



WHILE in Swan Hill, David spent some time with his grandmother, Mrs Stewart (83), at her Rutherford-st. home. Here they are shown discussing the Government's controversial decision on the Little Desert.

"GOVT. WRONG ON LITTLE DESERT"

—says Aboriginal spokesman

David Anderson is a descendant of the Workia Wimmera Aboriginal tribe.

He's 22 and says he is a firm advocate of "integration with integrity" for his people.

SWAN HILL
GUARDIAN

FEATURE

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A grandson of Mr and Mrs Jackson Stewart, of Rutherford-st, David considers Swan Hill, where he was born, as much his home as Mildura, where he lives at present.

When I spoke to David last week he described himself as a controversial and outspoken character on the subject of integrating Aborigines and white people.

CO-EXISTENCE

He believes the two races can and should live and work together.

"Justice for all irrespective of race, is my aim," he added.

A Matriculation student at Mildura, David hopes to complete a university degree and then live among people "consulting with Aborigines and non-Aborigines for the betterment of mankind."

topics is the Little Desert controversy.

He has already presented evidence to a Little Desert Committee of Inquiry.

He acted as tribal advocate for the 12 Aboriginal tribes scattered originally throughout this vast expanse of land in the Wimmera before past Government policy moved them away.

His grandmother, Mrs Stewart, 83, was raised at the Moravian mission station at Antwerp, near Dimboola.

She is a member of the "Workia" tribe, one of the 12 concerned with the Little Desert.

INJUSTICE

David and Mrs Stewart both believe that descendants of these tribes have been unjustly treated.

They feel the Gov-

ernment's decision to open up this Australia, mixing not only with Aborigines but with all sections of society.

He acts as a "go between" virgin land with complete disregard for the Aborigines who were the first settlers there and have prior occupancy rights.

David believes the Aborigines are at least entitled to repatriation from the Government.

"Much of the Little Desert area is sacred tribal land," he said.

David has travelled extensively throughout the Aborigines in representations to State and Federal Governments.

Initially he was a member of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

David is also research officer for the Ab-

original Progress Association of South Australia, and past vice-president of the Aboriginal Advancement League of Victoria.

He says he is a protégé of Pastor Doug Nichols, MBE, a director of the AAL of Victoria.

RURAL GROWTH

Another of David's traits is that he's an enthusiastic advocate of decentralisation for all country people.

"We've got to have an idealistic approach about this," he said.

"There are problems, sure; but we have to think in a positive manner," he explained.

He said construction firms in and around Melbourne would be better suited in country areas.

"Full-blooded and part-Aboriginals want

to have a reasonable education so they can have an equal opportunity for employment in these decentralised industries; particularly secondary and tourist industry," he said.

The economic problem of decentralisation would be more than compensated for by the advantages gained in the short term, he added.

Cities would be more beautiful and air and water pollution would be alleviated to a great degree.

"Poverty would be eliminated and employment increased which is what Prime Minister Gorton desires — a great happy society," David said.

Nearly all Aborigines wanted to work side by side with the white man as equal fellow humans, he added.

Graeme Nicks.