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Hobart, Tas.

Pistol sequel

Aboriginal in Court

CANBERRA. — A 26-year-old aboriginal was yesterday placed on a good behaviour bond after he admitted going to the Aboriginal Affairs Department with a pistol on Thursday afternoon.

Robert Arthur John McLeod, of Scrivener St, O'Connor, pleaded guilty in the Canberra Court to a charge of being in possession of an unlicensed firearm.

The Court was told that McLeod went to the department with the pistol as a "political gesture."

Mr T. Higgins, for

McLeod said: "It was no joke. It was intended to have a serious political effect."

He said the act was a "charade of violence" to show the sort of thing that could happen unless aboriginal-aid programmes were not just talked about but were put into effect.

Mr Higgins said there was no evidence that the pistol was loaded or that people in the building were physically threatened.

The Magistrate (Mr Nicholl) placed McLeod on a \$50, 12-month good behaviour bond and ordered him to pay a \$40 penalty to the Commonwealth.

Giving evidence on McLeod's behalf, Mr Selwyn Hausman, a solicitor, who was with McLeod, said that no one in the department appeared to be "frightened" by McLeod's conduct.

Aboriginal public servant, Mr Charles Nelson Perkins, of Parkhill St, Pearce, said he had known McLeod over a period of time and that McLeod had become committed and more involved with the aboriginal cause.

Mr Perkins said that, like himself, McLeod was becoming "absolutely frustrated and was getting absolutely desperate."