YOU ARE RACISTS: VISITOR

by JO AFFLECK

"Australia is worse than 19th Century America in its attitude towards Aborigines."

This was the verdict yesterday by Miss Janer McCloud, one of the advisers to the Native American Rights Fund.

Miss McCloud, an American Indian from the Tolalip tribe in Washington, was in Perth this week as part of an Australian tour organised by the Australian Union of Students race relations section.

While here she visited Pinjarra to inspect some of the native reserves there.

Miss McCloud said that Australia faced an explosive future with the Aborigines unless a drastic revision of attitude occurred.

"Australians don't even want to know about the Aboriginal," she said.

"Racism and apathy exist in every policy."

Miss McCloud said Aborigines should be allowed the freedom of choice to maintain tribal identity.

She said one of the major factors the American Indians had to fight was corruption within government.

Australians should also start asking whether the money reported to be spent on Aborigines was actually being spent on them.

The two other major problems had been the missionaries and the anthropologists.

"God save us from both of them. We got rid of them as soon as possible from the reserves," she said.

JANER McCloud speaks out in Perth yesterday