

# Black, white inquiry clash

**REPEATED verbal clashes between a black woman and a Liberal Senator marked the first Brisbane hearing yesterday of the Senate Standing Committee on Social Environment.**

The clashes were between South Australian Senator Davidson and Brisbane woman, Miss Susan Chilly.

Committee chairman Senator Keefe (A.L.P., Qld.) twice had to call for 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 black people.

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

Senator Davidson: "You are the person who says she is an expert who has worked with aborigines. I want to know what you think should be done."

## History

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

"Right in the beginning at school 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."

Senator Davidson then asked her what she thought church missions had done for aborigines and what was their future role.

She said she could not say because she had not worked with a church mission, but she felt they could have done more.

## Liaison

Mrs. Olive Murphy, a member of the One People of Australia

League board, told the committee there was a great need for aboriginal liaison officers to work with their own people in settlements such as Cherbourg.

Mrs. Murphy was discussing a submission to the committee by Opal.

She said there was no use sending highly trained and highly paid white social workers to an aboriginal community if they were not accepted.

It would be better to send a less highly trained aborigine who could work with his own people.

"It is important to have aborigines in every job in these settlements to tell the kids that it is not the same when they get into the outside world," she said.

Opal executive officer (Mrs. Caroline Archer) said it was appalling that people needed permits to get on. Palm Island aboriginal settlement.

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

"It is like saying I have to get permission from the Lord Mayor if I want to return to Brisbane."