

Demonstrators at Redfern hearing

More than 50 people demonstrated in support of the Aboriginal activist, Dennis Walker, outside Redfern Court of Petty Sessions yesterday.

Walker, 29, a field officer, of Botany Street, Redfern, appeared before Mr C. R. Briese, SM, charged with demanding money with menaces in Brisbane on August 6 this year.

Mr Briese said the magistrate, Mr Featherstone, who heard proceedings earlier, had been admitted to hospital this week for a serious operation.

Mr Featherstone would be unable to hear the proceedings for some time and the case would be dealt with by another magistrate.

They demanded that charges against him being

heard in the court be dropped and that extradition proceedings to send Walker to Queensland for a hearing be dismissed.

Mr Bruce Miles, for Walker, said the length of the case would depend on the ruling of the court and the admissibility of evidence.

"We have claimed it would be oppressive to send the defendant back (to Queensland), and we would endeavour to show that the State of Queensland has a particular bias against the Aboriginal people.

"This state of bias could run through the proceedings and a jury could hold that bias."

Mr Briese adjourned the case to a date to be fixed to Central Court of Petty Sessions.

Bail was allowed.