

'Black Parl't' in peace talks with minister

CANBERRA — The Aboriginal Affairs Minister (Senator Cavanagh) will meet senior officials of the "Black Parliament" this afternoon in a bid to settle differences.

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

Government and Aboriginal sources agreed last night that the talks would have an important bearing on the Government's future relations with Aborigines, following Senator Cavanagh's showdown with the National Aboriginal Congress.

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

Last week the group, which was formerly the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee, voted to change its name to ne congress.

It also changed its functions from that of an advisory body and called for complete control over the \$117 million budget allocation to the Aboriginal Affairs Department.

Senator Cavanagh is certain to argue strongly at today's meeting for the congress to return to its advisory role.

The congress will be represented at today's meeting by the acting chairman, Mr Bennell (34), of Perth, the acting secretary Mr P. Hall (25), of Sydney; and Mr E. Bennell (34), of Perth; the acting secretary, Mr P. Hall (25), of Sydney; and one of the nine elected "ministers," Mr B.

McGuinness (34), of Melbourne.

Mr McGuinness was elected chairman for a two-year term when the congress met last Monday, but on Friday he resigned as a matter of procedure so that he could stand for election as one of the "ministers."

Mr Hall said last night that Senator Cavanagh would be foolish to stop the \$6000 salaries plus allowances paid to the 41 members of the group.

"He does not have the interests of the Aboriginal people at heart if he does that," Mr Hall said.

Mood of people

Mr Hall said the group had decided to take a stand last week because all Aborigines ever seemed to be asked to do was to give advice and more advice.

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

"We stood for election," he said.

"People voted for us and we have the right to represent them."