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**Title:**  
Petition about natives for Parliament

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(possibly) 20 June 1958

# Bitterness at consorting law

# PETITION ABOUT NATIVES FOR PARLIAMENT

TODAY'S wire photo from Hobart shows the Hurseys (arrowed), father Frank (right) and son Dennis behind a barricade surrounded by police and seamen on the Hobart wharf last night. They are watching hostile waterside workers who refused to work and declared the freighter Denman (in background) "black."

A petition with 7,500 signatures will be presented to Parliament this afternoon protesting about the present law against consorting with aborigines.

## ETHER ATTACK

## Family habits known

Police believe that the Port Elliot ether sprayer may have studied the family habits before Jenke, 6, was unconscious by droom on

inner of heading girl was er father premises he at-known sister ball build ng.

The petition claims this law is militating against assimilation.

Sponsored by the Aborigines' Advancement League, the petition has been supported by the Trades and Labor Council, WCTU, YWCA, League of Women Voters, and other organisations.

It will be presented to the Assembly by Mr. Dunstan, the Labor member for Norwood.

It seeks to have section 14 of the Police Offences Act either repealed or amended to read that it shall be an offence for anyone to consort with an unexempted aboriginal in such circumstances as to give rise to reasonable suspicion that the consorting is with intent to commit an offence.

At present it is an offence for anyone to consort with an unexempted aboriginal without reasonable excuse.

Mr. Dunstan said police had given a number of people warnings for associating with aborigines. In most cases these warnings were unnecessary.

The Government's declared policy was one of assimilation, but operation of this section was preventing assimilation and bringing about a feeling of bitterness among aborigines.

It was wrong that they should be linked with reputed thieves and prostitutes — the others to whom the consorting provisions applied, he said.

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20th June 1958  
Probably because  
item broadcast on  
ABC 20/6/1958 re  
petition that  
afternoon  
see no 3421

3422

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