

# God help us all

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The statements by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Police on the police behaviour in Cape Town on 2nd June are disgraceful. That the statements were made before a thorough investigation makes them utterly reprehensible.

The students who mounted a legal protest on the steps of St. George's cathedral had every right to do so. They have a right to disagree with government policy and to express their opinions.

The shackles placed on education for all races are of great concern to students and they abhor the racial discrimination in the educational system. They are demanding that there should be compulsory free education for all South Africans.

The right of peaceful protest is part of the democratic process and, heaven knows, the Government is forever claiming that South Africa is a Western democracy.

Mr. Vorster in his earlier years, did not fail to avail himself of his democratic right to protest regardless of the "interests of the safety of the state". In fact many of his activities would appear to have been un-South African and it is doubtful if his demonstration could have been what he is pleased to call "spontaneous".

The police brutality that Friday is a logical consequence of the boerehaat campaign revitalised recently by the Minister of Defence. The expressions on the faces of the policemen wielding their rubber truncheons were horrifying. The hatred and violence were there for all to see.

For Mr. Vorster to state in Parliament that he would have been disappointed in them if the police had not done what they did is despicable and incomprehensible. The only conclusion that one can come to is that Mr. Vorster's own hatred of the students from the English language universities has destroyed his judgement.

The student leaders are responsible, public-spirited young people. They are imbued with an idealism, a sense of justice and a deep

loathing for the racial discrimination entrenched in the laws of South Africa. In any free country these attributes would give cause for admiration, but in South Africa students who possess them are branded as communists, terrorists and agitators.

It is forgotten that they too are South Africans. They have the true interests of the country and *all* its people at heart, rejecting the exclusive sectional interests of the National Party.

The Government is obsessed with communism. All those who disagree with government policy are immediately branded as communists. Under these circumstances it makes it difficult for us to understand why the Government maintains "Law and Order" by using the most savage of communist methods.

The hideous attack by the police and their henchmen was a disgrace. One may be forgiven for thinking that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Police were trying to incite the police, the public and the students.

We demand a judicial inquiry into Friday's violence and a radical change in the attitude of the police towards the public. This is a matter of urgency. If the government continues along its present path. God help us all.

