Aborigines are not worth award wages says QC

Northern Territory Aboriginal station hands were "just not worth an award wage", Mr J. R. Kerr, QC, said in Sydney yesterday. Mr Kerr, representing the Northern Territory Cattle Producers' Council, was addressing the Full Bench of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

He was opposing an application by the Northern Australian Workers' Union for the inclusion of Aborigines in the Cattle Station Industry, Northern Territory, Award.

He said if they were included in the award many Aborigines would lose their jobs on the stations. Others would be employed only for seasonal requirements instead of full-time.

The loss of jobs would not be because of vindictiveness or spite, but simply because of economic considerations. They would have to be replaced with white labor, which had a greater reliability and wider usefulness.

In many cases it could lead to the uprooting of whole communities from their traditional homes.

Mr Kerr said a premature advance of Aborigines' wages to award standard would greatly limit their future.

There was no racial discrimination by the property owners; it was made purely in business terms.

There had been a great deal of uninformed discussion that the award case involved racial issues, and the removal of racial discrimination.

EQUAL COMPETITION

These suggestions were an insult to the enlightened and liberal judgments of the former Arbitration Court.

The court recognised over the years, that at their stage of cultural assimilation, Aborigines needed special protection on the work market.

The reasons for excluding them from the award were based on a concept of work value.

The worst that could happen to Aborigines, if they were included in the award, was that they would expose themselves to equal competition with white labor.

But, because of their tribal backgrounds there could be no change in their attitude or capacity for work in the next five years.

If the commission decided that some action was necessary, his clients offered payment of award wages to anyone who could carry out the full range of duties for which he was employed, without consistent supervision.

Not too many Aborigines would qualify.

MAN REFUSES AID – DROWNS IN HIS CAR

The driver of a utility that crashed into the Swan River, Perth, and slowly sank, made no effort to escape or to accept help, the City Coroner was told yesterday.

Mr W. G. Wickens was inquiring into the death by drowning of Giuseppe Salvatore Castagnolo, 33, of Carmel, on Tuesday.

John Baker, 24, a Wembley carpenter, said he swam out to the utility, which was half submerged about 20 yards from the shore.

He saw the driver sitting on the passenger's side with a packet of cigarettes. He appeared normal, except for blood on his face. But his eyes were "strange" and there was an anxious look on his face.

BLOOD ON FACE

The driver made no effort to get out. Baker asked him "are you all right?" then, considering the blood on his face, he said, "You'll be all right."

The driver shouted, "You're all wrong!", and some incoherent words.

A youth joined Baker but the driver still made no effort to get out.

Eventually the utility sank completely into the muddy water.

The utility and the dead driver were found by police skindivers.

Earlier, the coroner was told, the utility had hit a tree in Riverside Drive, then careered down an embankment into the river.

The inquest was adjourned.

Reward fund to fight crime wave

"Darwin businessmen are setting up a "fighting fund" of reward money aimed at reducing a spate of break, enter and steal cases.

The Darwin Chamber of Commerce began the fund after dozens of business premises in Darwin were robbed in recent months.

Rewards will go to people giving information leading to a conviction.

"We are more than disturbed at the trends," the chairman of the Chamber, Mr Ian McGregor, said today.

'DETERMINED'

Many cases have been solved and convictions won, but many remain unsolved, with hard-pressed CIB men on the job constantly.

Many Darwin premises are easy to enter because of their louvres.

It is known the CIB is harrassed by signs that some recent jobs were the work of professional thieves.

This week, thieves entered Darwin Bowling Club and stole £300 from the safe in a style described by a senior officer as "the handiwork of an expert."

A few weeks ago the Casuarina shopping centre was broken into and thieves took away a big safe containing £100.

In recent weeks also, a thief bashed through the canelle wall of a cafe to get at a jewellers shop, where he stole £900 worth of watches and jewellery.

Shooting acquittal

A Victorian Criminal Court jury acquitted a Yugoslav migrant, Joseph Orec, 28, of having wounded a fellow Croat migrant, Ambrose Andric with intent to murder.

The jury also acquitted Orec on charges of having wounded Andric with intent to cause grievous bodily harm or unlawful wounding. The Crown alleged Orec had fired shots at Andric in a North Melbourne Street on March 23. Orec said Andric had chased him with a knife.

STRIP-TEASE SHOW GOES

A Kings Cross strip-tease club yesterday lost an appeal against the Sydney City Council's refusal to licence it.

The Land and Valuation Court dismissed the appeal by Abbey Investments Pty Ltd, owners of the Staccato Club, in Orwell Street.

Permission was given to use the ground floor as a breakfast and dining room.

Mr Justice Hardie said the premises were being used for a night club floor show in which a number of young women danced and undressed to musical accompaniment.

He was satisfied activities in the premises had been a source of considerable disturbance, annoyance and distress to many local residents.

It was evident that many men left the premises "in a state of excitement and exhilaration."

£500,000 UNSECURED DEPOSIT NOTES

8% P.A.

FIXED TERMS 5, 6 OR 7 YEARS

The general nature of the business is the conduct of subsidiaries in the fields of: TRANSPORTATION of passengers and freight by air and road. TOURISM through hotels, motels and island resorts. MANUFACTURING of building, transport and electronic equipment and precision instruments. TELEVISION Channel 0, Melbourne.

7½% P.A. FIXED TERMS 3 OR 4 YEARS

ANSETT

TRANSPORT INDUSTRIES LIMITED

SM dies at 31

The funeral of Mr Neil D. McCarthy, SM, will take place at Adelaide's Centennial Park cemetery today.

Mr McCarthy, who, at 31, was the second youngest magistrate ever appointed in South Australia only a year ago, died at his home in Dulwich on Wednesday.

He had been ill for several months.

LOAN POLICY HITS FARMS

The trading banks will have to reduce overdrafts to industry if they are to go on advancing money to drought-stricken farmers under the present Reserve Bank lending restrictions.

The chairman of the Australian Bankers' Association, Mr H. McE. Scambler, said this in Melbourne yesterday.

He welcomed a statement by the acting Prime Minister, Mr John McEwen, on Wednesday that the Federal Cabinet had considered the question of whether the Reserve Bank policy was hindering credit for farmers and pastoralists in drought areas.

"The trading banks have been aware of the circumstances that the Treasury had been in close and frequent consultation with the Reserve Bank on this subject."

The Government and the Treasury, he added, appreciated the understanding and attention given to the problem by the Reserve Bank.

SPECIAL CASE

After a meeting of the Federal Cabinet on Wednesday Mr McEwen said the bank's policies were inhibiting the financing of farmers in drought areas.

In SYDNEY last night, Mr A. R. Johnston, general secretary of the United Farmers and Woolgrowers Association

NAVY WIFE MEETS NEW SISTERS

PATRICIA PEARCE, 19, the American bride of an Australian sailor, meets her sisters-in-law, Kerry Pearce (left), 11, and Lynette, 9. Patricia flew into Sydney yesterday with 80 wives and children of R.A.N. personnel now in the U.S. for the commissioning of HMAS Perth this month. She met her husband, Able Seaman John Pearce, 19, while she was serving in the WAVES. They married after six weeks' courtship.

LABOR MODERATES CLAIM LEFT IS ON THE RUN

By ROBERT DANIEL

Moderate delegates to the ALP's Federal conference in Sydney next month believe they have the extreme leftists in the party on the defensive.

It was learned in Sydney yesterday that opposition to the Victorian ALP executive is growing at such a pace that the party's controlling body in that State is more isolated than at any time in its history.

Moderates point out that the formation in Victoria of anti-executive bodies within the Victorian ALP is not a threat to the party's Federal structure but only to the State executive.

Moves are likely to be made at the August conference to consider arguments from a non-official moderate Victorian delegation.

The ALP's constitution does not allow non-official State delegations to represent their State officially but if the Victorial rebels succeed in sending a representative delegation to Sydney, strong moves will be made to give them a hearing on a non official level.

Some conference delegates said yesterday they are under mounting pressure to act against Victoria.

It is understood that at least one former member of the Victorian executive is giving tacit support to the formation of an alternative Victorian voter.

Although the official Victorian delegation, to be led by Mr Arthur Calwell, the Federal Labor leader is committed officially to urge the adoption of Federal rules banning unity tickets, one motion may not press for a conference decision.

Move to ban magazine

Moves will be made to ban a new West Australian satirical magazine which contains satirical references to Aborigines, Italians and Jews. The publication, Grot, reproduces a painting removed from show on police orders.

It is published by an independent group including people connected with the West Australian University, the Festival of Perth and the ABC.

The president of the Perth Italo-Australia Welfare Centre, Mr Jim Martino, said yesterday he would seek legal advice on getting the magazine banned.

The Native Welfare Minister, Mr E. H. Lewis, said: "If the lines referring to natives are intended to raise a laugh, they are in shockingly bad taste."

A leader of the Jewish community said the magazine was the work of an immature minority seeking to gain notoriety by becoming offensive.

Cows on line derail train

A herd of cows derailed a rail motor on a level crossing at Lilydale, 18 miles east of Melbourne, yesterday.

Five of the cows were killed and two others were later destroyed but the only rail passenger was not hurt.

Patrick M

at ren

HONE

OVE

RICH T

Wealthy tenants rent-controlled ho in NSW are belie certain to lose the p tection they enjoy in an overhaul of Landlord and Ten Act.

The Minister of Ju Mr J. C. Maddison, is reviewing the Ac also considering abo of a 1964 amend which places the onu landlords to find alt tive accommodation they wish to evict.

If this amendment repealed, future ev cases would be de by the courts on the tion of hardship.

These are just tw many likely chang the Act, which is a work of political thoughts, a bonanz lawyers and a con headache for parlia ary draughtsmen.

Since its introduct 1948, there has be Royal Commission a least 12 subs amendments.

This time the rev being undertaken b Liberal-Country Government, not th Labor Administrati

ELECTION PLED

When the revi complete, a further of amendments c expected, designed duce anomalies a move injustices.

Labor found it ally prudent not to too much with the of tenants and Mr Askin, when Lea the Opposition, pai ly for his pledge 1962 elections to i rents of controlled ises.

Politically, th no major changes expected for the the State's 120,00 rolled premises.

Mr Askin was to the premiership pledge of no incre