

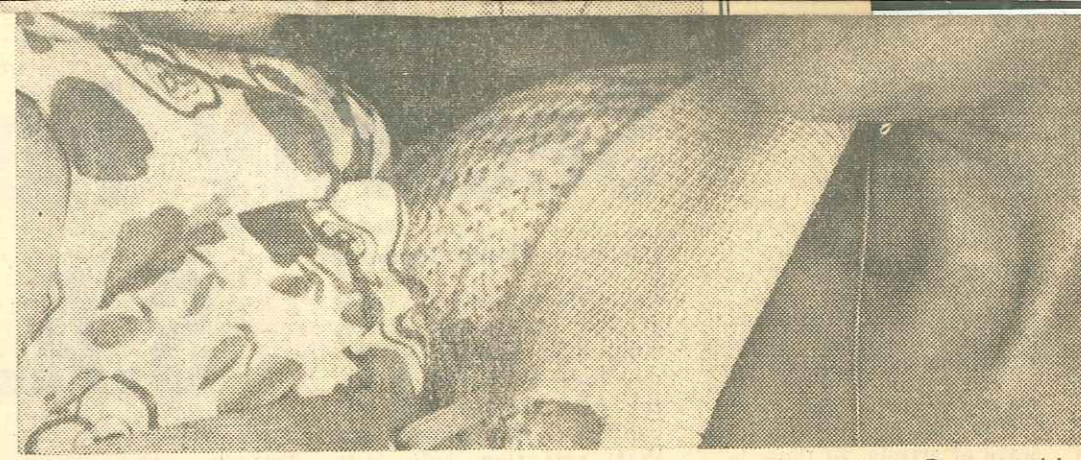


lapse of the Government's strategy of maintaining the Federal Party in power by the nomination of 20 extra councillors who support their point of view.

The Federal Party started off their career from a fundamentally weak position — their failure to win the majority of the 40 elected seats in the Council. It was only with the help of the 20 councillors nominated by the Government that they managed to retain control of the Council by a slender majority.

Now, with the latest defections they have lost even that slender majority.

This places the Government in an impossible position —



Picture MIKE McCANN

Mrs. Valerie Groenewald with Tracy's sister Wena. Mrs. Groenewald's eldest daughter.

10 p.m." Mrs. Manson said CID officers at Auckland Park, who interrogated the arrested man, had told her that Tracy died of asphyxia caused by food lodging in her throat. "There is no question of her having been assaulted as far as my information goes," she said.

While I was at the Manson home, friends called to commiserate with Mrs. Groenewald.

While she was talking to them, a man—his face twisted with grief—rushed into the house. Seeing him, Mrs. Manson threw her apron over her head and wailed. The man went into the bedroom and flung himself on to the bed, tears streaming down his face.

Brigadier Alwyn Burger, Chief of the Witwatersrand CID, told me that a man was in custody and would appear in court tomorrow.

## TORTURE IS SUSPECTED SAYS MIKE MITCHELL

Continued from Page 1

the Terrorism Act, it is their business . . .

"The Minister of Justice just fobbed off the question as he has recently done again. Although it is clearly the duty of the Minister of Justice, as the custodian of justice in this country, to order an inquiry as to why Section Six of the Terrorism Act is not being confined to the border areas, he simply says that this is a matter for the police.

"And the Minister of Police, Mr. Pelsler, is culpable in that he has clearly not directed his police not to use Section Six in urban areas."

All this led one to wonder, said Mr. Mitchell, why the Security Police almost invariably detained people under Section Six. "It can only be because they do not want a judge to examine what they are doing, and to lay down conditions for interrogation. So the Ministers have given the Security Police carte blanche and told them in effect: 'Do as you like boys. We will support you.'

### Warning

"I want to give Mr. Pelsler this warning: The ordinary men in the street, including Nationalists, have been deeply disturbed by this latest wave of detentions, and by the fact that for the second time — and, I repeat, for the second time — a detainee has jumped to his death from a high Security Branch office.

"This is a matter that is primarily Mr. Pelsler's responsibility, and he has shown he just does not care. If this continues to be his attitude then he does not deserve to hold a place in our society as distinguished as that of the Minister of Justice of South Africa.

"The impression that is going around is that the Security Police of South Africa might well be a group of people who swoop in the darkest hours and take into custody people

who have been convicted of nothing at all, and possibly subject them to torture in dark little rooms — and that they are using Section Six to ensure that no judge may peer into those rooms.

"Not even in Parliament is an M.P. given information about persons held under Section Six. Earlier this year I asked in the House how many people had been detained under the Judges' Interrogation Clause since its introduction in 1966.

"The answer was that only five people had ever been interrogated under that Section.

"When one asks how many have been detained under Section Six of the Terrorism Act, we are told that to give that information would not be in the public interest.

### Public fear

"What we do know, though, is that the overwhelming majority of those detained were held or are held under Section Six. Again one must ask: Why?

"In the absence of any sensible answer, and without there being a proper inquiry, the public are entitled to assume — and in fact they now fear — that the methods of the Gestapo have been used by our Security Police.

"It is vitally important to the interests of the country, and to the interests of the police generally, that an inquiry be held immediately into the whole subject of the conditions of these people in detention. If in fact there are people who are doing these things (using Gestapo methods of torture) then they must be rooted out. And I would have thought that the police would be the first to want them rooted out.

"Until this is done, we as South Africans must hang our heads in shame.

"As the Ministers of Justice and Police have shown themselves to be unconcerned — and apparently quite happy with the position — I must issue an appeal to the Prime Minister. I must ask him whether he agrees with their

attitude, or whether he is prepared to do anything about it.

"One must also ask why it was necessary to have all these raids conducted at 4 o'clock in the morning. Without some explanation one feels there is an intimidatory motive. The public want the Security Police to do their job — but they do not want them to do it using methods which are foreign to us.

"For any police force to operate successfully it basically needs the support of the people. But in South Africa, because they are not properly supervised by the Ministers who should be responsible, the Security Police are losing the confidence of the very people they are supposed to protect.

"At the same time they are giving ammunition to our enemies."

## 6-month hunt for military trainee

SUNDAY TIMES Reporter

THE MILITARY and South African Police have searched unsuccessfully for more than six months for an 18-year-old military trainee, Mr. Albertus Christiaan Ras, who disappeared from the Middelburg (Transvaal) army camp in April this year.

The trainee's mother, Mrs. J. S. Ras of Jan Niemand Park, Pretoria, said yesterday that she had not heard from her son since April when she took him back to the camp.

He had left the camp several times and returned to his Pretoria home. Each time he was taken back to the camp by his parents.

Mrs. Ras said the police had a warrant for her son's arrest. "I don't know where he is and I am becoming desperate," she said.

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