

Speakers' dais at Martin Place ceremony

N.A.D.O.C. Ceremony Speaker Tells of Select Committee



The New South Wales Government will appoint a select committee to inquire into all aspects of Aborigines' conditions. Mr A. D. Bridges, M.L.C., Minister for Child Welfare, made this announcement at the annual National Aborigines' Day ceremony in Martin Place on 9th July.

Mr Bridges said that the select committee would be appointed when State Parliament resumed in August. He said it would consist of representatives of all political parties.

"This select committee will be charged with the responsibility of investigating the native Australian people—the Aborigines—and with ascertaining whether any injustice exists at present in our industrial or social laws, or in education, housing, or of anything affecting their welfare," Mr Bridges said.

"The committee will be required to report back to Parliament as soon as possible because if there is any injustice then it must be rectified. I agree with those who from time to time have made protests about some of the disgraceful conditions under which these native Australians have been existing. It is very essential that these should be very closely looked at.

"We want to help these people, and I am sure that it is the wish of everyone, so that they shall rise and become earnest, hard-working citizens with a high, proud standard and so that they shall have every opportunity to take their places in this community to which they so rightly belong."

Mr Bridges said that there should be no discrimination or any kind of injustice practised against Aborigines.

Mr A. D. Bridges, M.L.C.