

# Aboriginal Freed Of Insult Charge

Mr J. Scott, S.M., in Newtown Court of Petty Sessions yesterday dismissed a charge against an aboriginal of having used insulting words to a detective at Newtown police station.

The aboriginal is Kenneth Brindle, 30, labourer, of Caroline Street, Redfern.

He pleaded not guilty to a charge of having used insulting words to Detective-Constable R. Armour on June 4.

At an earlier hearing, Brindle alleged that Detective Armour assaulted him and charged him with an offence he did not commit.

Brindle alleged that the

assault occurred after he inquired at Newtown police station about the fatal shooting of an aboriginal and the arrest of two others at St. Peters railway station the previous night.

Brindle said he told Detective Armour that the shooting of the aboriginal seemed "pretty drastic."

He alleged Detective Armour replied: "Look, don't think you can come here and paint those abo-

rigines lilywhite because I know the abos, around this area. They are a pack of no-hopers."

Brindle said he told Detective Armour he did not go to the police station to hear a biased opinion of aborigines.

He said Detective Armour then said: "Oh, a cheeky black —," and punched him on the jaw.

Detective Armour denied that he assaulted Brindle or used insulting words to him.

Brindle used insulting words when they went outside the detectives' room, Detective Armour said.

Mr Scott, in giving his decision, said: "The main issue in the case is whether the insulting words were used by Brindle.

"Although this is only a minor charge, it is no less important than any other case which has come before me."

Mr Scott said he found some reasonable doubt on whether Brindle had used insulting words to Detective Armour.

"Therefore the benefit of this doubt must go to the defendant," he said.

After the hearing, the secretary of the Council for Civil Liberties, Mr K. Buckley, said Mr Brindle's defence had been financed by the council.

SMH 22nd March 1964