

# **Aboriginal body gaining support**

**A strong Aboriginal lobby in the Labor Party is expected to push Cabinet's approval for a National Aboriginal Consultative Committee through Caucus today.**

Cabinet approved expenditure of half a million dollars on setting-up the committee, which will meet two or three times a year.

Elections for the committee are due to begin on Saturday, and a total of 165 Aborigines have nominated for the 41 electoral divisions which will return representatives.

Some Caucus members are known to oppose the idea, and claim there are more worthwhile areas for expenditure.

They are reported to be particularly incensed at the provision of an annual salary of up to \$9,000 a year with expenses for committee members.

However, the Aboriginal lobby in the party, led by Queensland Senators Jim Keefe, Manfred Cross and George Georges, and former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Bryant, are expected to successfully argue in favour of the proposal.

The proposal for the committee was announced

early in the year by Mr Bryant, who is now minister for the Capital Territory.

The committee will provide a forum for the expression of Aboriginal opinion on all matters, and a channel through which the Government might receive representative advice on the direction in which the Aboriginal people wish to move in matters affecting them.