

# Minister blasted on Aborigines

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Senator Cavanagh) was arrogant and would not listen to reason, Mr. Jim Stanley said yesterday.

## Bid today to settle friction

Our Canberra Bureau

**CANBERRA** — Senator Cavanagh will meet senior National Aboriginal Congress officials this afternoon to try to settle differences.

The meeting will be in Senator Cavanagh's Parliament House office.

Government and Aboriginal sources said last night the talks would have an important bearing on the Government's relations with Aborigines.

The dispute has arisen over Senator Cavanagh's statement that he no longer has the power to pay the congress.

The congress will be represented today by the acting chairman (Mr. Eddie Bennell, 34, of Perth), the acting secretary (Mr. Phillip Hall, 25, of Sydney) and one of the nine elected "Ministers," Mr. Bruce McGuinness, 34, of Melbourne.

Mr. McGuinness was elected chairman for two years when the congress met on Monday, but on Friday he resigned so he could stand for election as a "minister."

Mr. Hall said last night Senator Cavanagh would be "very foolish" to stop the salaries of \$6,000 plus allowances of the group's 41 members.

Mr. McGuinness said on television last night that the congress represented the mood of the Aboriginal people, even if it did not represent all Aboriginal opinion.

He said he did not believe Senator Cavanagh would be able to replace the congress if it refused to revert to its advisory role.

"To me he does not have enough insight into Aboriginal problems and affairs," he said.

Mr. Stanley, 31, is one of four SA members of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee which is heading for a showdown with the Minister.

At a meeting in Canberra on Tuesday last week the NACC changed its name to the National Aboriginal Congress.

Senator Cavanagh stopped payment of salaries to the 41-member Aboriginal body because he said he had no authority to pay the body under its new name.

Mr. Stanley said the name-change decision had been a majority one.

"Our aims are to formulate and express national Aboriginal policy," he said.

"We are sick and tired of the way Aboriginal affairs have been run."

Mr. Stanley said the congress also was tired of the way reserves and missions were being administered.

It wanted members of the Government to consult Aboriginal people "more than they are doing now."

The congress wanted to go direct to the Minister to advise and not go through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

He said he thought Senator Cavanagh had not taken any notice of the NACC.

Government departments, individuals and politicians had not wanted the NACC to get off the ground.

Mr. Stanley said Senator Cavanagh did not know enough about Aboriginal problems because he was not "involved."

The other SA members of the congress are Mr. A. R. Aguis, of Hamley Bridge, Mr. G. L. Miller, of Port Lincoln, and Mr. I. Baker, of Amata Reserve in the North-West of the State.

They could not be contacted yesterday.



Mr. Stanley . . . Minister not "involved."