

Ex-ombudsman, Sir Guy Powles also supported the ABS claim.

He said that there needed to be a clear maori presence in maori broadcasting both in people and presentation.

"I view the presence of a future channel with more of what we have now – with considerable dismay."

Sir Graham Latimer said that when the New Zealand Maori Council applied for the warrant, he knew they would be taken for a joke.

"The existence of ABS will bring more social harmony to the country rather than what the two channels are doing now," he said.

He pointed out to the Broadcasting Tribunal that the application was not one of emotional dreams, but of the determination and pride for the maori people.

Ian Cross, ex-chairperson for the Broadcasting Corporation, supported that.

"Maori aspirations cannot be fulfilled by being the passengers in the canoe," he said, "but when they are the helmsman according to their own cul-

ture."

"If we are to produce a Maori New Zealand, this is the only way to get it. There is no other way."

He said that administrators from his era must confess to failure in some areas, because of what has happened.

When asked why Cross didn't do anything about maori television while he was chairperson on the Broadcasting Board, he said that the Corporation would have run into debt.

Ripeka Evans opened her address to the Tribunal by telling them the story about the mako and the kahawai, where integration was achieved by the mako swallowing the kahawai.

"You cannot have an indigenous identity without a New Zealand identity, and you cannot have a New Zealand identity without having a Maori identity."

Throughout her address she impressed on the Tribunal that ABS was not asking to take over the Broadcasting Corporation, but just asking for the third channel warrant.

"ABS or any maori initiative would be

committing suicide if there was no pakeha participation," she said.

Actor, Wi Kuki Kaa held nothing back when he told the Tribunal that the Broadcasting Corporation was racist.

He said that when he was brought back from Australia to act on the tv series, *The Governor*, all the crew were pakeha. He said that since then, he's noticed there are two Samoans on the crew and one Maori floor manager with TVNZ.

"I regard these numbers as an indictment to the Maori. This glaring weakness – racism – is inexcusable."

Professor Hirini Mead expressed his concern about the overwhelming english content on television.

"No culture can afford to allow another culture a total right of control of the media to filter and virtually censor all communications by enforcing the use of the language of the other culture," he said.

"ABS provides a rare opportunity to redress this sort of injustice."

"Ideally, the third channel should use



FROM LEFT: Aotearoa Broadcasting Systems (Inc) principals and legal counsel, Whatarangi Winiata, Francis Winiata, Cian Elias, Derek Fox, Martin Dawson.