

Bobbi fights for her people

By TOM PRIOR

BOBBI SYKES has the slim good looks of U.S. "soul sister" Angela Davis.

And like Angela, she is a fierce fighter for the rights of black people.

Bobbi is leading a campaign for the release of aboriginal Lionel Brockman, the "desert fox" who eluded WA police for nearly six months after escaping from jail.

Queensland-born Bobbi is bitter about what she termed the "hypocrisy" of Australian political parties — and the "phony do-gooding" of social welfare groups.

"The Labor Party is in the position where it's got to put up or shut up," she said yesterday.

"They're always falling all over us saying how much they have the interests of black Australians and other minorities at heart.

"There's an ALP government in Western Australia now — how about a little less sweet talk and a little more interest in the interests of Lionel Brockman?"

'Abo hunt'

"Western Australia is a police State for black Australians no matter who's wearing the government hat.

"Lionel Brockman was in jail for offending against the rules of a citizenship he had never been given.

"He wasn't a citizen—he was an abo and the West Australians felt like another abo hunt."

Largely self-educated Bobbi has drafted and organised petitions for the release of Brockman and has written material about him for distribution in universities.

"It's very depressing to see all the so-called democrats and humanitarians and libertarians in white Australia just sitting around while Lionel Brockman's in jail," she said.

"It makes you wonder how sincere people are—how sincere white people are.

"And even some of our black brothers have lost heart. They don't fight — or even care — any more."



BOBBI SYKES at the Victorian Aborigines' Advancement League, Northcote, yesterday . . . campaigning for Lionel Brockman.