



One of the hecklers at yesterday's protest meeting in the Johannesburg City Hall shouts an interjection during the speech by Mr. Mike Mitchell, the United Party shadow Minister of Justice.

# UP men jeered at protest meeting

POLITICAL REPORTER

THE UNITED PARTY's shadow Minister of Justice, Mr. Michael Mitchell, yesterday faced a barrage of heckling from students and Progressive Party supporters at the protest meeting over detention-without-trial in the Johannesburg City Hall.

Jeers and interjections were flung at Mr. Mitchell and the leader of the United Party in the Transvaal Provincial Council, Mr. Harry Schwarz, when they tried to explain why the United Party had supported the passage of the Terrorism Act through Parliament during the second reading.

Demands for questions to be allowed from sections of the audience of about 600 people were ignored by the speakers. After the meeting, Mr. Schwarz was surrounded by critical members of the audience, demanding clarification of the party's attitudes to "detention-without-trial" legislation.

## LAW

Mr. Mitchell said his party had opposed the passage of Section Six of the Terrorism Act — which permits no-trial detention — "tooth and nail".

"We made it clear that our support for the principle of the Act at the second reading was not support for Section Six," he said.

"I am satisfied that this law was necessary and is necessary."

The United Party was opposed to communists and terrorists because they aimed at the destruction of the very foundation of democracy.

"This ideology must be stamped out," he said.

He told the hecklers that were it not for the presence of the United Party over the past 20 years they would not

be holding the protest meeting.

The leader of the Opposition, Sir De Villiers Graaff, had asked for an independent judicial commission of inquiry into matters concerning detention in terms of Section Six.

This had been turned down by the Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, who was out of touch with the people and their fears in this regard as he was on every other matter.

Mr. Schwarz was booed by Progressive supporters when he referred to the "gibes" of Mrs. Helen Suzman, the Progressive MP, at Thursday's protest meeting at the University of the Witwatersrand as "both uncalled for and unwarranted."