

Smoke Signals

► MORE JOBS FOR ABORIGINES IN PUBLIC SERVICE:

The Commonwealth Public Service Board is taking steps to increase the number of Aborigines it employs. The changes in the Board's approach announced so far include: seeking to make Aborigines more aware of opportunities within the Public Service; special examination arrangements for groups of Aborigines; consideration of various pre-employment training schemes; finding jobs (e.g., vocational officer) where an Aboriginal background is an advantage, and so on. The Commonwealth Employment Service's vocational officers have been trying for some time to increase the number of Aborigines in the Public Service.

► LEAVING FOR KIRINARI:

The boys pictured in the adjacent photo were photographed at Brewarrina Railway Station in January as they were leaving for student hostels in Sydney and Newcastle. The boys in the back row from left to right are Lester Williams, Roy Bennett, John Barker, Glen Williams, Gary Lord, George Solomon, and Michael Trapman. In the front row are Gary Hart, Kevin Williams, Teddy Hart, and Tony Shillingsworth. Several of the students found life in the city a little difficult and have returned home at this stage.

► APPOINTMENT TO GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE:

Mr Chicka Dixon was nominated by the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee and has been invited by the Minister for Social Security, Mr Bill Hayden, to join the Working Party on Homeless Men. Chicka Dixon came originally from Wallaga Lake and Wreck Bay reserves on the South Coast, and has been active in Aboriginal affairs for the past 15 years, including managing the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs and being a council member of the Aboriginal Medical Service.

► LEASE FOR GURINDJIS:

The Gurindji people have been granted a special purpose lease to establish their homestead at Wattie Creek. The lease has been issued to the Murrumulla Gurindji Company Pty Ltd. It covers an area of 8 square miles within the Wave Hill pastoral lease. The lease has been granted for the purposes of a communal settlement and related activities. Last year the Gurindjis applied for a lease for "residential, cultural, and depasturing of stock and horses activities". The granting of the lease does not prejudice their claims for a larger area for pastoral purposes. The lease has been granted pending Mr Justice Woodward's investigation into the ways in which such land rights claims as those of the Gurindjis can best be recognized and implemented.

Kirinari students at Brewarrina Railway Station

