

NORTHERN TERRITORY

# Independents may get balance of power

From a correspondent in Darwin

A SALIENT factor in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly election on June 7 is the record number of Independents who are contesting the poll.

Three, at the very least, are highly likely to be elected.

The Chief Minister, Mr Everingham, has opted for a short, sharp campaign, giving his opponents only a month in which to marshal their forces.

In doing so, he has come in for some strong criticism, mainly on the grounds that a redistribution of electoral boundaries should have been undertaken before the next election.

Apart from that, it appears that both the Country Liberal Party and the Labor Party will lose seats.

Candidates in both parties are being upstaged by Independents, especially in Alice Springs, where Mr Bob Oliver is far more well known than the obscure schoolteacher the CLP has chosen.

The Assembly's Speaker, Mr MacFarlane, also stands a good chance of being toppled by Independent Mrs Pat Davies in Elsey. Mrs Davies was pipped at the post in the 1977 poll.

Among other candidates who are free from political strings are Darwin chemist and former City Council alderman Mr Roy Barden, who is taking on the Minister for Transport, Mr Steele, in the seat of Ludmilla, and Mr Terry Wilson who is challenging the Treasurer and Minister for Lands and Housing, Mr Perron in Stuart Park.

Mr Everingham himself looks assured of re-election, although in the back of his mind must be the fate of his old boss, Dr Goff Letts, who, as Majority Leader, was unexpectedly defeated by an ALP unknown back in 1977.

But Mr Everingham is not repeating Dr Letts' mistake in making only a token gesture at campaigning. He is regularly pounding the footpaths and door-knocking in his electorate of Jingili.

Free from the blame of one or two major blunders, Mr Everingham has adopted an indigenous style of leadership, controls his Cabinet and has projected himself as a man for the Territory.

Mr Everingham's Achilles heel is Mr Dondas, the Minister for Community Development who, in presenting his Prisons Correctional Services Bill in the last sittings, gave a less than impressive performance.

For 3½ hours, Mr Dondas read from copious notes which were written in the third instead of the first person, so the Members had the unusual experience of listening to a speaker refer to himself as "you" instead of "I".

During the debate, Mr Dondas misunderstood the stage whispers of Mr Everingham, who had shifted from his usual seat to sit next to him, to either accept or reject proposed amendments to the legislation.

Mr Dondas's opponent in his seat of Casuarina is Mr Dennis Bree, an old political campaigner who, on the face of it, should romp home.

The third Independent is Assembly veteran Mrs Lawrie who has held the Darwin seat of Nightcliff since 1971. Although the CLP would very much like to unseat her (she leans towards Labor in crucial moments), she has perhaps the largest personal following of any candidate.

The electorate of Fannie Bay is being contested by the incumbent ALP Member, Mrs O'Neil, and Darwin's former Mayor, Dr Ella Stack, who resigned her position in the City Council last week to mount the hustings.

Mrs O'Neil concedes it will be touch and go but she has put a great deal of work into her electorate and will be hard to toss.

Commenting on the election, Dr Alistair Heatley, senior lecturer in politics at the Darwin Community College, said that some pessimism no doubt existed in the CLP but, on the balance, the mood was one of cautious optimism.



Mr Everingham

"It's view, snared unmistakably by Everingham, is that the CLP Government's record and performance with the putatively high approval-rating of its leader will carry out the party to substantial victory", Dr Heatley said.

"As the Government, the CLP has an immense electoral advantage in that it can dispense legitimately, either specifically or generally, largesse to the voters.

"The recent announcement on increased workmen's compensation could be just the first taste. "Moreover, there are intriguing rumours of Federal concessions of major electoral importance, the existence and perhaps the full extent of which are already known to Everingham".

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Isaacs, welcomed the June 7 date and said the election issues would be the NT cost of living, energy and local business development.

But his henchman, Arnhem's Mr Bob Collins, said the Government's actions would "add another page to Australia's disreputable history of electoral gerrymandering" and bring the electoral process into further disrepute.

"The Territory will now go to the polls with enrolments in some seats as much as 100 per cent higher than enrolments in others", he said.

He added that, because enrolments had already closed, hundreds of people in isolated areas, particularly Aborigines, would be denied the opportunity to vote on June 7.

Of all the issues in the election, Aboriginal affairs are the most sensitive.

The CLP Government, condemned for its record on land rights by the Kormilda Aboriginal leaders' conference earlier this year and by the land councils, is vulnerable in black electorates.

The Labor Party, which supports land claims and closure of seas, is vulnerable to a backlash in white electorates.

It is precisely for these reasons that Independents could well hold the balance of power in Territory politics during the next three years.

## Cyprus looks like source of iron weapons

New evidence supports the theory that iron weapons first were forged on Cyprus and then exported to the Aegean in the era following the Trojan war, according to Cyprus's director of antiquities.

The director, Dr Vassos Karageorghis, said that new archaeological discoveries near Paphos, on the island's west coast, also lent credence to the mythical tradition that the ancient port city was founded 3,000 years ago by Greek settlers in the aftermath of the devastating 10-year Trojan war in the 12th century BC.

Dr Karageorghis said he and his team had unearthed daggers,

From ALEX EFTY, in Nicosia spearheads and knives in excavating 35 tombs dating back to 1100 BC near the village of Kouklia, just to the south of New Paphos. Kouklia is the site of ancient Paphos.

The weapons correspond to arms found in Greece of a later period, but according to recent theories, they must have been made in Cyprus, where the working of iron was first discovered and from where iron weapons were exported to the Aegean.

The theories have been supported by Dr A. Snodgrass, professor of classical archaeology at Cambridge University, and the

late Professor Vincent Desborough, of Oxford, according to the Cypriot archaeologist. Dr Snodgrass recently visited this east Mediterranean island and examined the Paphos finds.

Dr Karageorghis described the items found in the tombs as very rich. They include clay vases, in a variety of forms and interesting decoration, bronze vessels, arms of bronze and iron, and jewellery of gold, silver and bronze, and all these demonstrate the wealth of Paphos in the 11th century BC.

The most important discovery was a brief Greek inscription on a bronze skewer found in one of the tombs.

## Rotary embassy-inspection day

The Rotary Club of Canberra will hold its second embassy-inspection day for the year to raise funds for charitable projects on June 15 (during the Queen's Birthday weekend) between 2pm and 4pm.

The locations open for inspection will be: Government House, residence and grounds. Royal Thai Embassy, residence and grounds.

French Embassy, residence and grounds. Royal Belgian Embassy, residence and grounds. Prime Minister's Lodge, grounds.

A charge of \$2 for tickets (covers admission to all five locations) may be paid at any of the five locations, and inspections may be begun in any order.

It is expected that children under 14 will not be admitted to residences.

## CANBERRA JACKPOT LOTTERY No. 80

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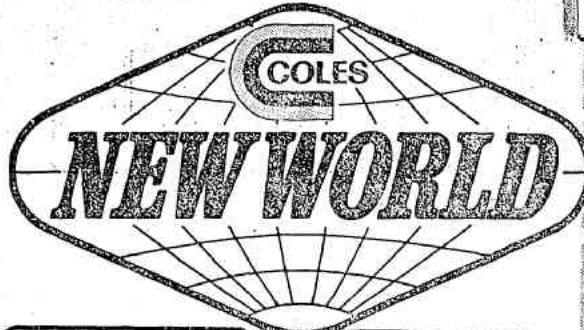
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 13355 13775 14164 14243 14780 14803 14912 14974 14299 14663 16775  
 16786 16800 17153 17135 17268 18431 18677 19155 19156 19490 20144  
 20320 20494 20947 21044 21078 21148 21481 21622 22010 22485 23168  
 23243 23612 23752 24116 24530 24769 24924 25049 25229 25731 25737  
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