

AFTERMATH OF THE 'EMBASSY' FRACAS

NO CHARGES ON NEW LAW

Canberra legal circles are surprised the ACT Police did not enforce the controversial Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance when breaking up the Aboriginal 'embassy' yesterday.

Eight people including five Aborigines were arrested yesterday but none were charged under the new ordinance.

It has been reported that the ACT Police Commissioner, Mr R. A. Wilson, gave instructions that charges were not to be laid under the new ordinance, which was gazetted less than an hour before the violent scenes broke out on the lawns of Parliament House.

Commissioner Wilson was reported to have instructed that people were to be allowed to demonstrate if they wished.

It is understood the Government was not anxious to lay charges under the new ordinance because of the possibility of

opposition when the Parliament resumed.

It also is believed to have been concerned at expressions of doubt on the new ordinance from legal bodies in Canberra.

Lawyers today pointed out that the police apparently had used the gazetting of the new ordinance as an excuse to get rid of the Aborigines, without having any intention of using the ordinance for that purpose.

The eight people arrested were charged with obstructing police, assault, blocking traffic and indecent words.

DISGUST

Last night, the only Aborigine in the Federal Parliament, Senator Neville Bonner, said he was disappointed to the point of disgust at the Government's action.

Senator Bonner repeated that he had received assurance from the Minister for the Interior, Mr Hunt, that no action would be taken to remove the embassy while Parliament was in recess.

Senator Bonner already has threatened to oppose the ordinance every step of the way in Parliament.

He appears certain to join Labor Party moves to disallow the ordinance when Parliament resumes next month.

Senator Bonner warned that the Government's action yesterday would lead to a flare-up of Black Power action in Australia.

He said he could not see how Black Power violence could be avoided.