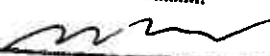


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February 4th 2015 – Transcript of a recording

Time: 0.49.00

GILES: Its forums like this where we should be talking about CAL, we should probably, at the next meeting we should probably have someone from the Department of Infrastructure, or the Department of Business... and we'll get someone here to talk about the CAL.

GILES: In March at the Central Council in Katherine is the time we should be debating a motion from this branch to talk about how we can fix CAL. I get a lot of complaints about it all the time about CAL.

Time: 0.51.06

GILES: We want to get in there and talk about policy. So over Christmas I've written a new Indigenous Affairs policy. I wrote it last time and that's what we took to the election... so it's in draft at the moment and I haven't spoken to anyone about it until I finalise it a bit more. I want to talk to people like Bess Price and a few more... that's how we should be doing these sort of things.

Time: 0.52.00

GILES: The Party has a philosophical model of what we believe in....but there's very little policies on what we agree on. We need to have a greater level of policy backbone about the party so that the politicians can stand up for those policies. So if I stand up now and say what's the policy on this from the party, there is none....there's no aboriginal affairs policy, there's no policy on CAL, there's no policy on local contracting or the Department of Infrastructure, people are still complaining that contracts go outside, but there's no policy.

GILES: At the moment from where I'm sitting there is no policy of the CLP.... And that's why a lot of times the pollies don't know what they stand for.

GILES: If you're in the Labor Party there's a policy this thick on every issue, every issue. So they have to, if you're a Labor politician you have to follow the policy. We don't actually have that here, that's why we got into a lot trouble a couple of years ago when we brought about a lot of cuts and changes to Government spending when we came in.

Time: 0.53.48

GILES: Philosophically, we all support small Government and support small spending but as soon as we make cuts everyone says hang on you can't cut this teacher and you can't cut that program and you can't cut this and that and all that sort of stuff. We got bombarded publically because there was no policy to day this is what we stand on so we sort of bumbled around for a long time, we still are bumbling around a bit in that regard...

Time: 0.55.12

GILES: I think around 2005 policy put forward by Nigel Scullion and seconded by Dave Tollner supported uranium mining ... supported nuclear enrichment and nuclear power stations in the Northern Territory. Anyway so that is a policy of Government. Now I guarantee if I stood up tomorrow and said I support nuclear power stations, I reckon people would go nuts.

Time: 1.14.06

GILES: 2015 I thought we were starting off really good. If we look across the Territory, what's happening, and I don't like talking in figures and so forth but crime across the Territory is the lowest it's been since... anyone who knows Alice Springs now and knows what it was like three years ago knows crime is so much better, unbelievably better. Tennant Creek crime is down by 74%.

Time: 1.15.03

GILES: Alcohol consumption is the lowest it's been since the 90s which is probably in the middle of a positive and a negative, if you sell grog you're probably not that happy.

GILES: We've made most of the tough decisions. This year was about setting a budget up that will build infrastructure, lots of roads and bridges. One of the things that happened in Qld and Victoria, they worked so hard to get their budgets right they upset everybody and in the case of Victoria they've been voted out and there's \$6 billion in the bank. They fixed everything then kept money in the bank and now they're out and they can't even spend it. We've got a choice of we keep trying to clear out books or we say we're in the third year of our term, we want to get re-elected next year, we want to leave a long lasting legacy and we're going to build the infrastructure so that's what we're going to do, we're going to build stuff. We have a choice of paying off the debt, we've got the debt down a bit and all that sort of stuff but we're going to build stuff.

Time: 1.17.38

GILES: In regards to Alice Springs and the crime coming down, there's some businesses who say their business is going well, there are others saying that things aren't quite as good as what they were. There are a couple of challenges in Alice, the Federal Government stopped spending a lot of money.... A lot of the programs have been cut.

GILES: There are lot of people who work in sobering up shelters and all of these things that respond to alcohol, that respond to dealing with cases of domestic violence and all of those people are not needed here and they haven't been needed in Alice Springs as much for more than 12 months.

Time: 1.23.30

GILES: What I think it means is that the seat of Namatjira will disappear... I'm talking from a technical point because I'm the Minister for the Electoral Commission right. So probably down the left hand side of the Territory we'll have the seat of Stuart and down the right hand side we'll have the seat of Barkly and there'll be no Namaitjira. But the way the very first rough draft that only a couple of us have seen, Greatorex will take in Amoonguna, Santa Teresa and Finke... we're going to have to go bush outside of town boundaries for the first time.

Time: 1.40.23

GILES: Yesterday I sort of cracked the shits a bit in Darwin, some of the scurrilous rumours that have been floating around about me. For a long period of time I've handled it, but some of the stuff that came out in recent time, yesterday by some members of parliament on our side, I found to be horrendous. If anybody should happen to be getting briefed, side briefed or hear these rumours I can tell you they're completely untrue. They're so untrue that I've ordered a judicial inquiry because they were coming out reported from two members of parliament... it might just shut some people up. To let you know exactly what happened, the old stuff with the police commissioner and the allegations about him sleeping with a women, which are allegations at this stage, members of parliament and a particular sitting member of the police force were spreading rumours that I as the Chief Minister and as Police Minister were sleeping with the same lady that got arrested, which is the reason why Tamara and I split up, which is complete bullshit. I fronted those members of Parliament, I had a gut full of them, I sacked one of them today and tomorrow I might sack another one. I don't want any more destabilisation in the team but I find that to be completely outrageous, to have a senior member of the Northern Territory police, I won't tell you who it is but I'm just letting you know, to be doing these things and getting themselves involved in what I would call, I have good evidence that this has involved an orchestrated political coup to get rid of me as Police Commissioner, the former one. I'm not saying he was clean, I'm not saying he did nothing wrong, but there was something happening there and when you involve the members of parliament the judicial inquiry will have a look at it and if I find that there is evidence, they'll go and I'll take them to court, if I don't get the evidence, I don't get the evidence but if I find it I'll take them. So part of that campaign was the lead up to yesterday, or the day before, it's been worked on for a long period of time and I think we all know the people who were behind it.

Monday night I got a phone call from Willem saying he's got the numbers, I've got to be honest I sat there and went fantastic I can have a beer and I went and got on the piss but that's a different story and in the morning I woke up and I was bombarded, people around this room, people around the Territory, different branches, Chamber of Commerce rang me begging me not to go, the Cattlemen's Association, APPEA the gas, people everywhere, Inpex rang me from Japan, don't go, all of this stuff, no one wanted the destabilisation. Kezia Purick, Bess Price, Peter Styles all said that they wouldn't serve for Willem. Kezia and Bess, and I don't talk about these things publically, Kezia and Bess said they would resign from the party, they were bloody loyal and I say Dave your wife is fantastic. Dave Tollner would have done the same and the only reason Dave Tollner's still in the party is because he's loyal too. And so if I was to step aside, there would be no government today. So I enjoyed having a night off and getting hammered. So I decided I wouldn't sign the resignation and low and behold the level of incompetence of the people that had tried to form a coup hadn't thought through what it all means and for those who are interested because I presume many of you are. This is a numerical game, there are currently 14 members of the CLP, we'll go through the count, one is the Chief, 8 to form the Ministry, one's the speaker, ones the Deputy Speaker, ones the Whip, then you can use the Deputy Speaker and the Whip to form the Public Accounts Committee and you've got one left. Unfortunately when they tried to form a coup, they only had 9 so they couldn't find a speaker, a deputy speaker a whip or anyone to form a public accounts committee. Which means there was no Government? So the level of incompetence of these people is just madness. So not only was business going to be destabilised, not only would the whole CLP tear itself apart like I'm told would never have been torn apart, and it's mainly gone mad because of personalities but I'll

get to that in a moment. So the head bureaucrat Gary Barnes who some people think is a Labor person because he was employed by the former Labor Government, but has been the most loyal friend to me and would do anything for me or any Member of Parliament. He come to me and said I've been sent by Elferink and Willem and Robyn to tell you to sign the resignation letter immediately. And I said well piss off, you don't walk into my unit and tell me that. Anyway so I said leave it here I'll think about it. Because at that point in time I still had a throbbing headache at about 9.30. So when the press release came out saying Willem was getting sworn in at 5 to 11 and I'd be lobbied up hill and down dale not to resign... Chandler who had signed the form rung me and said don't resign whatever you do and then Francis said it's too hard I'm going fishing (laughs) anyway so I got a phone call from the media who were outside the Administrators Office who does the swearing in and said yeah how's it going Chief, I get on pretty good with this person, he said Willems about to be sworn in, I said that's fantastic, he can't form Government, he said why and I said well there's 5 members who won't come... so the media puts it on the administrator... so that's when it all fell apart and I said well I'm not going to sign now, you can't even manage to get the coup right, I'm back in. So we had Parliamentary Wing meeting, I said Government falls over we go to an election, 10 minutes before I went to the wing meeting I raised \$1.5 million for the party for the election, which isn't in the bank. So I raised money for a campaign if we needed it, \$1.5 million is not enough but it's a pretty damn good start and I said right we're going to the polls and I was going to the polls yesterday make no bones about it and then during the meeting there was some very horrible things said by one of the members of this branch, among a couple of others but particularly the one from this branch and stick to my resolve and then Gary Higgins started to waiver, Chandler started to waiver, Francis wasn't there, there was not vote taken and I said right well I'm the Chief, who wants to go to an election, everyone went wwaahhhhh and I said right I'll make some leeway, I'll make Willem the Deputy which everyone has bagged me out for doing that but anyway I tried to do the right thing... and today I sacked Robyn because the things that Robyn has said about me about Tamara and about the accusations that have been made I found to have been horrendous and I'll never work with that women again, ever. Anyway so now we're in a position where we're trying to do a reshuffle, so I had a chance to see the old Willem yesterday before I said you can be the Deputy and I told him the facts of life and the reality about being the Chief Minister and how hard it is to manage people's ego and performance and all of that stuff. You have to manage their portfolio that meets them staying in their electorate to help... unfortunately some members don't like that and when we had a redistribution late last year they were unhappy with the portfolio's they got so they decided to have a coup to get a better portfolio... they nearly brought the whole Government down and we are a long way behind, two days ago we were going pretty bloody good and we could have won the election and picked up at least two seats in the northern suburbs. At a time when everyone should have been talking about Campbell Newman, Tony Abbot and Delia Lawrie going to court, one of our members tried to run a coup, put it all about us and sent us back about another 12 or 18 months again. It was absolute madness, mindless stupidity and political immaturity what happened over the last two days. Elferink needs to get his arse torn... he's a good performer and I've got a lot of time for Elferink but he's involved too, he should be in trouble but he's a very good performer and we need him in the team. He's very good but you can't do this shit, it was just so badly thought out.

Time: 1.53.58

GILES: (on Lee and Anderson) there was a mistake, the media made a mistake, they weren't coming back into the party, there was a side deal done to secure their support to form Government. So when they realised they only had 9, they only had 8 but they said they had 9, they went right how do we get to 13, so we sign Alison and Larisa up, like not as party members but ...that got them to 11 and then they tried to get Gerry Wood, Gerry Wood said no, all of these sort of shenanigans. Could you imagine the party sitting back and having Alison and Larisa to form Government? And I don't want to put any shit on our colleagues but this is what happened yesterday and I am trying to be clear because every member of the team whether they support me or not I respect, they may not be my best mate but I respect them.

Time: 1.56.58

At the end of the day who knows if this trouble is over, it could start again tomorrow, it's a little bit like Russian roulette, like having a bit of a gun to the head of all of us because all you need is someone to say, I want to be Minister or I'm going to resign and become and independent...

END OF RECORDING