

Black power saluted



FOUR OF the Aboriginals who were remanded yesterday give the black power salute outside the court. From left: Dennis Walker, Donald Brady, Samuel Watson, and Malcolm Geia.

ABORIGINALS gave black power salutes outside the magistrates court in Brisbane yesterday after they had been remanded to December 8 on assault charges.

The charges arose out of a protest march on Tuesday against the new Aboriginal and Island Affairs Act which has passed its first reading in the Queensland Parliament.

After the hearing, the accused left the court quietly with legal advisers. One of the men charged, Dennis Bruce Walker, wore black clothing and red armbands and carried a black and red shoulder bag.

Charged with assaulting a police officer in Brisbane on Tuesday were: Pamela Mann, 23, housewife; Donald Brady, 42, minister; Dennis Bruce Walker, 24, counsellor; Malcolm Linus Geia, 19, and Samuel William Watson.

Bail of \$20 was granted in

each case and they were remanded to December 8.

Laurence Norman Lewis, 21, science student, pleaded not guilty to charges of causing bodily harm, assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest.

He was remanded until December 1 on bail of \$50 on each of the three charges.

Jennifer Helen Lane, 19, student, was represented by a barrister, Mr Basil Martin, but failed to appear on a charge of using obscene language and she forfeited bail of \$10.

Aboriginal rights leader declares war on whites

DENNIS WALKER, Brisbane's Aboriginal rights leader, arrived in Sydney yesterday saying he had "declared war on whites."

Mr Walker, was one of nine people arrested in Brisbane on Tuesday during a demonstration against the Queensland Government's proposed Aboriginal Bill.

"We will go no further in tolerating injustice," he said yesterday.

Mr Walker said he resigned as secretary of the National Tribal Council last month to campaign against white domination of Aboriginal affairs.

"The council was not active enough; they were afraid of the white backlash," he said.

He was unemployed because he refused to work with whites and would only accept a position working with blacks or for blacks.

VIOLENT

Mr Walker was bitterly critical of the Queensland Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Aboriginals Bill. "The department, which is supposed to help blacks, is using the courts to stop us achieving our rights," he said.

"Thirty per cent of Queensland prisoners are blacks and I'd say 99 per cent of them had not had proper legal represen-

He said he wanted an Aboriginal to be head of the department which controls the \$8 million allocated annually to Aboriginal advancement.

"The proposed Aboriginals Bill which will replace the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Act of 1965, does not give blacks enough say in their future," he said.

"A few blacks will be bought off by the system which assumes I have to attain a certain amount of 'whiteness' to get a job."

'RACIST FEELINGS'

In Brisbane the Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, refused to withdraw criticism of the Australian Council of Churches for its association with the demonstration on Tuesday.

Delegates to an Australian Council of Churches conference on racism on the Gold Coast attended the Aboriginals' protest march but later denied responsibility for the disturbances that took place.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen had blamed the council for the ugly scenes and when called on by the council to withdraw his criticisms, he said: "I cannot withdraw the statement I made yesterday.

"If you are associated with any group, you cannot later dissociate yourself from what flows from the association.

"The Australian Council of

not have racist feelings in this State.

"The thing was started and built up from this point. They cannot withdraw from their responsibilities at this stage."

Before Tuesday's demonstration, Dr C. Wright, Victorian delegate to the churches' conference and executive secretary of the council's Christian education division, said the council would take no responsibility if violence erupted.

"It is the Aboriginals' show and we are only observers," he said.