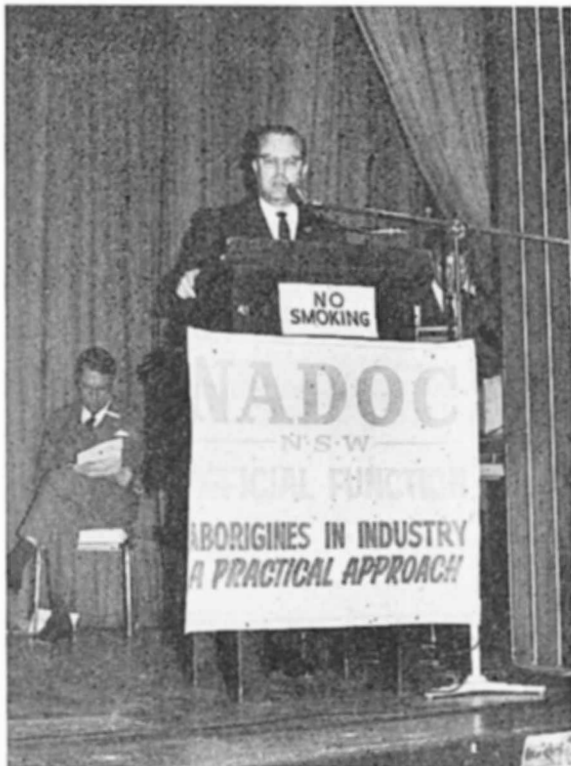


From apathy to urgency on Aboriginal affairs



“The community no longer has a sense of apathy about Aboriginal affairs, but one of urgency,” said the Chief Secretary, Mr E. A. Willis, at an informal seminar held in Sydney in July as part of National Aborigines Day celebrations for 1968.

“In fact we are badgered by people who think that we are not going fast enough,” Mr Willis said.

Mr Martin Royal, of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, was compere of the reception/seminar on “Aborigines in Industry—a Practical Approach”. Prominent employers, Aborigines and Government representatives spoke at the seminar.

Before he officially opened the seminar Mr Willis said that employment was at least as important as education and housing, but was thought by some to be a little less urgent.

Mr Willis, who is also Minister for Labour and Industry, told those at the seminar that Aborigines had the same standing and same rights as anyone else in the community.

He said that the Aborigines Welfare Board was continuing its work of improving educational standards for Aborigines, and that the 1967-8 pilot scheme of \$7,000 to assist Aborigines education had been successful.



Above: The Chief Secretary, Mr E. A. Willis, officially opened the reception/seminar on “Aborigines in Industry—A Practical Approach”

Below: Mr Victor Allen (standing), of Canada, represented the Eskimo people at the Seminar, which attracted an attendance of about 300—200 of whom were Aboriginal