



*Above* Eva at Hamilton Magistrate's Court.

If the law is justice, then the lands are safe. But if the law is as it is sometimes seen, working against the principles of natural justice, then I have grave misgivings. We believe that the Maori Land Court is there to provide justice, but it is well to remember that the establishment of the Court was not primarily for the protection of Maori land; its object was to facilitate the alienation of land to the colonial settlers.

As a member of the committee appointed by the New Zealand Maori Council to make submissions on the Maori Land Court, I opposed the Justice Department taking over many functions from the Maori Land Court. I still have this dream, along with many other dreams, that one day the Maori Land Court will be the instrument for us as a people to right the many wrongs done to us in the name of the Crown.

The Raglan issue is far from over, and many questions remain unanswered. I know the answers the Government has failed to give publicly; its representatives have written them to each other in letters which I hold. One day I must write the story of our struggle, to give hope and strength to those who have been involved in the fight. There have been many: the Grahams, the Alexanders, the Murrays, Witi McMath, Te Ata Witihana, Liz Marsden ... and many others, strong warriors who emerged out of the tragedy of the land march, a breed who will stand as leaders of the future.

I write as one of fifteen children who lived in the beautiful Maori world with my tupuna: no money and sometimes no clothes — but with plenty of aroha, and whitebait eaten like porridge. We knew as children who we were and where we belonged. But in the Pakeha world it's Eva Rickard militant activist, stirrer, gang-member, trouble-maker and all the other names thrown at me since the battle began. But I know that the battle was fought with the blessing of another dimension and the great spirit of Maoridom, and that those who sleep beyond the veil were whispering: "Kia kaha, kia manawanui kare koe e mate."

*Below* Kuia of Tainui Awhiro "trespassing".

