

58

TERROR ACT: PROTEST MOUNTS

THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT has come under almost unprecedented pressure over the Terrorism Act — and especially the application of its detention-without-trial provisions.

MP has a new fear of police

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Mr Eric Winchester, United Party MP for Port Natal, warned today that the Government may ultimately allow the Security Branch to turn its attention to members of the official Opposition.

His warning comes in the face of growing public alarm over the recent wave of Security Police action and the tenth-floor death-fall last week of detainee, Mr A. Timol.

Mr Winchester said: "The public should not be surprised at the actions of the Security Police and the Government's refusal to hold a public inquiry into the death of Mr Timol. "If the alarming trend continues, and history repeats itself, even the official Opposition will be subjected to the same treatment. "I'm not saying it's inevitable, but there are certainly strong indications we are following the pattern of nationalism as it has gone throughout the world."

BACKED

Mr Winchester gave his full backing to demand for a public inquiry into all aspects of Security Police detentions and expressed "absolute amazement" at the Government's admission that it was up to the Security Police to decide whether a detainee should be allowed access to the courts.

This follows strong criticism of the Government by Mr Michael Mitchell, shadow minister of justice, for allowing the Security Police to use section 6 of the Terrorism Act, which allows in-

Leading non-Anglican churchmen expressed shock and concern today at the implications of the verdict and sentence passed yesterday on the Anglican Dean of Johannesburg, the Very Rev G. A. French-Beylagh.

The general secretary of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, the Rev Joseph Wing, said he felt that cases such as the dean's were a warning to the church which put its members in a dilemma. His church had no sympathy with "protest for protest's sake," but "where the fundamental framework and principle of justice is affected we are bound to attack the system."

"We are all shocked and alarmed at the way the trial points to the need for some kind of dialogue between Church and State."

The Central Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Church in Johannesburg, the Rev S. G. Pitts, said: "Every man has now got to weigh up how far action can go without transgressing the law of the land."

See also Page 5 and Page 25.

Commenting on the appearance in a Nationalist newspaper, the Transvaler, today of a cartoon showing a minister carrying a "protest" placard and followed by a large communist jackboot on the march (under the caption "Volk in sy spore"), Mr Pitts said: "There is absolutely no link at all between the exercise of Christian charity and communism — which at its heart is a denial of God."

Anglican sources remained silent today on the implications of the verdict. The Suffragen Bishop of Johannesburg, the Rt Rev John Carter, said: "I feel that since the whole matter is sub judice I should not comment: if I did, it might prejudice the outcome of the dean's appeal."

Cabinet

The Star's Political Correspondent reports that while the Cabinet met in Pretoria today for its routine weekly meeting, plans for protest activities were reported from different parts of South Africa, heavily under-

PROTESTS MOUNTS

THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT has come under almost unprecedented pressure over the Terrorism Act — and especially the application of its detention-without-trial provisions.

MP has a new fear of police

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Mr Eric Winchester, United Party MP for Port Natal, warned today that the Government may ultimately allow the Security Branch to turn its attention to members of the official Opposition.

His warning comes in the face of growing public alarm over the recent wave of Security Police action and the tenth-floor death-fall last week of detainee, Mr A. Timol.

Mr Winchester said: "The public should not be surprised at the actions of the Security Police and the Government's refusal to hold a public inquiry into the death of Mr Timol.

"If the alarming trend continues, and history repeats itself even the official Opposition will be subjected to the same treatment.

"I'm not saying it's inevitable, but there are certainly strong indications we are following the pattern of nationalism as it has gone throughout the world."

BACKED

Mr Winchester gave his full backing to demand for a public inquiry into all aspects of Security Police detentions and expressed "absolute amazement" at the Government's admission that it was up to the Security Police to decide whether a detainee should be allowed access to the courts.

This follows strong criticism of the Government by Mr Michael Mitchell, shadow minister of justice, for allowing the Security Police to use section 6 of the Terrorism Act, which allows indefinite detention, instead of the General Laws Amendment Act, which provides that a detainee has to be brought before a judge within 14 days.

"For the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice to openly admit that it doesn't control the actions of the Security Police is not only shocking—it's a betrayal of the whole democratic concept and a betrayal of the public trusts."

Leading non-Anglican churchmen expressed shock and concern today at the implications of the verdict and sentence passed yesterday on the Anglican Dean of Johannesburg, the Very Rev G. A. French-Beytagh.

The general secretary of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, the Rev Joseph Wing, said he felt that cases such as the dean's were a warning to the church which put its members in a dilemma.

His church had no sympathy with "protest for protest's sake," but "where the fundamental framework and principle of justice is affected we are bound to attack the system."

"We are all shocked and alarmed at the way the trial points to the need for some kind of dialogue between Church and State."

The Central Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Church in Johannesburg, the Rev S. G. Pitts, said: "Every man has now got to weigh up how far action can go without transgressing the law of the land."

See also Page 5 and Page 25.

Commenting on the appearance in a Nationalist newspaper, the Transvaler, today of a cartoon showing a minister carrying a "protest" placard and followed by a large communist jackboot on the march (under the caption "Volg insy spore"), Mr Pitts said: "There is absolutely no link at all between the exercise of Christian charity and communism — which at its heart is a denial of God."

Anglican sources remained silent today on the implications of the verdict. The Suffragen Bishop of Johannesburg, the Rt Rev John Carter, said: "I feel that since the whole matter is sub judice I should not comment; if I did, it might prejudice the outcome of the dean's appeal."

Cabinet

The Star's Political Correspondent reports that while the Cabinet met in Pretoria today for its routine weekly meeting, plans for protest activities were reported from different parts of South Africa, heavily underlining the mounting opposition to the legislation and the way in which it is being used by the Security Police.

Today Mr Vorster, who is also Acting Minister of Police, said he could not make any comment at this stage about the protests which have involved English-language churches, English-language newspapers and spokesmen for both the United and the Progressive parties.

Mr Pelsert, the Minister of Justice, was not available for comment, but said yesterday that the police had the fullest right to use their own discre-