

## NATIONAL ABORIGINES DAY

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The group visited Casino, Griffith, Moree and Canberra. They said they had heard conflicting reports on living conditions of Aborigines in N.S.W. country towns and were looking forward to seeing for themselves.

Both Mr Allen and Mrs Ruhe are closely associated with education in their homelands.

Mr Allen said: "The young ones like to learn things. They are the ones who want to improve themselves and not be led along as they were in the past".

"We have to mix, we have to take on things different from our own culture," he said.

Mrs Lavalee's daughter was the first Indian woman to stand for Parliament in Canada.

"She was defeated at the polls, but she wasn't defeated in her heart—she's going to try again," Mrs Lavalee said.

She said Indians in Canada were being held down by the paternalism of the Government.

"And the old taboos are still strong," she added.

"We have to stand up for ourselves. We have to let the past go and look to the future.

"Our young people will be the leaders of tomorrow. They must be educated towards this goal."



## Prime Minister at F.A.A. Ball

The Prime Minister, Mr J. G. Gorton, and Mrs Gorton received 25 debutantes at the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs' Annual Ball, held in July as part of National Aborigines Day 1968 celebrations.

More than 1,200 people attended the ball in Sydney Town Hall—many guests coming from the country and interstate.

Among the guests were 13 Aboriginal grandmothers, Negro sailors from American ships in port, an Eskimo, a Canadian Indian, a Maori and three Aboriginal "Miss Australia Quest" entrants.

A Japanese film crew recorded the evening for a programme which will be shown world-wide.

Four Europeans were included in the partners for the debutantes.

"We told the girls to bring their boyfriends even if they weren't Aborigines," said Mr Charles Perkins, manager of the Foundation.

"We don't have a colour bar."

Mr Perkins' mother came from Alice Springs to attend the ball.