

sure can be strictly adhered to when dealing with hundreds of people at one time? Do the black man's possessions receive the same care as the white man's?

Do the Police take steps to inform the mother and father, the wife or the employer of the arrested man's whereabouts and can they do this for the hundreds of people imprisoned in a mass raid? If the Police cannot do this are any facilities provided to enable the black man to telephone his relatives or employer?

Crowded jails have suddenly to accommodate scores of extra prisoners. Can existing sanitary arrangements cope with the sudden influx? What provision is made for extra food and utensils? Are extra blankets available? Is there enough room in cells for prisoners to lie full length when they sleep? Prison Regulations provide for thirty-five square feet per person. Can these regulations be adhered to in conditions existing in a mass raid?

That mass arrests lead to mass trials is evident. Special courts are held in the cells of Magistrate's Courts and hard-worked officials have suddenly to cope with another one thousand cases. Is the accused given an opportunity of presenting his defence or communicating with his lawyer? Can justice really be done in twenty seconds?

Does this procedure instil a high regard for the white man's law and respect for the white man's justice?

It is clear that mass arrests do not reduce crime but they do increase suffering. Why then are mass arrests carried out? The reasons are by no means clear but white South Africa cannot justify them by claiming a mythical reduction in crime.

Are the mass arrests of Pass Law offenders designed to increase the supply of cheap labour to the farms? The Pass Laws undoubtedly serve this purpose and have done so for years. 1,500 Africans have been arrested daily and have always provided an adequate supply of cheap labour. Yet now there are mass arrests of Pass Law offenders. Do we need so much more cheap labour now or is there a need to convince an electorate now that crime has been reduced? Or is there some other reason so far unstated for mass raids, mass arrests and mass trials?

Are we being conditioned to accept this procedure as normal and regular? Will it then be extended to other sections of the community after it has been applied to Pass Law offenders?

For every injustice perpetrated in South Africa there is a rationalisation: Mass removal of people against their will is called slum clearance; Mass detention and banishment without any trial is said to be in the interests of State security or for the protection of the witnesses detained; And now mass arrests are carried out to reduce crime.

If justice is to be done mass arrests must be stopped.

*Reprinted from "The Star."*

**F**OLLY is a more dangerous enemy to the good than malice. You can protest against malice, you can unmask it or prevent it by force. Malice always contains the seeds of its own destruction, for it always makes men uncomfortable, if nothing worse. There is no defence against folly. Neither protests nor force are of any avail against it, and it is never amenable to reason. If facts contradict personal prejudices, there is no need to believe them, and if they are undeniable, they can simply be pushed aside as exceptions. Thus the fool, as compared with the scoundrel, is invariably self-complacent. And he can easily become dangerous, for it does not take much to make him aggressive. Hence folly requires much more cautious handling than malice. We shall never again try to reason with the fool, for it is both useless and dangerous.