

reunions: "The Communist regime apparently thought it had performed a gesture of kindness for which it should have been thanked. But supporters of an ideology which is prepared to separate families and keep them apart deserve no thanks."

What a pity this commendable sentiment is not also considered applicable to families whose skin colour happens to be black and whose homes happen to be here in the Republic.

(*"Rand Daily Mail"*)

A mockery of marriage

IT is fitting that your leading article of January 9 drew attention to a leader in the "Transvaler" on the breaking up of family life.

It is interesting to note that this newspaper is so concerned about the hardships caused to families divided by the Berlin Wall.

Is the "Transvaler" aware that in every urban area in South Africa there is a "Berlin Wall" — influx control — which divides thousands of African families?

Not only marriages by Native Law and Custom, (recognized by the Government), but Christian marriages as well are broken up daily by the laws of this land.

To have his wife living with him in an urban area, a man must either have been born in that area and, since birth, lived there continuously, have lived continuously in that area for 15 years, or have worked there continuously for one employer for 10 years.

If he satisfies one of these requirements he must still prove that he "ordinarily resides" with his wife. The fact that the couple may have several children does not imply that they "ordinarily reside" together.

And how is it possible for a man "ordinarily to reside" with his wife when she is forbidden entry into the area where her husband is ordinarily employed?

As the "Transvaler" said: "supporters of an ideology which is prepared to separate families and keep them apart deserve no thanks."

In our view they are to be condemned. We ask the "Transvaler," therefore, to institute a campaign to have these laws repealed. They offend every Christian principle and make a mockery of the sacred institution of marriage.

(Black Sash letter to "Rand Daily Mail")

Only a Liberalist

THE liberalistic Press are at present concerning themselves with the fact that in a recent leader "Die Transvaler" pointed out that by building the Berlin wall the Communists had broken up the family life of thousands of people. In this connection the question is no wasked whether the laws of the Republic concerning the residence of Bantu in the urban areas do not also lead to the disruption of family life.

It is only a liberalist who would treat all people alike, who could see any connection between the two cases.

In Berlin, those affected are highly civilized people who in most mases have strong family ties. In the Republic the people affected are at a very low stage of development, and often have such loose family ties that they surely do not deserve the title . . . The encouragement of the family bond is, among other things, the intention behind the establishment of the Bantu Homelands.

(*The "Transvaler"*)

Condemnation

We can comment only by quoting the words of Professor Pistorius (see "Bantustans — Fact or Fallacy?" Page 10) "The policy of separate development, far from being an instrument to bring Africans back to their homelands, is in effect a compulsion on them to leave it"; and the "Transvaler's" own words: "Everything that deliberately destroys family ties deserves the strongest condemnation."

NATAL "WALL OF SHAME"

FARMERS and residents of Golela — a hamlet which sprawls over the South African-Swaziland border 245 miles from Durban — have asked high-ranking Government officials to release the stringent security precautions at the border control post which cuts Golela in half.

It is not even possible to travel along Golela's main street from the hotel to the post office without producing a passport to an official of the Bantu Administration Department. Special permission has to be obtained to pass through the control post after normal working hours — 8 p.m. to 7 a.m.

At Christmas and New Year families were kept separated by the barbed wire fence — nicknamed the "wall of shame" by residents. They call their town grimly "another Berlin".

(From a report in the "Rand Daily Mail")