

Aborigines' 'embassy' falls again

CANBERRA, Sunday. — Eighteen people were arrested today when police clashed with 150 Aborigines and students trying to re-establish a tent "embassy" on the Parliament House lawns.

Nine demonstrators and three police officers were injured in the clash, during which the newly erected tent was torn down by police.

Meanwhile, senior Federal ministers, including the Prime Minister, Mr McMahon, were meeting inside Parliament House.

The confrontation followed a similar clash last Thursday after the Government had gazetted an ordinance banning camping on unleased ACT land.

The ordinance had the effect of outlawing the six-tent "Aboriginal Embassy" established on the lawns five months ago.

After today's abortive attempt, militant Aborigines said they will again try to re-establish their "embassy" next weekend.

The demonstrators had marched from the Australian National University to Parliament House this morning carrying banners reading: "Land Rights Now," "Stop Nabalco," "Free Black Australia" and "Stop Police Brutality."

Two hundred police were on standby as they arrived at the House singing "We shall not be moved."

The marchers sat down on the road in front of the building to listen to speeches.

Twenty uniformed police officers took up position along a footpath directly opposite the marchers.

At about 11.40 am five white students carrying a tent and tent poles joined the demonstrators. The tent was erected and a close circle formed around it.

The 20 police moved across the road to face the crowd and after more speeches, an inspector called through a loud-hailer for the tent to be removed.

This appeal was greeted by cries of "Shut up," "Why?" and "The whole world is watching."

When the demonstrators refused to move, the 200 police officers on standby moved in and surrounded the crowd.

Fighting broke out as the police advanced towards the tent and demonstrators tried to stop them.

At one stage, a constable swapped punches with a black protester.

About 300 tourists watched the clash, which ended in the tent being pulled down and thrown on the back of a truck.

More isolated fights broke out as police rounded up the demonstrators and there were chants of "Sieg Heil."

As Aborigines marched back to the university, one held his arm up in a black power salute and shouted: "This is a sign of friendship. Recognise it because next time it might hold a gun."

The 18 demonstrators arrested, 10 of them white, have been charged with obstructing police, assaulting police, hindering police, and insulting language.

On Tuesday, an application will be made in court for an injunction against the ordinance.

PERMANENT LOBBY

BRISBANE, Sunday. — Senator Neville Bonner (Liberal) will ask the Federal Government to provide a permanent lobby for the Aboriginal cause.

Queensland's Aboriginal senator appealed today to militant Aboriginal demonstrators "to obey the law

and give him the opportunity of bringing the matter before Parliament."

He said that when Parliament resumed next month he would ask the Government to provide Aborigines with a building they could use as a lobby to keep pressure on the Federal Government.



A policeman and a protester clash during the demonstration outside Parliament House, Canberra, yesterday.