

CAVANAGH RELENTS

CANBERRA — The Aboriginal Affairs Minister (Senator Cavanagh) has asked for a review of Charles Perkins' suspension.

He made the request on Friday to his department's permanent head (Mr Barrie Dexter).

However, the order for a review must come from Mr Dexter, who was yesterday understood to be undecided on the matter.

Senator Cavanagh's surprise move follows Mr Perkins' successful efforts in disarming an aboriginal during a siege last Thursday.

The aboriginal and two others held four Aboriginal Affairs Department officers at gunpoint for an hour before Mr Perkins cooled the situation.

Senator Cavanagh yesterday praised Mr Perkins for his role on Thursday, describing his actions as "noble and courageous."

He made it clear this was an important factor behind his move for the review.

He described as "unfactual" a police report

to the Canberra Court of Petty Sessions on Friday which heard a charge against an aboriginal, Robert Arthur John McLeod, who was involved in the siege.

McLeod who was charged with illegal possession of a firearm, was fined \$40 and put on a 12-month good behavior bond.

Senator Cavanagh said the report concerned the state of a gun used in the siege.

"I doubt if the true position was put to the court," he said.

"The court was told the gun was not taken out of the defendant's pocket, which reports say is incorrect."

It is widely known that one of the hostages in the siege, the department's acting director (Mr Frank) made a deal with the aborigines that no charges would be laid by the department if the pistol was

unloaded.

Senator Cavanagh said Mr Perkins' actions were much more noble than the court decision would indicate.

His latest move is seen as an attempt to cool down the controversy surrounding Mr Perkins' suspension.

The Prime Minister (Mr Whitlam) has said Mr Perkins should not be dis-

ciplined if found guilty of improper conduct.

Senator Cavanagh said the decision concerning the review "was purely a matter for Mr Dexter."

He said relations between himself and Mr Perkins were not of high standing, but there was some understanding.

I am prepared to recognise something done when it is done to the

credit of the person concerned," he said.

Mr Perkins' case is to go before a Public Service tribunal.

His charge follows comments he made that the Liberal and Country Parties were the most racist in the world.

Yesterday he said he knew nothing of Senator Cavanagh's move to have his suspension reviewed.

Burnie Advocate
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