

May 27, 1995
31 Bauer Crescent,
KARAMA, N.T. 0812.


Dear Shane,

Congratulations on becoming Chief Minister.

As many now seek access to your ear with their views and plenty of advice, I thought I might regail you with some thoughts of my own, which might be of use. If not- well it's not a long read!

I have pondered how you will meld a thousand strands of leadership requirements and expectations to meet policy goals- even with the present resources available to you. The stamp needed could enhance your chances to be given a fair-go. If you develop a doctrine through which all the incidents of your politics, vision, policies and pragmatic considerations are processed and applied, you have an identifying life-force to shape your incumbency.

The impetus and style changes which normally accompany new leadership can be expressed, I suggest, in terms of 'think strongly and act energetically'. Complexities are clarified and made explicable in simple terms as usual. As its centrepiece, is its hallmark: a very high degree of energy, knowledge and ethic. I call this triangulate, a 'professional political ethic'. It is the style of my namesake, Don Dunstan, more than Jeff Kennett. Forget the pink shorts, scandal and socialist agenda. Look at how Don changed a landscape. I credit you with the thought before the scoff. Its expression is more in the style of the frank Chipp than isolated Gray: let the bastards know a new force is about, with sheer energy in knowledge and effect; minimise backlash dangers through ethic. Survivability insurance! This is what I mean by Stoneism. It would take a heavy toll on you, and would disqualify someone like me assisting in necessary delegation either as aide or adviser or specialist. Legal and political skills of a high order are needed. Mobile thinkers alive to every issue must pledge loyalty and, make sacrifices without murmur, to maintain stability at the top. Professionalism will more than compensate for a lessening of being ultra accessible. It is not new. We must look and act more like a State. Your performance will be the only real criteria, and boy, will you be given a going-over. I want to see you succeed. Well, that's my theory! Unfortunately I cannot contribute much more in a page. I am busily engaged in studies for my Bachelor of Arts degree at NTU (majoring in history and politics). So, it's back to Marx, Locke, Mill, Burke and the like. It's truly invigorating and I'm thoroughly enjoying it. So far, so good: nine assessments = 6 HD's; 2 D's and 1 P. All the best, Shane. You could be the best Chief yet.

Yours sincerely, 
TED DUNSTAN.



replied 12/6



CHIEF MINISTER

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12 June, 1995

Mr Ted Dunstan
31 Bauer Crescent
KARAMA NT 0812

Dear Ted

Thank you for your very kind wishes on my recent election as the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, and for your thoughtful contribution as to what might help shape my future Chief Ministership.

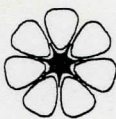
I greatly appreciate your message of support and be assured that I will work tirelessly on behalf of all Territorians in my new position.

In the event that I can ever be of any assistance, you should not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Shane L. Stone

*Good luck with the
Studies*



Northern Territory Government