

# ABORIGINAL MONEY 'MISUSED'

**CANBERRA, Tuesday.**—The permanent head of the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Barrie Dexter, admitted today that funds granted to Aboriginal organisations were sometimes misused.

He said the department believed, however, that it was crucial for Aboriginal groups and communities to have the maximum scope to undertake operations for themselves with the minimum of outside surveillance.

"I would not suggest that there may not be cases when funds granted to organisations are used unwisely or not wholly in accordance with the originally approved intentions," he said.

Mr Dexter's admission was contained in a statement tabled in the Senate today by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh.

In tabling the statement and other documents, Senator Cavanagh said that the Council for Aboriginal Affairs would be reviewed.

In future, all applications for loans, advances and grants to Aboriginal organisations would be screened by an all-party parliamentary standing committee.

Later, in the House of Representatives, the Minister for the Interior in the previous Government, Mr Hunt (C.P., N.S.W.) gave notice that he would call for a royal commission into the department and the council.

agh said he believed that there was extravagance in the administration of the turtle farm.

But the department still had full confidence in the project as a viable means of employing Torres Strait islanders.

*West Australian*  
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## ALLEGATIONS

Mr Dexter's statement, dated October 15, came after allegations by Senator Georges (Lab., Qld.) that Mr Dexter had deliberately frustrated the decisions of the former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Bryant.

Senator Georges said Mr Dexter had worked for, and succeeded in obtaining, Mr Bryant's removal.

He said that big sums of money had been misused by the department and cited the Torres Strait Island turtle farm project as an example.

He also alleged that the department had advanced money to the supervisor of the turtle farm, Dr R. Bustard, without proper supervision.

In his statement, Mr Dexter said that there was no truth in the allegations.

"I would maintain that I worked to the best of