

BIG INTEREST IN VOTE FOR BOARD

Aborigines all over New South Wales showed their biggest interest yet in the elections for their representatives on the Aborigines Welfare Board.

In the elections this year, there was the biggest number of candidates, the biggest enrolment and the biggest number of votes cast.

Voting this year was simplified. Previously an Aborigine had to enrol, and when enrolled, he had to apply for a ballot paper.

This year, ballot papers were sent out automatically to all Aborigines who enrolled.

There were eight candidates for the position on the Board for a part-Aborigine at their election. The position for a full-blood Aborigine was filled unopposed, when only one person nominated.

In the election that followed for the part-aboriginal representative, 902 men and women enrolled, and 469 of them voted.

Of those 469 votes cast, 405 were valid in that each person voting filled out his ballot paper correctly. There were 13 informal votes. To be informal, the voter had not filled the squares on the ballot papers from 1 to 8, or he had repeated numbers.

Another 51 votes were rejected because the declarations attached to the ballot papers were completed wrongly, or in some cases, not completed at all.

At the last election in 1960, there were no candidates when nominations were first called.

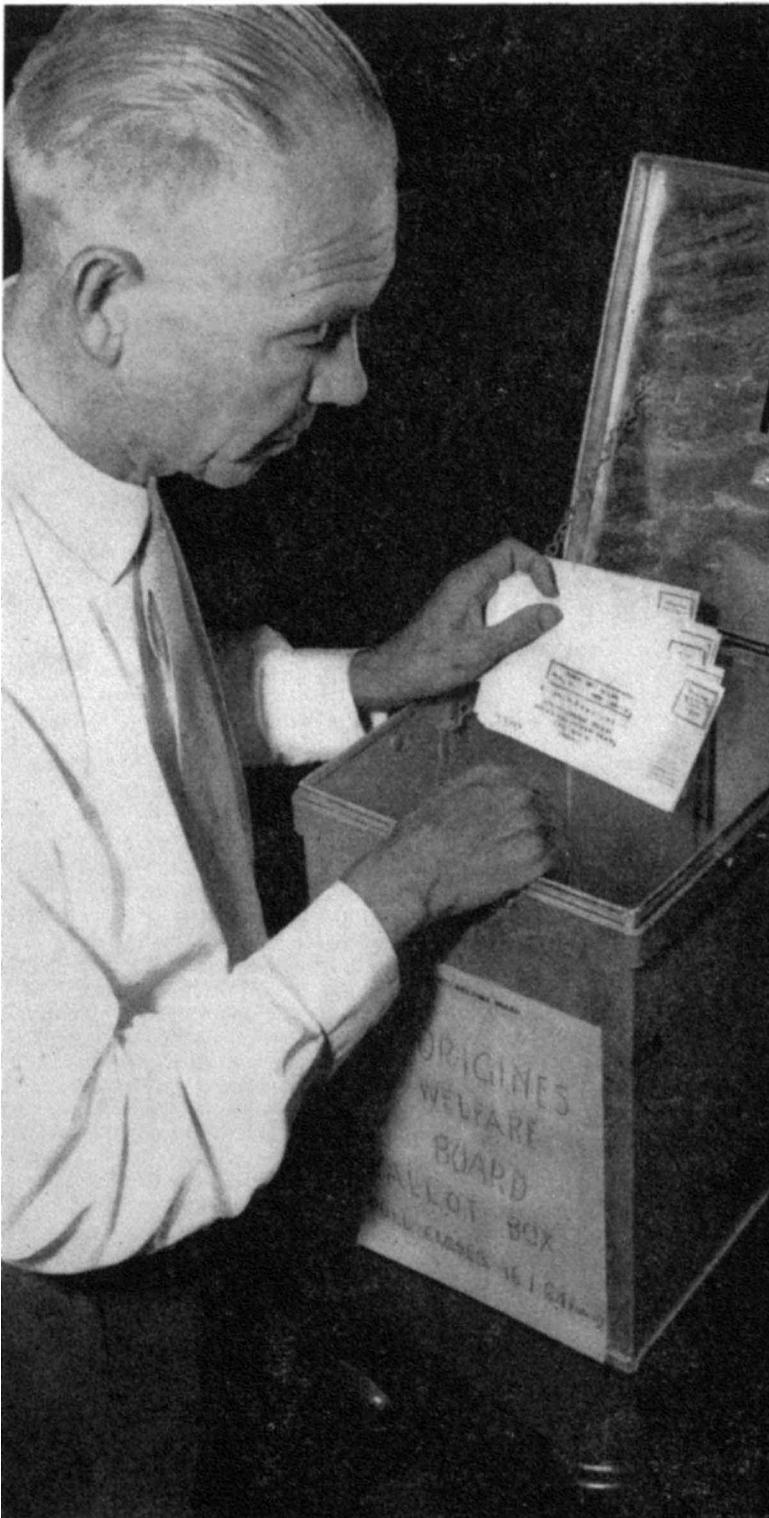
When nominations were called a second time, there were four candidates.

For the 1960 election, 524 people enrolled. Of those, 163 applied for ballot papers. A total of 73 votes were cast of which seven were rejected.

Mr. Charles Leon won that election by 36 votes to 28.

In the election for an aboriginal member this year, all votes had to be placed in a ballot box, or mailed to the returning officer, to be in his hands by 12 noon on January 16.

One ballot box was set on the counter of the Board's office in Sydney.



Returning officer for the election for aboriginal representatives on the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. J. D. Giblett opens the ballot box at the Board's office after the close of voting on January 16