

for its complaint; a public-spirited group of women who could scarcely conduct their activities more fully in the open encounter what looks very much like indifference.

The horror pictures and their crude message are no doubt the work of some lunatic fringe Right-wing body of which there are several in existence. They seem quite free to pursue their deplorable activities, sending through the postal system scurrilous material of a race-baiting nature. By way of contrast, it is the liberal organizations dedicated to race harmony and the elimination of discrimination that are liable to attract the notice of the authorities.

This, of course, is part of the main sickness from which South Africa suffers to-day and which the Black Sash letters illustrate — the attitude that those who stand for social justice and the upholding of Western moral values are really working for the collapse of our society in an orgy of violence and bloodshed. This is a simple-minded view indeed, a pathetic excuse for resistance to change, but alas, it is close to becoming our official national outlook. Such are the straits in which South Africa finds herself to-day.

### The "Natal Mercury" says:

#### SICK SYMPTOMS

The sending through the post of hideous Congo and Mau Mau atrocity pictures to the members of the Black Sash could normally be ignored as the work of misguided cranks.

But the incident, about which the Black Sash movement is rightly protesting, has . . . unsatisfactory features which ought not to pass unnoticed.

. . . The despicable imputation behind the despatch of these gruesome pictures to members of what the senders no doubt consider to be a "liberal" organization is in itself an inevitable outgrowth, and an extremely distasteful one, from the extremist thinking which is manifesting itself in various forms in the Transvaal.

In a healthy society sick political minds can be ignored. The danger occurs when society does not recognize the cause of the sickness.

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### POLICE DOGS AND THE INDIAN COMMUNITY (Continued from Page 25)

A reader of the "Star" replied to this letter, which he described as "arrogant", and put the following questions to "this arch-champion of rights and liberty":

#### Three questions

- Since when has it become traditional to stage protest gatherings at the Union Buildings?
- Why is it wrong for the majority of White South Africans to preserve their heritage?
- Is the writer contemplating a note of protest to the Minister of Justice about the commendable way in which a lone policeman and his dog kept a crowd at a Johannesburg cinema in check on Boxing Day?

#### . . . and three answers.

**M**R S SINCLAIR replied:

● It has been traditional for many years for protests, petitions and letters to be taken to Cabinet Ministers at the Union Buildings. The Union Buildings are the administrative seat of Government and in them are the offices of some of the Cabinet Ministers. Your reader may remember that on June 22, 1940, 9,800 Afrikaner women, dressed in Voortrekker costume, marched

from Church Square to the Union Buildings with a petition to the Prime Minister, General Smuts, begging the Government to come to terms with Adolf Hitler. On many occasions since then petitions, protests and letters to the Government have been taken to the Union Buildings.

● It is not wrong for the majority of White South Africans to preserve their heritage. The Indian women too are South Africans, who went in an orderly manner to present a letter to the Prime Minister protesting against the Group Areas Act.

At this time the Minister of Indian Affairs, Mr. Maree, on behalf of the Government, was assuring representatives of the Indian people that they are regarded as South African citizens and that he wished them to express their views. I fail to understand the connection between White South Africans preserving their heritage and Indian women voicing their grievances to the proper authority.

● I stand by the statement made in my original letter in the "Star": "We have been given to understand that the police use these trained dogs for the apprehension of criminals and the breaking up of unruly crowds." The crowd outside the cinema on Boxing Day was presumably unruly.