

US black ban: Perkins

By SUZANNE PEKOL

OUTSPOKEN Aboriginal public servant Charles Perkins is set to stir even more racial debate with his call to deport black Americans from Australia.

In an interview for Playboy magazine, Mr Perkins claimed that some American blacks had made "statements of the worst kind" against Australian Aborigines.

"Some of those blacks, the American show business types, ought to be deported," he said in the article to be released in March.

According to Playboy publisher Mr Philip Mason, the interview was conducted in November.

It therefore does not contravene Mr Perkins's promises to the Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Mr Hand, to limit his public comments to his own department.

The Aboriginal Affairs Department head was rebuked last week after his controversial call for a halt to Asian migration.

He called for the halt because he said criminals



migrated to Australia from Asia and because racial tension was developing.

Mr Perkins told Playboy that black Americans came to Australia and "big-noted" themselves among whites.

"The whites love it be-

cause they can paternalise.

"They can exercise their sort of racism on these show business types in the sense of saying, 'look, I'm associating with these famous blacks, so I'm pretty good.'

"They (black Americans) should go back to Harlem or wherever, where they're just one of a couple of million blacks, and see how they feel."

Mr Hand yesterday refused to comment on the Playboy article, though a spokesman said the Minister had known of the interview when he warned Mr Perkins this week.

However, the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, said he understood Mr Perkins was embarrassed by the interview and hoped it did not accurately represent his opinions.

"He certainly wouldn't be getting any support on it," he said.

But Mr Hawke said people should remember Mr Perkins's dedication to the Aboriginal people before condemning him.

Mr Perkins's Playboy comments were made before Mr Hand's warning, but they are sure to renew Opposition calls for his resignation.

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