

The CLP party machine looks as if it is in for a tough ride once again.

An increasing number of party members claim they are getting disenchanted with sections of the party's management committee in spite of the revitalised vote of confidence which the committee received at the CLP annual conference earlier this year.

In fact, party talk in a good number of branches is that the president, Mr Graeme Lewis, had better seek pre-selection for the next Territory elections if he wants to receive a good amount of support at the next annual 'shindig.'

The theory behind this is that Mr Lewis's pre-selection would be used as a party vote of confidence.

Should he fail to receive this support, however, party talk is he should resign his position, which has been under threat more than once before.

One of the problems with certain sections of the management committee is reported to be the allegation that some of the members concerned are too intent on having their own way with the directions taken by the party machine as a whole.

More and more CLP branches report the party takes too many people for granted after a good many years in government.

Against this argument, of course, can be levelled the claim that the CLP has "become a party for all egos" with far too many people trying to run the show.

Another claim is that the party has become far too complacent in its position as top Territory political dog.

Meanwhile, Mudginberri's Mr Jay Pendarvis has finally been promised a cheque for half the \$2600 Mudginberri fighting fund which the CLP management committee has been sitting on since the Mudginberri trade union affair last year.

The other half is apparently about to go out to his employees who were adversely affected by the Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union picket line.

It may be remembered Mr Pendarvis had a 'blue' with someone at CLP headquarters at the start of the recent CLP council meeting and then

# Bumpy ride ahead for CLP machine



TAMSEN'S  
TERRITORY

BY OSCAR TAMSEN

stalked out to go shopping in Darwin.

Dissatisfaction with the way the CLP appears to be going is also likely to be shown in the near future by a number of CLP people standing against existing sitting members.

Talk around the traps has it that most of the existing CLP Legislative Assembly backbenchers will be challenged, with at least two ministers facing the same challenge from their party compatriots.

News of challenges only becomes reality, of course, when pre-selections are actually called and the bravado of the people concerned is transformed into signatures on paper.

Another source of concern for some CLP faithfuls is next month's national council meeting when sitting Territory MHR, Mr Paul Everingham, is expected to be asked a number of pertinent questions.

One of these is centred on the allegation he has been discussing in-party matters outside the CLP's confidentiality instead of in the party room.

He is also apparently to be asked why he no longer seems to be resident in the Territory, spending a good deal of his 'off-Parliament' time in Queensland.

Tonight's Queensland election result will, of course, also have a substantial bearing on whether or not the CLP ranks are to be split by the introduction of a Territory National Party which has been standing in the wings for some weeks.

Should the Queensland Nationalists romp home, there is no

doubt the party will come barging into the Territory with a fair amount of support in unexpected and even elevated quarters.

If Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen and his fellow travellers are given a hard time at today's polls, the whole escapade could be called off until more conducive political climes.

One last thought before too many Territory ALP supporters think their party is free of splinter groups and self-destructive mechanisms.

My information is the ALP is also facing a rising ground swell of internal revolt from some branches over the party's apparent inactivity of late under the leadership team of party president, Mr John Reeves, and Opposition Leader, Mr Terry Smith.

As it is, the "case of Mr Neil Bell, MLA," was expected to be debated at the party's caucus meeting, held yesterday.

Mr Bell was the sitting parliamentarian recently threatened with the sack by Mr Smith and his deputy, Mr Brian Ede, for his stance following a recent uranium debate in the Legislative Assembly.