



L-DAY Passed Without Incident

POLICE AND HOTEL-KEEPERS PRAISE ABORIGINES' CONDUCT IN BARS

L-DAY—Saturday, March 30, 1963—the day liquor became available legally to all aborigines in New South Wales, passed off with hardly a single incident throughout the State.

Aborigines and white people mixed freely in bars and the quiet introduction of the new scheme went as smoothly as predicted by the Aborigines Welfare Board.

NOVELTY NOW—BUT NOT FOR LONG

Here is a picture which the Sunday Mirror said . . . "captured a moment in history". The dark face in the bar-room crowd is that of Ted Bell (26), standing in a Surry Hills (Sydney) hotel, shoulder to shoulder with white drinkers

The fruits of a campaign to prepare Aborigines for equal drinking rights—launched by the Welfare Board as soon as the Aborigines Protection (Amendment) Bill was introduced into State Parliament in February—were evident on all sides.

The Board Chairman, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, said welfare officers, station managers and reserve supervisors counselled individually most of the State's eligible Aborigines.

The field staff had informed Aborigines of their rights under the new law and warned them that if they were refused service in hotels they should not cause trouble but report the matter to officers of the Board or to Police.

It had been pointed out that the Liquor Act did not compel a publican to serve any person, even if the person was orderly.