

PICKETED OFFER DRINKS TO PICKETS



Police Report on Allegations Over Bus Crash

Police have made a report on allegations that a bus carrying Sydney University students crashed near Walgett on Monday night after a truck overtook it.

The students earlier in the day had taken part in demonstrations against racial discrimination.

In Sydney yesterday, the Premier, Mr Renshaw, in his electorate of Castlereagh Walgett is situated, said that there was no discrimination in Walgett on the ground of colour—on on behaviour.

This discrimination applied equally to white people as to Aborigines, he said.

Walgett police investigated the allegations yesterday and questioned a 22-year-old man.

The officer in charge of Walgett police, Sergeant H. J. Gleeson, said a report had been sent to the Police Traffic Superintendent, Superintendent A. J. McCloskey.

Mr McCloskey will decide whether the man will be summonsed for a breach of the Motor Traffic Act.

Surveying Conditions

The students are members of the Student Action for Aborigines Council and are making a survey of conditions affecting aborigines in north-western and northern towns of the State.

On Monday they demonstrated before the R.S.L. and a frock shop in Walgett and became involved in a number of angry scenes.

At 9 p.m. the local Church of England Council gave them one hour to leave a church hall where they had stayed on Sunday night.

A "Herald" reporter who is travelling with the students said the students left Walgett in their bus after being asked to vacate the hall.

The truck had appeared about three miles out of town, overtaken the bus, allowed it to pass and then overtaken the bus again.

The bus ran off the road.

The Rev. T. D. Noffs, pastor of the Methodist Church Wayside Chapel at King's Cross, said yesterday he had talked with the student leader, Mr Charles Perkins, a 29-year-old part-aboriginal, about the incident.

Mr Noffs said he had given the students advice before they left, at their request, about how to conduct a social survey on their tour.

Mr Noffs said that apart from the bus incident, "the trip has otherwise been quite successful."

"The students have carried out their survey at Orange, Wellington, Dubbo, Gilgandra and Gulargam-

bone without any incident of any kind," he said.

Inspector J. Chalker, in charge of the Bourke district, said in Bourke last night that he was present in Walgett during the student demonstrations, but had seen no disturbances.

Apart from one or two "verbal clashes" the town had been quiet.

Sergeant Gleeson said Inspector Chalker and Sergeant R. Glendenning, from Bourke, had accompanied Walgett's four police in attending the demonstrations.

Questions For Renshaw

The students had behaved well and no complaints had been made to the police.

The minister of St. Peter's Church of England, Walgett, the Rev. John Dowe,

who is chairman of the church council, said he could not make any statement when asked why the students had been asked to leave the church hall.

Mr Renshaw was asked about the Walgett disturbances at his Press conference yesterday.

He said he had spoken to a very reliable person in Walgett who had done more to assist aborigines than anyone else in the north-west.

He said: "I am informed that what took place was more or less in the nature of good, light banter between the two groups."

"Some speeches were made at lunchtime, and subsequently some of the students were playing basketball and some were swimming in the swimming pool."

TOP: A line of placard-carrying students picket an R.S.L. club in Walgett on Monday demanding no discrimination against aborigines. They picketed the club for seven hours. ABOVE: Members of the R.S.L. club carry cases of soft drink which they offered to the students.