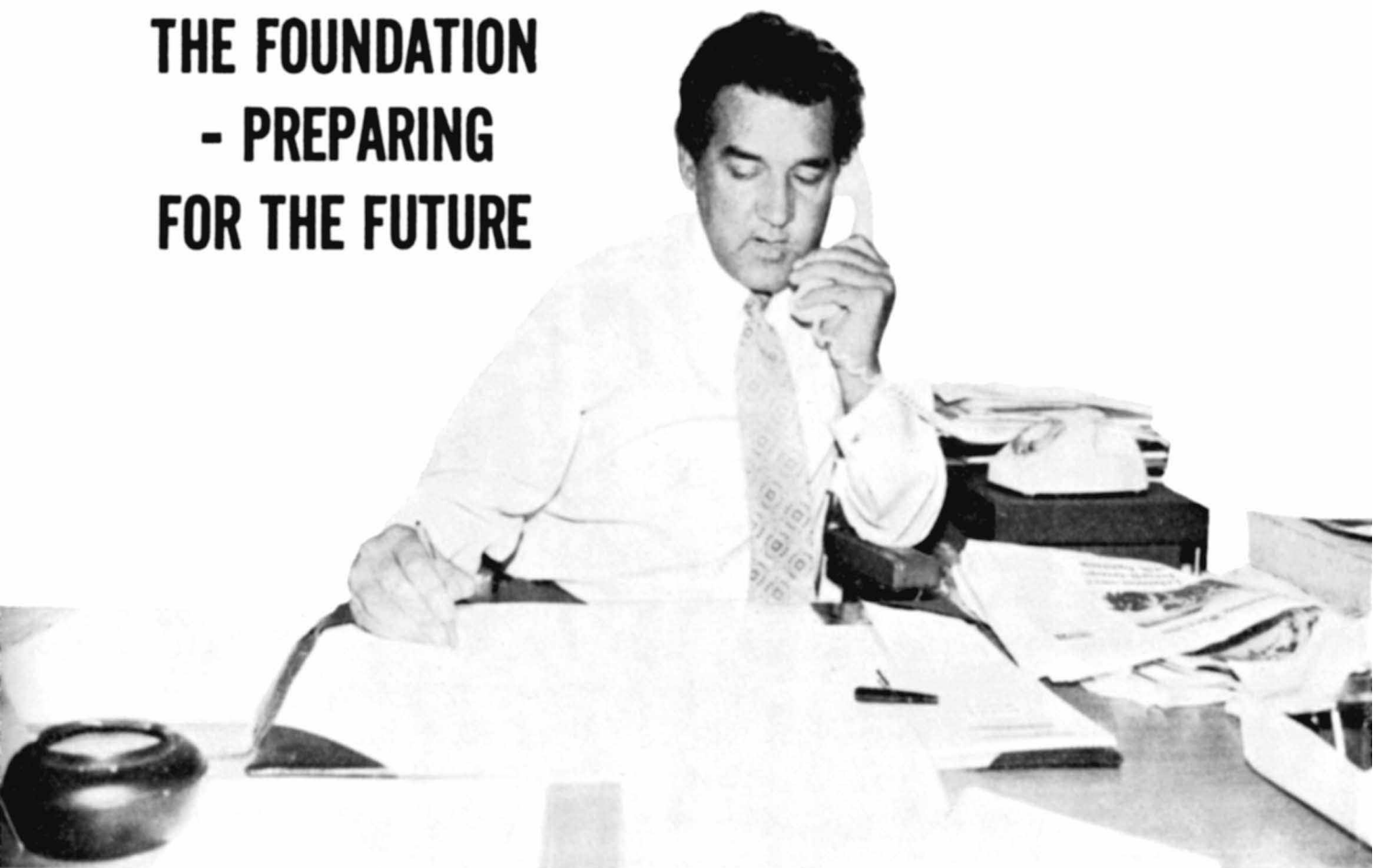


THE FOUNDATION - PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE



Charles Perkins at work as acting manager of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs

“Aside from finance, the major problem facing the foundation is its reorganization in terms of how it should operate in the future. If we have the answer to that question, then a lot of other things will fall into place.”

This is how Charles Perkins, the newly appointed acting-manager of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs in Sydney, sees his role.

Charles, now 36 years-old, has returned to the post he left in 1969 to work with Canberra's Office of Aboriginal Affairs. He had managed the foundation for 4 years before leaving. He returned to the post in September following the departure of his predecessor, Mr Noel Appoo, who has returned to Queensland.

To revitalize the organization, it is essential, according to Charles, to “rethink the basic

philosophy of the foundation”. In other words, the ways in which the organization can best meet the needs of the Aboriginal community will have to be carefully examined. This process can only be carried out through “intense consultation with *all* groups throughout the State”.

Part of this reappraisal, says Charles, will be to move the foundation into areas not previously considered. Aside from its traditional welfare role the organization needs to become active in other Aboriginal problems. Among these, he says, are restrictions on the participation of blacks in the community, especially on their legal and social rights.

Linked with this is the need for the foundation to be dominated even more by Aboriginal opinion than it has been in the past. “But,” says Charles, “those people involved in its work and decisions