

W.A. POLICE BRUTALITY AGAINST BLACKS CLAIMED

PERTH: Brutality towards Aborigines by racist white police in West Australia has again raised its ugly head.

In the latest incidents at Laverton, police made over 70 arrests of Aborigines during the weekend of January 4 and 5.

Though most charges were dropped after the intervention of the Aboriginal Legal Service, the nature of the arrests and the brutal behaviour of the police has provoked great anger in the Aboriginal community.

Men and women were pushed, punched and kicked before being thrown into paddy waggons, and tea, flour and sugar bags were ripped open and their contents spilled. Three men received medical attention.

Most of those arrested were on a seasonal migration from the Western Desert to Wilund for traditional tribal ceremonies. Police were quick to claim, falsely, that hunting weapons found on some Aborigines were the cause of the confrontation.

Of the lock-up at Laverton where the arrested Aborigines were kept the Laverton Shire President recently remarked, "If I was arrested and placed in that place I am afraid I would resist. It is only fit for animals."