

ABORIGINALS 'IN POWER FIGHT'

CANBERRA. — The Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Senator Cavanagh, last night blamed a power fight among city aboriginals 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 arose after the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee last week changed its name to the National Aboriginal Congress.

The 41 members of the committee were elected last November in a national poll of aboriginals.

They were dubbed the "aboriginal parliament."

They got \$6000 a year each plus allowances.

On Friday night Senator Cavanagh told The Sun he would stop the pay of the 41.

Group changed

He said this was because he had authority from Cabinet to pay only a body known as the Consultative Committee, not the congress.

The group also changed from being an advisory body.

The group called for direct control of the \$117 million Federal Government allocation for aboriginals.

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

He has told his department to check today with Treasury officials on the position.

"The group have a false idea that popularity comes from condemning the Minister the depart-

ment and the Government," he said.

"However, if I can persuade them to give this away, we will get on all right."

The congress chairman, Mr Bruce McGuinness will fly to Canberra today for talks with the Aboriginal Affairs Department.

Mr David Anderson, 26, the youngest Victorian member of the congress, said last night Mr Gordon Bryant should replace Senator Cavanagh in the portfolio.

Mr Anderson said his criticism of Senator Cavanagh was not personal.

"He has personally helped me and helped my mother," he said.

Mr Anderson said the body had the right to call for control over the aboriginal allocation and to change its name.

"On April 6 and 7, 1971, the present Prime Minister said one of the main objects of his party was to restore self-determination to aboriginals," he said.