RSL men rap the color-bar 'riders'

SYDNEY, Today. — RSL clubs in four NSW towns are "on guard" today against a bus-load of Sydney University freedom riders.

The 30 students are reported to be planning to picket the RSL clubs in Moree, Lismore, Taree and Kempsey.

The students claim that some RSL clubs in NSW have a color bar.

The students were "escorted" out of the 2000-population town of WALGETT by 10 cars and trucks after angry scenes last night.

Freedom-rider Jim Spigelman, a 21-year-old law student, told The Herald by telephone today his group found "definite evidence" of a color bar at Walgett RSL.

When The Herald telephoned club manager Mr. P.茫然 today, he refused to answer directly if aboriginals were allowed in the club.

"How can you say we have anything against them after that?" he said.

"We have the right to refuse entry to anyone to the club be they black or white," he said.

The students today drove to MOREE (population 7000). The town is 400 miles north-west of Sydney.

'We don't want trouble'

The acting manager of Moree Services Club, Mr. Jack Harri, told The Herald by telephone: "They're pretty tame, hands are all right.

"We don't expect any trouble, but if they start something, they'll come off second best.

"I've got enough good fighters in the club right now to take care of them.

"But if we can, we want to avoid trouble with a bunch of kids."

A steward at the club said: "We had a phone call from Walgett RSL about these students and there could be trouble here if they come this way.

"There is no discrimination. Aboriginals get a fair go.

"There's four in our club, black as your boots, but real gentlemen."

"They're ex-Diggers."

RSL club officials at TAREE and KEMPSEY said they were on guard against possible trouble.

The students are members of SAFSA (Student Action for Aborigines). They are led by Mr. Charles Perkins, who is of aboriginal descent.

In WALGETT, in western NSW, yesterday, residents became hostile after the students picketed the RSL club.

The students were ordered to leave a church hall in which they were camped.

As they packed to leave, a crowd around their bus grew hostile.

Heated arguments developed and one or two punches were thrown.

Charles Perkins directed all students to board the bus, and the driver left in the direction of Moree.

'Locals got so upset...'

Student Jim Spigelman told The Herald from Moree this afternoon:

"The locals got so upset and some who were half-charged with beer, followed us down the road in trucks.

"One truck after roaring past us three times clipped the front of the bus and forced us off the road and into the paddock.

"The bus tilted, we were thrown from our seats, the girls started to scream and we thought the bus would turn over.

"Only a great piece of driving saved us from injury but we were half-choked and unhurt in the middle of a paddock.

"Police said later they were certain the truck deliberately tried to tip us off the road."

Police are looking for the driver of the truck.

Spigelman said: "Apart from the RSL club at Walgett, there is also a hotel there which has a notice in the saloon bar 'Aborigines by Invitation Only.'

"This sign was hastily removed when we arrived. We deliberately took two aboriginals to the bar and bought them a drink.

"They were tickled pink. They said it was the first time any of them had been in the bar.

"Then there was a dress shop in the town which we picketed for several hours. The woman owner of the shop refused to sell clothes to aboriginal girls.

"She closed the shop after a couple of hours."

CHARLES PERKINS, leader of the student group. He has claimed that in the NSW town of Gulargambone, aboriginals who go into cafes are not allowed to sit down.