, anyone who has a fax machine.

Even sent one to Kim Beazley and we all received one at the constitutional convention. So it seems remarkable that you wouldn't have a copy of the ramblings of this man who never worked for me. Never worked for me. Ever!

Mr Bailey interjecting.

Mr STONE: Madam Speaker, I will pick up - official corruption by the member for Wanguri I ask that it be withdrawn, he knows, he knows. I will be heard on my point of order.

Madam SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr Bailey: Under what Standing Order?

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Wanguri, resume your seat! Chief Minister, what is your point of order?

Mr STONE: My point of order is if those are allegations that are being made then you do it by way of substantive motion. Pull on your censure, pull on your motion, have your debate.

Mr Bailey: What's your point of order?

Mr STONE: But get out of the gutter and stop the snide remarks across the Chamber.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Let's have a little bit of order in the House today. You know the rules and you abide by them. The member for Millner will be held in silence.

Madam Speaker, my question without notice is directed to the Chief Minister, and again I refer him to the earlier questions and his responses. He may have inadvertently misled this House in suggesting

that the Leader of the Opposition both federally, and in this House, has possession of the document by Andrew Coward - 'How is it Done - Creating and Running a Clandestine Subsidy for the Country Liberal Party from Within a Government Department'. I told the Chief Minister that it is not in the possession of either leaders of the opposition in this House or in Canberra. I ask him if the Country Liberal Party has nothing to hide from this, and if Andrew Coward is making specious allegations, as he suggests, why doesn't he table that document in this House, so that we can make up our own minds?

Madam SPEAKER: Chief Minister, before you start, Clerk, could I ask your advice? I believe there is a standing order about repetitive questions, I feels that this has already been answered in Question Time.

Honourable members because it is a slightly different question it can be asked, but I do warn the opposition that we don't allow repetitive questions.

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, my fax machine hasn't stopped. It's almost as though I've got a direct line from Andrew Coward.

Mrs Hickey: What about this particular document.

Mr STONE: Well, when you say, 'this particular document', you seem to know a lot about it, and yet you claim you haven't a copy of it.

Mrs Hickey: We haven't.

Mr STONE: Now, I think you "protesteth" a little bit too much. Now, I have called for a list from my office of all of the letters and the allegations that have been coming from Andrew Coward. As I have said before, this man, never worked for me. Get it through your heads.

Members interjecting.

Mr STONE: I say this too, if the member for Wanguri would be quiet, he certainly never took instructions from me or any other minister. Understand that! He certainly never briefed other ministers ...

Mrs Hickey: Let's just have a look at the allegations, and then we can make a judgment on it.

Mr STONE: When am I going to be given an opportunity so that Territorians can hear my answer, Madam Speaker?

Madam SPEAKER: Members of the opposition, we are going through this every day. Now you ask a question, but you don't give the minister a chance to answer! Let us have fewer interruptions please.

Mr STONE: As I have said, I have called for the file and I will have a look at it to see whether this is the document that you claim it to be - I take it that you are conceding that this is a document prepared by the accuser, Andrew Coward, himself?

Mrs Hickey: I said that.

Mr STONE: It is hardly a document prepared by government but can I just ...

Ms Martin interjecting.

Mr STONE: Can you help yourself?

Ms Martin: I am trying to help you, Shane, I am trying to help you.

Mr STONE: If commentators have a genuine interest in this matter, can I refer them back to every budget debate in the last 4 years where the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Hickey, or her predecessor, Mr Ede, have asked me questions about polling and how much was spent and what the polling was done on. On each and every occasion a fulsome and truthful answer has been given.

Ms Martin interjecting.

Mr STONE: Well the member for Fannie Bay can cough and splutter but the facts are that they are fulsome and honest answers. If the opposition believes that I have systematically misled this House and Territorians over the last 4 years on the nature of polling that has been done and how much has been paid and to which companies, then I invite them to move a censure motion. I will answer the allegations, but it is time that they either put up or they shut up. I do not consider the ramblings of a man who never worked for me to have some sort of magical nomenclature.

I saw this man on his way the moment I became Chief Minister. Do not have any illusions about this. He never worked for me.

Plebiscite on South-East Arnhem Land Land Council

Mr McCARTHY to **MINISTER** for
ABORIGINAL DEVELOPMENT

The member for Arnhem yesterday made some astonishing claims on ABC Radio, not the least

being that a 1990 plebiscite to determine support for a regional land council in south-east Arnhem Land did not gain majority support from the mainland participants. As the minister responsible for Aboriginal affairs at the time, my memory of the detail about that plebiscite is very different from that of the member for Arnhem. Indeed, I highlighted in my response to the statement on the Reeves report just a couple of days ago the part that the member for Arnhem played as the then Director of the Northern Land Council to interfere in the outcome of the plebiscite. I ask the minister to confirm ...

Mr BAILEY: Point of order, Madam Speaker!

Madam SPEAKER: I think the honourable member is about to ask his question now.

Mr McCARTHY: I ask the minister to confirm my understanding that the claim made by the member for Arnhem is untrue.

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, this is a very interesting question. It is actually quite an amazing story when you track this through, particularly from a man who sits in an Aboriginal electorate and says that he is passionate about representing Aboriginal Territorians.

Territorians would have heard on ABC Radio 8DDD yesterday Mr Ab Kit, the member for Arnhem, make some very amazing claims. The first was that he does represent his constituents in Arnhem Land, and by his own admission when he moved his office from Katherine ...

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BALDWIN: When he did decide to move his office and he was trying to justify that, he said that he was moving because he did not get his Aboriginal constituents visiting him in Katherine. I fail to see ...

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BALDWIN: He is very sensitive about this, Madam Speaker.

Mr BAILEY: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Under section 113, it is quite clear, even though it was very much a Dorothy Dixier question in regard to the plebiscite, the answer is quite clearly not relevant to the question.



CHIEF MINISTER

COPY

Parliament House
Darwin NT 0800
Telephone (089) 89 6222

GPO Box 3146 Darwin NT 0801
Facsimile (089) 89 6670

May 25 1995

TESTIMONIAL

Re: Mr Andrew R Coward

I commend most highly your consideration of Mr Andrew R Coward.

He is a most innovative senior executive.

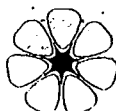
As my senior strategist Andrew contributed greatly to the success of my Chief Ministership of the Northern Territory from 1988-1995.

He relinquished an outstanding career position in business and marketing consultancy in Sydney in 1988 to join my staff. I extended that invitation to him on the strength of an earlier association (1978-1981) when he served as my senior adviser during the early years of Northern Territory self government.

Andrew has been one of the great contributors to not only the political dominance of the Northern Territory's Country Liberal Party Government, but also to the economic strength and progress experienced in the Territory since 1978.

He was an architect of our national leadership policy in Asian relations, and has made significant contributions to our outstanding tourism industry, investment attraction and my government's relationships with the defence industry.

Apart from Andrew's professional skills in market research, analysis, media, market planning and campaign execution within budget, he is a lateral thinking strategist, an excellent negotiator and innovative policy maker.

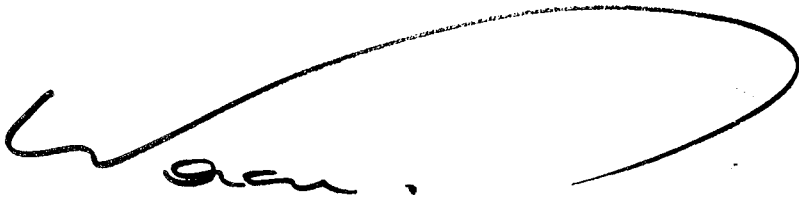


Northern Territory Government

Co.

He held my total trust during our ten year working relationship and I recommend him for consideration at the most senior executive level in either government or business.

I would be pleased to amplify these brief comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marshall Perron', with a large, sweeping flourish that loops back under the name.

MARSHALL PERRON

Private telephone: (089) 81 3375

Gary Nairn
Liberal Candidate for Eden-Monaro

*P.O.Box 1187
Queanbeyan
N.S.W. 2620*

*Tel: 06 299 9117
Fax: 06 299 8894*

Andrew,

I trust the enclosed is of assistance to you. Let me know if you need it pitched differently.

I will possibly be in Darwin around the 19th July for a couple of days. I will let you know.

Regards

Gary.

*Gary Nairn
P.O. Box 1187
Queanbeyan
N.S.W. 2620*

COPY

3 July 1995

*Tel: 06 299 9117
Fax: 06 299 8894*

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have known Andrew Coward for five years and worked closely with him during my time as President of the Northern Territory Country Liberal Party from 1990 to 1994.

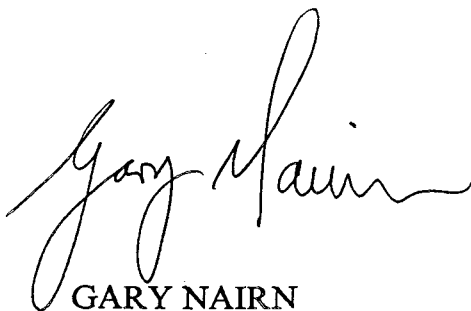
I found Andrew very professional in all aspects of the work he undertook. He clearly understood and respected the differing roles of the organisational wing of the Country Liberal Party and the parliamentary wing. He was always willing to provide political advice and assistance whenever I sought it.

Andrew has a great capacity to plan well in advance. He foresees the potential problems and issues well before many others and devises solutions and outcomes ahead of time. His strategic political planning is well researched and targeted correctly.

During the 1994 Northern Territory General Election, Andrew played a key role as part of the campaign team. His particular input was crucial for the development of the platform for the election, for the overall campaign strategy and as part of the daily mass communication through the various media.

Andrew's contribution was an essential ingredient to the formula that proved to be highly successful in the election outcome.

I can highly recommend Andrew Coward.



GARY NAIRN

STOKES KING DDB NEEDHAM

Advertis

13th November, 1990

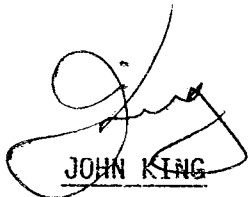
Mr. A. Coward,
Office of the Chief Minister,
14th Floor
N.T. House
DARWIN. 0800

Dear *Andrew*

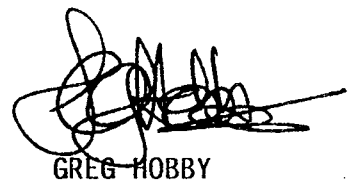
The 1990 Territory election was a formidable success for the Country Liberal Party.

We are proud to have worked with you as part of the team that ensured the Territory has good government for the next term.

Kind Regards,


JOHN KING


TOBY RALPH


GREG HOBBY

Best regards Andrew.
J.

Last night I read that Oscar Wilde said "experience is the name we give to our mistakes." My recent experience had a capital E. Sorry about that note.

NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNTRY LIBERAL PARTY

G.P.O. BOX 4194, DARWIN 0801 PHONE (089) 81 8986 FAX (089) 81 4226



1090

COPY

21 August, 1989

Mr. Andrew Coward
Chief Minister's Office
GPO Box 3146
DARWIN NT 0801

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your considerable assistance throughout the course of the Wanguri by-election. Naturally I am disappointed that we were not successful in retaining the seat for the C.L.P. We obviously need to examine very closely our strategies and tactics for the forthcoming General Assembly election.

I intend to convene a meeting of the campaign committee later in the week where we might discuss in greater detail what we got right and where we went wrong. I hope you will be able to attend and contribute to the discussion.

Yours sincerely

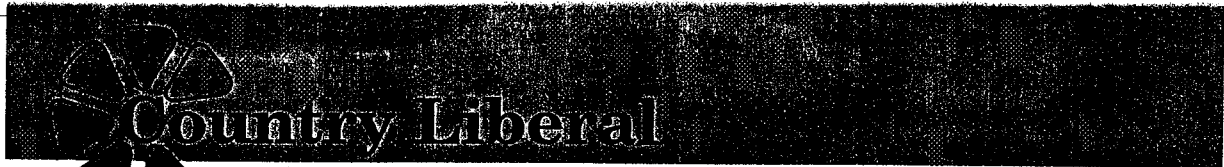
SHANE L. STONE
PRESIDENT

SHANE L. STONE:

NT MLA & MINISTER Oct 1990 - June 1995

" " & CHIEF MINISTER June 1995 - early 1999

Since late 1999, Federal President, Liberal
Party of Queensland



PK

Friday 31st May, 1991.

MR ANDREW COWARD
G.P.O. BOX 3146.
DARWIN N.T. 0801.

Dear Andrew,

Just a brief note to say thank you for your support and assistance during my period as the Executive Director of the Country Liberal Party.

Julie and I have very much enjoyed our time in the Territory and look forward to spending the occasional holiday back here.

When in Brisbane please don't hesitate to touch base at Parliament House or on telephone number (07) 226 7393.

Thanking you once again.

Yours sincerely,

Peter G. Kidman.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

E.B.M. JAMES L.S., F.I.S. AUST.
G.R. NAIRN S.SURV., L.S., M.I.S. AUST.
G.R. EDWARDS CERT. SURV. M.I.E.M.S., A.M.A.I.C.
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G.L. LEACH S.TECH. SURV., L.S., M.I.S. AUST.



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DARWIN NT 0001

PH: (089) 81 2494 FAX: (089) 81 6206

FACSIMILE MESSAGE FAX NO. (06) 299 8894

TO : _____
ATTENTION : ANDREW COWARD
FROM : GARY NAIRN
DATE : 7-4-95

THIS MESSAGE COMPRISES 6 PAGES INCLUDING THIS PAGE
IN CASE OF TRANSMISSION PROBLEMS, PLEASE PHONE (06) 2999 117.

Andrew,

FOLLOWING IS A DRAFT OF MY PRE-SELECTION NOMINATION.
I STILL HAVE TO ADDRESS SOME PARTS OF IT BUT I WOULD
APPRECIATE SOME ASSISTANCE IF YOU HAVE TIME.

YOUR COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON ANY SECTIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL
BUT THE VERY CRUCIAL SECTION IS NUMBER 9. I HAVE WRITTEN
THE DRAFT MAINLY ON THE BASIS OF GETTING THE SORTS OF
THINGS I WANT TO SAY DOWN ON PAPER. IT IS REALLY A BIT
LONG PLUS IT NEEDS TO HAVE GREAT IMPACT - I WANT THE
SELECTORS FEELING AS IF THEY CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO HAVE ME
IN PARLIAMENT. (A "MAKE NO MISTAKE" FEELING!)

I AM ALLOWED A MAXIMUM OF TWO ADDITIONAL A4 PAGES
TO ADD TO THE FORM.

MANY THANKS FOR WHATEVER YOU CAN DO.

Gary

- Cadastral Surveys
- Mining & Engineering Surveys
- Digital Photogrammetric Mapping in association with AAM Surveys Pty Ltd
- Project Management
- Computer Modelling
- Land Information Management
- Subdivision Design & Planning