

# Cavanagh to meet Aborigine leaders

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

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

Government and Aborigine sources agreed last night that the talks would have an important bearing on the Government's future relations, 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 the 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.

The congress will be represented at to-day's meeting by the acting

chairman, Mr. Eddie Ben-nell, 34 of Perth, the acting secretary. Mr. Phillip Hall, 25, of Sydney, and one of the nine elected "ministers," Mr. Bruce McGuinness, 34 of Melbourne.

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

"He has not got the interests of the Aborigine people at heart if he does that," Mr. Hall said.

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 Aborigine people, even if it did not represent all Aborigine opinion — AUP.