

# Tension Grows at Moree Over Baths Ban on Aborigines

From A Special Reporter

**MOREE, Friday.**—Large groups of aboriginal children demonstrated at Moree municipal swimming pool tonight for the second consecutive night in a campaign against racial discrimination at the pool.

Meanwhile, members of the Student Action for Aborigines Council, abandoned their scheduled tour and headed their bus back from Tenterfield to Moree this afternoon after hearing reports that the aborigines were banned from the pool.

The Mayor of Moree, Alderman W. Lloyd, warned that the Sydney students' return would have "a very bad effect" and said, "Matters almost snowballed into outright hostility yesterday."

Reports from parties on both sides of the segregation issue confirmed that aborigines were protesting against the ban.

The demonstrations take the form of the children persistently trying to gain admission to the baths.

Tonight, 14 parents of children refused admission attended while the children again tried to go in.

Baths officials refused to give the parents any reason for refusing the children admission.

Last night, about 30 aboriginal children were refused admittance to the pool and another 40 were refused late this afternoon and this evening.

Mr Bob Brown, Moree-born, an ex-alderman and a businessman in the town, who is taking an active part in the aboriginal resistance to the ban, said there had been no incidents.

The officer in charge of Moree police, Inspector T. Stehr, said tonight, when asked about the demonstrations, "Nothing has come under our notice."

## "Some Did Not Have Costumes"

On Wednesday, after a 15-minute demonstration by student members of the touring party, about 30 aboriginal children were allowed to enter the pool.

A "Herald" reporter travelling with the students today questioned the manager of the pool, Mr Don Ford, about reports of the imposition of the ban.

Mr Ford said he had admitted about 25 aboriginal

children, who arrived in twos and threes, after school yesterday. Shortly after, a white resident had brought another 30 aboriginal children to the pool in a group.

"Some of them did not even have swimming costumes," Mr Ford said.

"The situation was ridiculous and I refused to be intimidated."

Mr Ford said he had closed the baths between 5.30 and 7 o'clock last night

"because the pool is limited to 300 people and there were already too many inside."

Normal closing time is 8.30 p.m. Soon after 7 p.m. Alderman Lloyd arrived at the pool.

He said today: "There were about 100 people, mostly aborigines, standing about outside the pool. They were milling about and several nasty arguments had broken out."

## Police "Had to be Called"

"It looked like developing into an ugly situation and the police had to be called."

A local constable had twice broken up groups of bystanders.

"This is the sort of thing that will divide families," Alderman Lloyd said. "I would not be surprised if anything happened now."

Alderman Lloyd said he had instructed Mr Ford to enforce any resolution relating to the pool which was still on the council books.

The standing resolutions were passed in 1955 and 1961.

The 1955 resolution stated that no aboriginal or person having an admixture of aboriginal blood should use, occupy or be present upon the area known as the Bore Baths or any associated facilities.

A similar resolution covers the Memorial Hall.

An amendment passed in 1961 allows aboriginal children to use the swimming pool for Wednesday afternoon sport or "on special occasions such as carnivals and training sessions."



Mr Charles Perkins arriving at Kingsford Smith Airport yesterday.