The name game

The contents of the Stud Book reveal that it is not consistent with the stated policy of the government of assailing Aboriginals on a basis of social and economic equality. It sets out the "European" name, tribal personal name, group, tribe, sex, year of birth, and the sub-district to which each "European name" is linked. Of the names appearing on this list, approximately 3,000 have no "European" names. Some 500 (6 per cent of the "European" names given to the Aboriginals are objectionable in a high degree. One finds that of 7 per cent of them have registered "European" names which refer to a disability or an illness such as, Blind Nelly, Ruby Wise, Hunstwick Billy. Of these, the most disgusting surely must be Ruby Wise. Ruby Wise is a chronic disease caused by the organisation which perpetuates it; and, although it is a reminder for many people do confuse it with syphilis. Another 1/4 of the registered names are names of animals (for example, Tugit, Dogel, Dene- key). Many of the names are to do with food or drink (such as, Whisky, and Onook). Other names that appear are Hitler, Sticker-a-light, Spider, Killer, 40,000 Male, Bags, Spoomucks, etc. Sir Robert Menzies, our Prime Minister, is known to ordain the U.S. term "spook." We in Australia are free to choose our own nickname. But if his nickname is used in any official government document, then there would be a good chance that quite rightly so that the officer responsible for this would be removed from his post and a liberal action instituted overnight.

But it is tolerated in the case of 250 Aboriginals.

The administration maintains that these names had been retained simply as a means of identification. This argument is out of keeping with the seriousness of the crimes. Figure thousand out of the 18,000 have managed to survive without European identification. In the study book, under the title "Incorporated—North-West District," are listed 406 names. The following names appear and their frequency of occurrence is listed:

Bono (13), George (13), Judy (10), Maggie (10), Mary (10), Nancy (10), Ruby (20), Jimmy (20), Jim (10), Lilly (10), Paddy (10), Terry (10), and 200 of the total. Eighteen names "identity" 30 per cent. The following entries in this area:

The government and used their own tribal names, groups and tribes, the result would not have been so elevated but also more distinguishing.

The European name or nickname is used to determine the alphabetical order on this list in the study book. Robert Tugit is the name that appears on page 126. He is the 55th on the page, and is listed in the Hs. His European name then in the form of surname of Wilson's doesn't even have his tribal name of Tugit.