

Suspension on Perkins could be off today

From **HUGH ARMFIELD**

CANBERRA. — The suspension order against Aboriginal leader Mr. Charles Perkins could be lifted today.

This follows Mr. Perkins' role in last week's drama when four senior officers of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs were held at pistol point.

Mr. Perkins, an assistant secretary in the department, persuaded a man involved in the incident to give himself up to police.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Senator Cavanagh) has asked the head of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Barrie Dexter) to review the suspension of Mr. Perkins.

Senator Cavanagh asked Mr. Dexter to take into account Mr. Perkins' "heroic and courageous action".

Senator Cavanagh's request could be the answer to Mr. Dexter's dilemma over the controversial suspension and charging of Mr. Perkins under the Public Service Act.

Mr. Dexter charged Mr. Perkins with improper conduct following comments Mr. Perkins made in Perth about the Liberal and Country parties being the biggest racist parties in the world.

On the day that Mr. Dexter laid the charge the Prime Minister attacked the decision.

He also made it clear that even if a Public Service board of inquiry found Mr. Perkins guilty, the Government would prevent any action being taken against him.

Senator Cavanagh's request for the situation to be reviewed could lead to the suspension being lifted.

Senator Cavanagh made his request to Mr. Dexter on Friday.

On Saturday, the Minister and his departmental head again discussed the situation.

Mr. Perkins has become a controversial figure because of his outspoken remarks about Aboriginal affairs.

Earlier this year, action was considered against Mr. Perkins, but rejected, because of a public attack he made against the Government's Aboriginal policy.

He was warned not to make any more statements on political matters.

When Mr. Perkins made his attack on the Liberal and Country Parties, Mr. Dexter decided he should be charged with improper conduct under the Public Service Act.

On Thursday, two days after being charged, Mr. Perkins came to be involved in the hold-up of another assistant secretary of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Frank Moy.

Three Aborigines, one armed with a pistol entered Mr. Moy's office and told him he was under arrest.

Mr. Perkins went into the office, calmed the men down and persuaded one man to give himself up to the police.