

# An angry young man fights for a nation

**Maori human rights leader Nathan Mihaka is a man with a chip on his shoulder.**

For a decade he has been writing, campaigning, lecturing and debating on behalf of the Aborigine of New Zealand.

He says his people represent only 10 per cent. of the population but provide more than half the inmates of New Zealand prisons.

"My people were once a proud race of seafaring people — now they have been reduced to domestic animals," Mr. Mihaka said.

For the past two months he has been touring Australia — researching a book which will compare the plight of his people with that of the Australian Aborigine.

Mr. Mihaka spoke at several colleges and universities and attended a conference on the "Aborigine and the Law" at Monash



Mr. Nathan Mihaka.

University and the Asian Students' Association conference in Melbourne.

Two days ago, he says he hit a fellow New Zealander at the Asian students' con-

ference and was voted out of the conference.

He lost the chance of having his passage paid back to New Zealand.

"I apologise for my action but I am not ashamed of what I did," he said.

"It showed the intensity of my feelings."

Now Mr. Mihaka is without enough money to fly home. But he may be saved by Victorian trade unionists.

Union leader George Crawford said many unionists were keen to help with personal donations.

"Many trade unions are also considering sponsoring a return lecture visit by Mr. Mihaka," Mr. Crawford said.

"There is a need for people like him to make us think — to challenge our ideas."