

Bring Bryant back' — say Aborigines

Melbourne. — The National Aboriginal Consultative Committee may call for the reinstatement of former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Bryant.

On Friday, the committee called for the resignation of Senator Cavanagh, saying he was "ignorant of the plight of the Aboriginal people of Australia."

Mr. David Anderson, 26, the youngest Victorian on the 41-man committee, said Senator Cavanagh was unsuited for the portfolio.

"There is a better man than Senator Cavanagh for the job, and I am sure Senator Cavanagh would be better suited in another portfolio," he said.

"The Minister must be able to give the Aborigines his full-time dedication and concern.

"I believe Mr. Bryant has shown he can do this, and I am sure the rest of the body would share this inclination.

Mr. Bryant was removed from the portfolio last October, and his dismissal immediately brought protests from Aboriginal groups.

Canberra. — Senator Cavanagh last night blamed a power-fight among urban Aborigines for his showdown with the National Aboriginal Congress.

He accused those involved in the fight of using the body to further their own interests.

The dispute with Senator Cavanagh arose after the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee last week changed its name to the National Aboriginal Congress.

It also changed its function from that of an advisory body to one involving a much more direct say in the handling of Aboriginal affairs.

On Friday night, Senator Cavanagh said he would stop the payment of salaries to the 41-member body.

This was because he only had authority from Cabinet to pay a body known as the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee, not one

known as the National Aboriginal Congress.

The members receive \$6000 each a year plus allowances.

Senator Cavanagh said from his Adelaide home last night, he believed the pay would stop from last Friday.

However, he has ordered his Department to check to-day with Treasury officials on the position.

He said the urban Aborigines had used the NACC in their power-fight.

It was not the body's function to tell the Minister what to do, but to advise him.

"If I can persuade them to give this away, we will get on all right," he said.

"They have got a false idea that popularity comes from condemning the Minister, the Department, and the Government."

Senator Cavanagh said he had received 'phone calls from "several" members of the Congress over the week-end supporting his stand.

He also had received calls giving support from Aboriginal organisations.

He accused the body of never having fulfilled its

role of an advisory committee.

"On no occasion have they given any advice to the Minister at all," Senator Cavanagh said.

He added: "The Congress will not continue on in its present role."

The Victorian - based group, Aboriginal Action, has sent a protest telegram to the Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, over the stoppages of pay to 41 members of the "Aboriginal Parliament".

The telegram was also sent to Senator Cavanagh, who announced the pay cut on Friday.

Dr. J. Camilleri, convener of Aboriginal Action, said yesterday the protest telegram "deplored Senator Cavanagh's insensitivity in suspending the NACC."

"Dismissing representative Aboriginal opinion will inflame serious situation. Regardless of merit NACC demands principle of consultation which Government and Opposition accept must be upheld and dialogue restored," the telegram read.

"Even if Senator Cavanagh were entitled to do what he has done, he shouldn't have done it," Dr. Camilleri said yesterday. — AUP.