

"ACTING KING OF DARWIN" PUTS STRIKERS' CASE

Herald Special Representative

DARWIN, Wednesday. — The principal aboriginal strike leader, a man named Lawrence, described himself yesterday as the "acting King of Darwin." He said he was acting for "Little Frentwell", the real "King of Darwin".

"Frentwell" is said to be a 14-year-old boy going to school at Delissaville native settlement and a member of the Waugaitj tribe, the same as Lawrence.

There is no immediate prospect of settlement of the strike, which began on Monday.

Lawrence admitted to reporters yesterday that he had been convicted a number of times for drinking alcoholic liquor and had also served a sentence in Fannie Bay Goal.

Officials of the North Australian Workers' Union invited Darwin newspapermen to interview the strike committee of eight aborigines led by Lawrence.

Lawrence said the aborigines had formed themselves into the "Blackfellows' Union."

The committee walked the nine miles into Darwin today to pull out any aborigines who live in

private homes and who are still working.

They then conferred with NAWU officials.

Lawrence said the aborigines would not go back to work until their demand for a weekly wage of £7 was granted.

"WORK HARDER"

He said that if the demand was granted the aborigines would work harder. If the Native Affairs Branch cut off rations the strikers would live on "bush tucker."

Lawrence said the aborigines also wanted a white man's civil rights. They wanted to go to pictures when they liked and move about Darwin and the Northern Territory how they liked, the same as white men.

They wanted an end to the system whereby the Native Affairs Branch sent aborigines out of Darwin to mis-

sions at will and at short notice.

He said the natives got very little tobacco on the missions. Rations at Berrimah aboriginal reserve included no vegetables, or sweets.

The aborigines got bread and butter and jam for breakfast, meat, bread, and butter for the midday meal and the same for the evening meal.

"OWN COUNTRY"

He said that as a boy his grandfather told him this was his people's country and he would have to fight for it.

The other seven committee men appeared to be "Yes men."

Aborigines will not be moved from Berriman to the new Bagot aboriginal reserve while the strike is continuing. They will continue to live in tiny earthen-floor shanties instead of moving to cleaner and more pleasant quarters.