



The Aboriginal "embassy" after it was re-erected yesterday.

## Police pull down new 'embassy'

Police pulled down the Aboriginal tent "embassy" shortly before 1 am today — nine hours after its rebirth on the lawns outside Parliament House, Canberra.

The 50 police who were sent to the scene met no resistance from the seven occupants and made no arrests.

The "embassy" had gained its new brief lease of life from a judgment yesterday of the Full Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory.

The court ruled that the removal of the "embassy" tents on July 20 had been illegal because the ordinance under which the police acted had not been gazetted properly.

At the same time it refused to grant an injunction restraining the authorities from preventing or interfering with the re-erection of the tents.

Mr Justice Fox, in a judgment in which Mr Justice Blackburn and Mr Justice Connor concurred, ruled that the "embassy" staff members had no right to erect and maintain their tents out-

side Parliament House and live in them for an indefinite period.

The judgment was given on applications from three men and a woman who described themselves as members of the "embassy" staff.

Less than an hour after the decision, about 15 Aborigines and student supporters had rebuilt the tent "embassy" on the site from which it was removed on July 20.

The NSW president of the Builders Labourers' Federation, Mr Bob Pringle, was one of the supporters who helped rebuild the "embassy."

He intended to spend the night in one of the three ragged tents.

During the reconstruction, Labor backbencher Mr Gordon Bryant, who fought against the "embassy's" removal, strolled over to congratulate the Aborigines.

"It looks as though all hope is not lost," he said.



Mr Hunt

During the night gale-force winds and rain lashed the tents.

At 11 pm the Minister for the Interior, Mr Hunt, announced that a special Commonwealth Gazette was being printed to re-gazette the Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance.

As soon as it was ready, he said, the demonstrators in the tents would be asked to remove them.

The special gazette, published at midnight, covered not just the trespass ordinance, but a total of 102 ACT ordinances dating back to 1930.

This was a response to a comment by two of the Supreme Court judges that other ordinances

might have been notified in the same defective way as the trespass ordinance.

Armed with the special gazette, 50 police went to the "embassy" at 12.45 am.

About 50 other people watched as the trespass ordinance was read to the occupants and they were asked to move their tents.

When they refused about a dozen police moved in and pulled down the tents.

"Embassy" members made black power clenched-fist salutes but did not resist.

Labor members criticised the Government's handling of the "embassy" issue when Mr Hunt announced to the House of Representatives that the trespass ordinance would be re-gazetted.

Labor's shadow Treasurer, Mr Frank Crean (Vic), said the Aboriginal "embassy" had become a highly emotive issue in Australia. He said the minister had made a "mess" of the situation.