

Every man and his Edog has been growling about the Territory Government's inertia of late.

Some senior bureaucrats, CLP and ALP politicians and businessmen have all been claiming the Government is marking time at its peril.

They say, with apparent authority, the Government will have ground itself into the dust of inconsequence by March or April next year when it will take a mighty effort to rev up the machine again.

What many of these detractors have tended to forget, however, is that Chief Minister, Mr Steve Hatton, is offering the Territory a totally different style of Government.

Instead of running affairs in a gung-ho fashion, he has imposed his own brand of diplomacy and moral standing on an administration previously accustomed to less deliberate rapid-fire commands and decisions.

Mr Hatton would appear to favor more consensus than outright steamrolling, as the so-called Lake Amadeus land claim 'settlement' proved earlier this week.

Although he appears to cover too much ground each day, sometimes with dire consequences, even the Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, told him last week he was the first Territory leader with whom the Federal Government could deal.

The point is the Hatton Government has brought more diplomacy to bear on matters of consequence. But whether this makes for more efficient government has still to stand the test of time — and an election.

Many of the critics are unfortunately being critical to serve their own ends, even going so far as to announce a change of ministries in the hope something more dramatic would happen.

Some of the bureaucrats have also possibly become too used to having their adrenalin flowing at the speed of knots, particularly during the Everingham mushroom tourist infrastructure development era.

What they may be forgetting, however, is that the 1986 economy is a far cry from that of the early 1980s. In addition, some of the "Instant" projects of our earlier self-government years have more recently been getting into hot financial water, as evi-



TAMSEN'S TERRITORY

BY OSCAR TAMSEN

denced by the continuing contingent liabilities saga and the Beaufort Centre debacle.

Steve Hatton should be given a fair-go to prove himself, given more time. As it is, he does not as yet have a personal mandate from the people, having taken over the reins from Mr Ian Tuxworth when he stood down as Chief Minister in mid-May, not quite six months ago.

A good hint for some members of the Hatton Ministry would, nevertheless, be not to blow too-hot too-quickly whenever some political victory is in sight.

This pithy little piece arrived by carrier pigeon on my desk this week, signed merely "Mick:"

"Dear white fella, cupla tings you orta no....

Firstly, wen I a born, I'm black

Wen I grow up, I'm black,

Wen I go out ina sun, I'm black,

Wen I'm cold, I'm black,

And wen I git scared, Jeez, I'm still black,

And wen I die, I stay black.

But you white fella,....

Wen you born, you pink,

Wen you grow up, you white,

Wen you git sick, you green,

Wen you go ina sun, you go red,

Wen you git cold, you go blue,

And wen you die, you go purple....

What more can this white fella scribe say?