

prosecutor has framed his charges is what makes possible incommunicado detentions of six months or more and trials which don't come to court for a year or more; in other words, the snuffing out of the Rule of Law.

It is anybody's guess how many Terrorism Act detentions there have been in recent months. One only hears immediately of those that somebody knows and talks about. Breyten Breytenbach, the poet, was held for over a week before anybody knew about it. How many members of the South West African People's Organisation are detained? Nobody knows. What one does know is that a series of

detentions of young White people has followed on that of Breyten Breytenbach. What one has heard is the anguished cry of Horst Kleinschmidt's weeping wife, as her husband was taken away "How long are they going to hold Horst and what will they do to him?" The answer is "Nobody knows," And the father of Jenny Curtis "She has a lot of spiritual courage, but at the same time we can't discount the possibility that she will emerge from detention mentally scarred for life."

These are the words of people who know what the Terrorism Act, and its by-product, terror, mean. □

# **“DIVIDED WE STAND, UNITED WE FALL”**

by Peter Rutsch

Wherever one group of people deprives others of a rightful say in the government of their country, the principle of divide and rule is employed. This is true in South Africa. As an example of this principle in action in the administrative sphere, Reality will in subsequent issues, investigate the bureaucratic set-up in the Pietermaritzburg Area and in the lives of people living there.

Without delving too deeply, the following statutory bodies control the daily comings and goings of all of us:

- The Pietermaritzburg City Council
- The Drakensberg Bantu Administration Board
- The Development and Services Board (formerly the Local Health Commission)
- The South African Bantu Trust
- The KwaZulu Government
- The Natal Provincial Administration

various smaller local authorities such as:

- Hilton
- Howick
- Camperdown

and so on.

In addition, Coloured people fall under the Coloured Representative Council; Indians under the South African Indian Council.

The Group Areas Act and the Community Development Act control where Indian, Coloured and Whites live and

work, the Department of Bantu Administration and Development rules the lives of all Africans. In education, a different department determines the educational system of each "separate racial group". The Africans have two systems—one falling under the Department of Bantu Education—the other falling under the KwaZulu Government.

Does this incredible jumble of authorities lead to efficient government; government in touch with the people, respondent to their needs?

No South African with any insight into the South African way of life can answer that question in the affirmative. A simple example is labour, and the right to seek work where you wish. How many of us have had to undergo the indignity of dealing with the Labour Bureau? How many break the law in this regard?

Incredibly, a baby born at the Edendale Hospital cannot be adopted by a couple living in Imbali 'twenty minutes walk away', unless they get a permit under the influx control laws. Incredibly, thousands of citizens pay rates, yet have no meaningful say as to how that money is spent.

In the next edition, Reality will look at these statutory bodies, explain their aims and objects and try to relate the one with the other.

Thereafter, we will look at life under this umbrella! □