

# 200 WATCH WEDDING OF ABORIGINAL SENATOR

**BRISBANE, Saturday:** Australia's first Aboriginal parliamentarian, Senator Neville Thomas Bonner, 54, married European divorcee, Mrs Heather Ray Ryan, 48, today.

More than 200 people attended the 15 minute ceremony under grey skies on the lawns of the Mt Gravatt Opal Hostel.

The ceremony was solemnised by Presbyterian minister, Rev Eric Ballinger, before a wall of television cameras and newspaper photographers.

## HOUSE GUARDED

Among the guests were Liberal Party leaders, the DLP Leader, Senator Gair, Sir Kenneth and Lady Anderson, Sir Reginald and Lady Swartz, and other Federal politicians. Fifty-two Aboriginal friends attended.

The Prime Minister, Mr McMahon, and the former Prime Minister, Mr Gorton, and their wives were to have attended the ceremony but had to

cancel their trips because of the oil strike and uncertain airline schedules. Mrs Ryan, of Ipswich, wore a pale pink boucle coat and dress trimmed with white fur and clutched a bouquet of orchids.

Senator Bonner's best man was Mr Pat Killoran, Director of the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs.

When it was all over the guests horded close around the newlyweds.

There were special hugs from Mrs Bonner's two daughters and her son Rory, and from Senator Bonner's four sons and their families.

The newlyweds will honeymoon for three days at Bribie Island.

"I'm definitely not a great advocate of being a 48-year-old bride," Mrs Ryan said just before the wedding.

"I was up at 5 am," she said. While Mrs Ryan and Senator Bonner were being married, their wedding presents were guarded by a police officer at Mrs Ryan's Ipswich home.



Mrs Bonner slips a wedding ring on her husband's finger during the ceremony.

**PRIDE PATIOS**