

THE ULTIMATE EVIL

By UYS KRIGE

I HAVE fought the Publications Control Board from the moment of its conception. And that was years ago. And I shall fight it, I think, till the day I die. I am convinced that our young, vital, bold South African literature, both in English and Afrikaans, has no need of Mother Grundies, however educationally pre-eminent or professorially exalted those dear old ladies might have become in the fullness of their academic years.

And as far as the pornographic or the obscene is concerned, we could have been most proficiently protected. I have always maintained, by our able police force.

if there is one thing I support — and support very means at my dispos-

al — it would be the banning of a book, no, not the banning of a book, but its destruction, its total destruction root and branch, the paper on which it was written and the cover with which it was bound, where that book is a book preaching nakedly and unashamedly racial hatred and racial contempt and all the imbecilities such hatred and contempt bring inevitably in their train.

Strangers

Yes, whether this racial hatred be that of a Gentile against Jew, European against African, White against Coloured, South African against the many-nation strangers within our gates (so many bringing gifts in their hands), the defeated against the conquered or the other way about.

Racial hatred is the greatest evil of our time. We know it, and all its rotten, stinking fruits only too well. As no human beings in all history before us, we have gone through its horrors (Belsen, Auschwitz, etc., etc.) And the

human mind and soul have only just managed to survive the ultimate degradations of this most debasing and humiliating of all human confliotions.

I know, of course, that Voltaire once said that he hated certain views but that he would fight to the death for the right of his opponents to express those views. But that was more than a century and a half before Belsen or Dachau. And I am convinced that Voltaire, were he living at this hour, would have withdrawn from circulation, at least temporarily, this most famous of his dictums.

Shocking

I have not read "White Man, Think Again." But certain excerpts I have seen are of so shocking a nature, so appalling an implication of racial hatred and contempt and all their concomitant horrors, that I tipped from my hospital bed the hat I don't possess to the Publications Board.

And in that I pay the first compliment I have ever paid in my life to a body of censors,