

# Aboriginal leaders want swift Federal action

## HOW THEY VOTED

### PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

STATE	YES	NO	INFORMAL	TOTAL	NO vote percentage
NSW	966,310	944,690	32,274	1,963,274	48.12
VIC	457,484	1,041,807	26,461	1,519,754	68.25
QLD	300,686	419,122	8,344	728,152	55.23
SA	172,705	338,961	10,963	522,569	64.86
WA	101,443	252,019	9,770	363,232	69.28
TAS	33,446	133,889	3,436	176,971	75.66
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,067,474</b>	<b>3,136,488</b>	<b>85,990</b>	<b>5,300,952</b>	<b>69.02</b>

### ABORIGINAL QUESTION

STATE	YES	NO	INFORMAL	TOTAL	YES vote percentage
NSW	1,763,883	166,670	33,321	1,963,274	89.84
VIC	1,421,074	79,470	19,210	1,519,754	93.51
QLD	670,508	78,911	8,543	758,152	88.45
SA	441,132	69,949	11,488	522,569	84.42
WA	285,898	67,463	9,811	363,232	78.71
TAS	156,116	17,128	3,727	176,971	88.22
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,738,701</b>	<b>478,931</b>	<b>86,320</b>	<b>5,300,952</b>	<b>89.24</b>

Federal and State ministers in charge of Aboriginal affairs will meet in Perth in July to discuss a co-ordinated programme.

Mr G. M. Bryant, MP (A.L.P., Vic) will ask the Federal Government to form a select committee of Parliament to examine the Aboriginal question.

These moves followed the overwhelming Yes vote on the Aboriginal question in Saturday's referendum.

Elections in all States voted for the constitutional amendment on Aboriginals — the heaviest majority ever recorded in an Australian referendum.

The general secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, Mr S. Davey, yesterday put forward a comprehensive four-point policy plan:

**ESTABLISH** a national policy on Aboriginal affairs.

**APPOINT** a survey team of experts to enquire into Aboriginal affairs throughout the Commonwealth.

**CREATE** a national authority involving all State Aboriginal authorities.

**ESTABLISH** a national foundation similar to that for the Macclesfield in New Zealand.

Mr Davey also urged that a national arts and crafts board be set up to encourage and promote the work of Aboriginal artists and craftsmen.

Mr Bryant, who is acting vice-president of the FCAATSI, said it was essential that the Commonwealth take immediate action, particularly in Aboriginal housing.

He said that thousands of Aborigines were living in squalid conditions.

The Commonwealth Government should make provision for them in the next Budget.

"Since 1917, laws and ordinances in all States and territories have been changed," he said.

"The result has been the greater alienation of the Aborigine from the Commonwealth citizen, has been enormous."

"Legal changes must be immediately accompanied by an attack upon the material conditions of the Aboriginal people."

### MACHINES DEBAT

The NEW secretary of the FCAATSI, Mrs Jack Hamilton, said it is debatable but right that the Aborigine would ask the Federal Government for major allocations for housing for Aborigines.

"We have proposals to put to the Government," she said.

"But we would like to see them do something on their own."

"The Government has to realise that the overwhelming Yes vote means that the people of Australia have told them to get on and do the job."

The deputy leader of the Democratic Labor Party, Kenneth F. P. McMahon (Vic), said yesterday that he did not think the House of Representatives would now be enlarged for some years.

## Teaching reform sought

A new report on education of Aborigines was the act in the line for their long-term education and integration.

The report, the findings of a two-year survey, urged all States to adopt national programmes of education through set to speed integration.

It attacks present education programmes being handed to Aboriginal children, particularly in the north and west of Australia. Most of the programmes are narrow, superficial and designed primarily for backward white children, the report states.

The survey, prepared by a national team of education experts in Western Australia, was ordered at the request of the Australian Society for Education through Art in Melbourne.

## Prime Minister gets his first severe rebuff

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The increased powers now given the Federal Government would allow it to ensure justice and social acceptance for the Aboriginal people, Mr Holt said.

Mr Whitlam also welcomed the big Yes vote on the Aboriginal question, but he, too, attacked rejection of the nexus proposal as a victory for prejudice.

For Mr Holt, the defeat is his first severe rebuff at the polls since he came to office as Prime Minister 16 months ago.

He must also bear the responsibility for allowing the Yes campaign, which was supported by all three major parties, to be negated by the handful of 10 senators, led by Senator V. C. Gair, Federal leader of the DLP, who waged the No case.

It was a case of an apathetic Goliath being demolished by a David armed not with a slingshot but a highly effective stream of emotional propaganda.

Approval of the Aboriginal proposal marks only the fifth time in 66 years that the Australian people have supported an amendment to the Constitution.

On the other hand, rejection of the nexus proposal is the 21st time that a proposed amendment has been defeated by the electorate.

### DISCRIMINATION SEEN

A majority of votes as well as a majority of the States was needed to approve both questions.

Voting trends on the Aboriginal issue clearly showed that a certain amount of discrimination exists in those States where the Aboriginal population is largest.

In the eastern States, the Yes vote increased as it moved further south—Queensland 83.45 per cent, NSW 83.84 per cent and Victoria 82.51 per cent, the highest recorded in any State.

Tasmania, which in 24 previous referenda has 18 times said No, cracked up a surprisingly big Yes vote of 88.22 per cent.

Counting of votes on the nexus proposal on Saturday night indicated that in NSW the Yes case was supported evenly in all parts of the State.

The margin in favor of a Yes vote increased steadily from about 25,000 as voting in the Sydney area was counted to a peak of 33,806 at 11 o'clock as returns from rural areas began to flow in.

In all the other States, the Yes vote never looked likely to gain a majority, and as counting went on the margin between the two only grew larger.

Only those political leaders with constituencies in NSW had the satisfaction of seeing their own electorates return Yes majorities on the nexus proposal.

In Werris, Mr Whitlam's seat in Sydney's western suburbs, 41,213 voters said Yes to 33,282 No votes.

This was a slightly better margin than gained by the Federal Treasurer, Mr McMahon, who in the deputy Federal leader of the Liberal Party.

Mr McMahon's inner Sydney electorates of Love returned 18,016 Yes votes to 14,919 No votes.

Mr Holt saw his constituents in Higgins, Melbourne, chalk up 23,933 No votes to only 13,321 Yes votes—a humiliating result for the Prime Minister.

WHEN THE VOTES COUNTED—PAGE 4; WHEN THE TALKING BEGAN—PAGE 5

## NZ GETS READY FOR HOTEL POLL

WELLINGTON, N.Z. SUNDAY

The New Zealand House of Representatives today voted to allow the Government to introduce a referendum on the sale of alcohol in hotels.

The Government has introduced two bills to clear the way for a referendum on these issues in October or November.

The sale of liquor poll will provide for the following ballot papers a vote for the present 6 per cent, a vote for closing a vote for closing it in one with no conversion in total weekly hours and with an evening meal lock.

### LITTLE TIME

The electoral bill will set out the voting paper a vote for a referendum on these issues as present a vote for a referendum of four years.

The three-year parliamentary term has become a problem because it allows little time to formulate sound economic policy before preparing bills for the next election.

## CHANGE OFF FOR YEARS, SAYS McMANUS

### McMANUS

The Deputy Leader of the Democratic Labor Party, Senator F. P. McMahon (Vic), said yesterday that the House of Representatives would not be enlarged for years.

The DLP was the only party which campaigned for a No vote.

He said "The question for Mr Holt and Mr Whitlam are those:

"DO THEY accept the people's decision?"

"WILL THEY give up all talk of increasing the numbers of Parliament?"

"WILL THEY put through the redistribution which is years overdue?"

### REGULAR

The leader of the DLP, Senator V. C. Gair (Qld), said in Brisbane:

"The abolition was inspired by party political differences over re-distribution."

"It was designed to facilitate regular increases in the number of members of the House of Representatives."

"The Australian voter has indicated that he does not want an increase."

The Leader of the Government in the Senate, Senator H. H. D. Mervin (Tas), said that he did not know whether any further moves would be made to break the rule. He said the Senate and the House of Representatives.