

ABORIGINAL WELFARE

Premier attacks 'do-gooders'

BRISBANE, Sunday. — The Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, challenged "hypocritical do-gooders" today to apply for vacancies in government social - work offices.

He said that rather than make a practical contribution to Aborigines' welfare and advancement the so-called "do-gooders" were looking for cheap publicity for political and personal reasons.

He was speaking as he left Bamaga after a three-day visit to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island centres in North Queensland.

There were about 18 vacancies in the Aboriginal and Island Affairs Department for social welfare work among Aborigines.

Outbursts 'a sham'

"How many so called do-gooders or government critics are prepared to apply for this humane work among Aboriginal people in isolated locations in northern and western areas?" he said.

Outbursts by politicians and the Aboriginal Advancement League in Townsville over the recent removal of 14 young Aborigines from Palm Island had been a sham.

Critics had condemned

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Critics had condemned the Palm Island Aboriginal Council which had carried out its responsibilities in

sending young men to Townsville to work when they had refused employment on the island.

SYDNEY, Sunday. — An Australian Teachers Federation seminar today called for a program to counteract racism to be developed at primary, secondary and tertiary school levels.

Racism was part and parcel of Australian society and evidence of such prejudice was widespread, a federation spokesman said later.



Mr Bjelke-Petersen

Mining proposed

MINING PROPOSALS

The Minister for the Interior, Mr Hunt, has invited proposals for exploration and possible development of bauxite deposits on Marchinbar Island, part of the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Reserve.

In a statement issued yesterday, Mr Hunt said that if an acceptable proposal was received the current restriction on prospecting or mining on the island, which forms part of the Wessel Islands group off Gove Peninsula in the Northern Territory, would be lifted.

The Commonwealth Government had clearly indicated that it wanted the maximum possible processing in Australia of local raw materials and it hoped the Marchinbar deposits would be treated locally and used to supplement other large bauxite deposits in Australia.

But it would not dismiss any proposals to mine the bauxite for export as untreated ore.

The successful applicant would be issued with an exploration licence subject to ensuring detailed investigation of deposits. He could then expect to be granted a special mineral lease to develop the deposits if they were commercially exploitable.

Although no Aborigines lived on the island the Government was aware that it held special significance for the people of the Arnhem Land mainland. The successful applicant would be required to respect those interests and provide them with economic benefits gained from any mining.
