

# The Star

## Selective news from selected newsmen?

THIS time they did not even pass a law.

Instead, the Police suddenly announced restrictions yesterday on the admission of reporters to trouble spots and said that only "selected" pressmen would be allowed there. The logic was hard to follow. The restrictions were being introduced because certain newsmen with foreign news media and TV networks were allegedly seen to have been inciting mobs to throw stones before the cameras. Why then not punish the guilty? Why penalise the public and the innocent?

If individual newsmen were seen to be inciting mobs . . . and it has been known to occur in other ways in various news spots around the globe . . . why are they not being prosecuted? Prosecuted, punished, professionally

disgraced and deported? Newsmen have been deported for far less, and if the allegations made here were proved in court to be true, the culprits would be condemned by their professional colleagues everywhere in the free world.

However, it seems the culprits may never be identified. Instead, at one thoughtless stroke, the Police threaten the credibility of the entire SA Press. Imagine the position of the reporter who has been officially "approved" by the Police to report on troublespots! The decision, even if it is always legal or practical, which we doubt, is ludicrous.

Probably, the Police decision was made hastily under pressure. We trust that, in the interests of everybody, it will be quietly dropped.

## A moderate despairs

"YOU people had a chance with the moderates. You are now welcome to the militants."

Those were bitter and ominous words from Mr Jimmy Atkins, a leading coloured journalist in the Cape, which we reported yesterday. Deciding there is no further role a moderate like himself can play in this country, he has emigrated to Canada, as have most of his family before him.

His parting message sums up the whole sorry history of the coloured community's hopes and their betrayal by "you people," the whites.

Once, perhaps up till only a few years ago, the community would have been eager allies in a broader South African nationhood. This despite the attitudes of white superiority which were there (as Mr Atkins reminds us) before the National Party made them into law, and made political avenues of redress into blind alleys.

Today, however, the picture has changed profoundly. Coloured attitudes have hardened. They no longer accept

ance by the whites; increasingly they ally themselves with the mass struggle of the blacks; young radicals have taken over the political leadership. Between their extremism and that of white authority, men of moderation feel totally frustrated and rejected. And they despair, to the point where the only way out is to turn their backs on the whole situation.

In Canada Mr Atkins will be spared all this. He will also be free of the day-to-day humiliations of apartheid, and able to enjoy life's amenities on his worth as a man and a citizen. Perhaps he is lucky in having a way out; the great mass of his fellow second-class citizens do not.

Yet it is no easy thing to leave the country of one's birth. The tragedy is that so many thousands of other coloured people, the best and the brightest of the community, have already felt impelled to take that way out. This brain drain is a direct loss to South Africa. The reasons behind it, as articulated by Jimmy Atkins, give even greater cause for alarm.

## 8 OPINION

RAND  
Daily Mail

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## A day for all to remember

IT IS SYMBOLIC of the widening gulf between the people of our land that while this weekend has been one of celebration and joy in the white community, it has been one of mourning and prayer in the black community.

White South Africa is rejoicing at its triumphant return to supremacy in its national sport, while at the same time drawing satisfaction from the continued upward trend in the business cycle. Black South Africa is mourning the dead of its youth uprising of four years ago, and at the same time is in the throes of a new wave of anger at the continuation of oppression and injustice.

As Bishop Tutu has put it, today is black South Africa's equivalent of the Day of the Covenant. It is a deeply emotional day, one of remembrance and of rededication to a cause for which others died.

How unfortunate that white South Africans are not more sensitive to what June 16 means to their black fellow-countrymen. For in truth it should be a day of mourning for them too. June 16, 1976, was the day on which their rulers, and their system, reached

a crisis point in their failure to meet the needs of our multiracial society — and in that crisis of failure turned first their teargas and then their guns on the school-children of Soweto. White South Africans should mourn for the tragic consequences of that failure — and for the responsibility they bear for it.

It was a South African tragedy, not just a black tragedy, and we all paid a heavy price for it one way and another. Therefore it should be a day of remembrance for us all.

And while blacks rededicate themselves to continue the struggle to liberate themselves from injustice, whites should rededicate themselves to transforming our society so that this may happen with a minimum of conflict.

To both white and black we address this plea: take note that the air is charged with high emotional voltage, and that one headstrong act on either side could ignite another South African tragedy; therefore, in heaven's name, let restraint be everyone's watchword.

Let us not commemorate one tragedy with another.