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# The Star

## Press, public and police

It was entirely predictable that Nationalist newspapers would be very angry about the concern which the non-Nationalist Press and public have shown over recent activities of the Security Police.

At least two—the Vaderland and the Transvaler—are objecting not to the events which attract so much anxiety, but to the fact that people are talking and protesting about them. They seem to cling pathetically to the notion that if you don't talk about a thing it hasn't happened.

In one of its more ludicrous moments that Vaderland has demanded a commission of inquiry not into the way the police handle detainees but into Press, political and public reaction.

Yet the real trouble is not that the Press, politicians and public have said too much. It is that the police have said too little. It is the Vaderland, Transvaler and Rapport themselves bear this out. They have all quite rightly appealed for more frankness from the police and have implied that it is police secretiveness that is playing into the hands of mischief-makers.

This is all too true. In a situation such as we are all living through—police and Press alike—rumours tend to grow to gruesome proportions. They have in all instances PRECEDED anything important functions or suggested. One of the most rumour by publishing satisfying, credible and convincing facts. Yet the police have behaved so secretively that they have deprived the Press of the most effective means of destroying rumour and suspicion.