

APARTHEID? NEVER, SAYS ABORIGINAL

ABORIGINAL leader Mr Stewart Murray said it was the best thing to happen since Captain Cook's arrival.

He was commenting on the national consultative aboriginal organisation being set up by the Federal Government.

But Senator Bonner (Liberal, Qld.) had earlier branded the move as "apartheid."

The organisation will have only aboriginal members, elected by aboriginals.

Senator Bonner said at the weekend that, if only aboriginals were to be candidates and voters, the move was one of partheid.

He said he wanted to see aboriginals elected to responsible positions where they dealt with all sections of the community, not just their own race.

Yesterday Mr Murray, administrative director of the State Aborigines Advancement League, said Senator Bonner was "quite wrong."

"It is not apartheid, because we will be dealing with a situation which will take the burden from the general community," he said.

Aboriginals would play a responsible part in the community when the council was set up, Mr Murray said.

There was a special need for aboriginals to make their own decisions and regulate their own needs.