

Star - Nov 5th - 1971

ANNESBURG FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5 1971

The Star

It's 'how', not 'whether'

SOME PEOPLE are trying to give the critically important debate on terrorism a sinister twist, and it is necessary that the public should know what is happening.

The debate began after the last raids. It hinged, quite correctly, on how terrorism could best be fought. Perfectly genuine doubts were expressed as to whether, for instance, unconditional and indefinite detention was a good method, or whether it merely generated more terror still and blackened our name in precisely the way that our enemies desire.

Mr Vorster himself started the process of trying to make the debate on how to fight terrorism look as if it were one on whether to fight it. He went out of his way to make the most improper remark that when terrorists killed and mutilated policemen "certain newspapers and persons" responded differently from the way they react when people die in detention.

One reason why this was improper was that it implied that all the people in detention were convicted terrorists. And it became more disgraceful still when Nationalist propagandists went on to infer that those who made a fuss about deaths in detention did not want terrorism resisted at all. A very "sick" attempt has even been made to remind the public of all the people whom terrorists have slain—as though this toll somehow offsets the deaths in detention.

This evil competition in corpses is an insult to the police because it really does make the issue look like a fight between two kinds of terrorism. And it is weakening South Africa by distracting attention from the real issue, which is how to maintain civilised standards of government—the only real way to resist subversion.

...going back

DETENTION LAW 'EVIL', SAYS PROG

DR BRUCKNER DE VILLIERS, Transvaal regional director of the Progressive Party, yesterday attacked the unlimited powers of the police and criticised the "odd and highly irregular goings-on behind the cell doors of the Security Police."

He called for all legislation for the detention of people without trial to be scratched from the statute book and demanded a complete revision of all laws affecting the rights of the individual.

Dr de Villiers, formerly liaison officer of the Christian Institute, was addressing a meeting in Pietersburg.

He pointed out the government's reluctance to institute judicial inquiries, and said if the extremely delicate task of preserving harmony was left in the hands of a "faceless, and often incompetent, organi-

sation, only havoc could be expected."

Dr de Villiers severely criticised government injustice.

"A law in which justice is not truly inherent is the law of the devil.

"The time has come for all responsible citizens to devise a new pattern of harmonious co-existence, free of the blight of apartheid.

"A completely positive rethinking of our common situation has become urgently necessary and imperative."

He said the evil had to be eradicated and destroyed.