

# ANOTHER GIBE BY AN ABORIGINAL

**CANBERRA:** A second Aboriginal public servant has criticised a Federal Minister on Government policies affecting Aborigines.

The latest critic is Mr. Gordon Briscoe, a projects officer with the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

He accused the Federal Education Minister, Mr. Beazley, of having been irresponsible and not knowing the educational needs of Aborigines.

Speaking at an education forum at Monash University, Melbourne, Mr. Briscoe said education was essential for Aborigines living in a sophisticated and competitive environment.

"We can learn about the stars and other problems, but this does not put bread on the table," he said.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh, who is in Adelaide, is being sent a detailed report of Mr. Briscoe's remarks.

## PERKINS CASE

A spokesman for Senator Cavanagh said today it would be for the head of the Aboriginal Affairs Department, Mr. B. Dexter, to decide if action should be taken against Mr. Briscoe under the Public Service Act.

Mr. Dexter already is considering remarks made by another Aboriginal public servant, Mr. Charles Perkins.

Mr. Perkins may hear later today whether or not he is to be charged with a breach of the Public Service Act.

Officers in the Attorney-General's Department are studying the transcript of a TV interview given by Mr. Perkins in Perth this week, in which he said the Liberal-Country Parties were the most racist in the world.

The Attorney-General's Department will advise Mr. Dexter, whether or not it considers Mr. Perkins has breached the Act.

Mr. Dexter then will have to decide if he will charge Mr. Perkins. If he is charged and found guilty, he could be demoted, or dismissed from the Public Service.

Last night, Mr. Perkins submitted a written statement to Mr. Dexter explaining his statements.

He said today he had not apologised for the remarks, because he believed they could be substantiated. He did not believe his statement was a breach of the Act.

Last month, Mr. Perkins, who is a \$17,000 a year assistant secretary with the Aboriginal Af-

fairs Department, was let off with a warning by Mr. Dexter after he criticised Senator Cavanagh and the Minister for Northern Development, Dr. Patterson.

## 'ALCOHOLISM'

Answering Mr. Briscoe's criticism, Mr. Beazley said today that alcoholism was the real problem facing many Aboriginal families.

He said that in the Northern Territory Aborigines were being offered an education in their own languages, with their own art, music and culture, and with their own teachers.

"In the urban environment, every Aboriginal child at secondary level is eligible for grants from \$440 to \$1384 a year," he said.

"The Aboriginal of mixed descent, devoid of knowledge of his own language and knowledge of his own culture, is in essence an underprivileged European.

"These educational grants give them educational opportunities beyond those possessed by children of full European descent who may have the same problems of poverty."