

who provide education for a black person (and this explicitly includes adult education) without their institution being registered by the Department of Education and Training or qualifying for exemption from such registration. Such a national context

is by no means a congenial one for creative work in adult education. Nonetheless it is the only one we have, and it is our obligation, and in more senses than one our privilege, to work out policies and strategies that attempt to match idealism with realism.

*(Greatly condensed extracts from the Inaugural Lecture of Professor Clive J Millar, Professor of Adult Education and Director of Adult Education and Director of Extra-Mural Studies at UCT).*

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## **The Government says:**

MR HEUNIS said fingerprints were the only irrefutable proof of identity, and the new measure would also help prevent forgeries of various documents.

His department was now engaging in a four-month programme to decentralise the system to the point where every city and town, however small, would have its own representative of his department.

The representatives would be in constant contact with local offices of Government departments, other Governmental authorities and private sector organisations which provided services to the public such as banks, building societies, life insurance companies and estate agents.

They would all be used to assist with the immense task of keeping an up-to-date register of the population changes and the addresses of registered persons, he said.

Rand Daily Mail 15/1/81.

## **The Black Sash replies:**

IF THE GOVERNMENT'S proposed plans to introduce uniform finger-printed identity documents for all people are indeed designed to 'limit, as far as possible, attempts to infiltrate strategic installations and key positions' (RDM 15/1/81) then it is tantamount to sending out an army to catch a mouse.

If they are further designed to prove to the world in general and South Africans in particular that the Government is sincere in its attempts to do away with discrimination, then Minister Heunis' statement that 'What measures the Department of Co-operation and Development will take for influx control is a matter for that department' (RDM 15/1/81), is an instant and total denial of the end of discrimination.

If they are an integral part of 'total strategy' to contain 'total onslaught,' then the baby is being thrown out with the bathwater. All citizens are now to be subjected to the restraints and humiliations that black people have been justifiably resenting and resisting over the years, and the curtailment of rights and freedom is being extended to protect — what? Liberty? Freedom? Democracy?

In our view these latest Government proposals present a 'total onslaught' on the privacy of all citizens, subjecting them to indignities like finger-printing that are generally reserved for criminals in Western societies. And we seriously question the motivation behind these moves. We resent the fact that our fingerprints, in addition to all the other data which the Government already requires about our persons, should be recorded in the depths of a computer in Pretoria, possibly to be used against us if and when the Government decides that we should no longer be permitted to express our dissent from its policies.

JOYCE HARRIS,  
National President.