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## Weak law week conversation

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### **Abstract**

In Law Week 1992, a NSW Court ruled that the old Education Department building known as the Bridge Street HQ, was not available for claim by local Aborigines. Legislation gives the Aborigines the right to press land claims on unoccupied crown land, and the Greiner Government had moved the Department from the building, planning to convert it to a casino. The court's ruling was based on the fact that the Government had left a skeleton staff there for the specific purpose

# WEAK LAW WEEK CONVERSATION

Tony Smith

In Law Week 1992, a NSW Court ruled that the old Education Department building known as the Bridge Street HQ, was not available for claim by local Aborigines. Legislation gives the Aborigines the right to press land claims on unoccupied crown land, and the Greiner Government had moved the Department from the building, planning to convert it to a casino. The court's ruling was based on the fact that the Government had left a skeleton staff there for the specific purpose

hey wise uncle I've got this homework to do  
find the meaning of these words here, eh?  
there's 'occupy', 'used' and 'justice' too  
a little help could bring a star my way

all right i'll tell you what to do  
run your thumb through the clean white page  
of this oxford shorter book of words  
that's what i did when i was your age

too hard? then let me explain  
you see that building there?  
on fridays a cleaner opens windows  
pulls the chains and polishes floors

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on mondays a business card appears  
to prove that guards have rattled doors  
now that is being clearly used

you see that country there?  
naked blackfellas just a few  
hunting game and digging food  
hiding in caves and strangely chanting  
one with the land they say in dancing  
well *that* is clearly unoccupied

you see the difference?  
are you still flicking through  
those glossy white pages in vain  
looking for how high the emus fly?  
oh no of course you're looking for justice  
experience will prove *that* a waste of time