

ABORIGINAL WOMAN IN CLASH WITH LIB SENATOR

Repeated clashes between an Aboriginal woman and a Liberal senator marked the first Brisbane hearing yesterday of the Senate Standing Committee on Social Environment.

The clashes were between Senator Davidson of South Australia and Miss Susan Chilly of Brisbane. Committee chairman Senator Keefe (Ald. Qld) twice had to call the parties to order.

Miss Chilly — a field officer with the Aboriginal and Islanders Community Health Service — had presented a strongly worded statement of her opinion on what white society was doing for black people.

Senator Davidson asked her what she thought should be done for the Aboriginals.

She said he was the person who should be doing something, he had the resources to do something, she only wanted to point out what was wrong.

Senator Davidson said: "I want to know what

you think should be done."

Miss Chilly replied: "Start with the history book and then other things will fall into place."

"Right in the beginning we are taught in white schools that blacks are lazy and shiftless."

"We are taught that Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth were the first people to cross the Blue Mountains."

"You need to change the history books first, not just for the blacks but for the whites."

An Opal executive officer, Mrs Caroline Archer said the situation where people needed permits to get on Palm Island Aboriginal settlement was appalling.

"If I want to visit relatives or friends on the island I have to get permission from someone in Brisbane," she said.

"NEWS"

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