

FOLK SONGS ON CAMPUS MUST NOT "PROTEST"

THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL at the University of Pretoria has not banned folk-singing at the university and has indicated that it is willing to consider proposals to form a folk-singing society on the campus, according to a student folk-singer, Mr. Theo Coetzee.

Mr. Coetzee said he had spoken to several members of the council and listened to their objections. Most thought the formation of a folk-singing society would lead to the singing of "protest" songs on the campus, he said.

"Some members felt the council would not object to the formation of a society which did not use the word "folk-singing." They thought we should call it a "sing-song" society or something similar," he said.

Mr. Coetzee said that one of the council's objections to the formation of the folk-singing group seemed to be based on the fact that the group had not submitted a proper constitution.

MEETING BANNED

Mr. Coetzee stressed that the student council had not banned folk-singing at the university. It had merely banned a meeting designed to form the society.

"We are not giving up the idea of forming a group," he said. "There is a lot of support for traditional folk-singing at the university, which is what we would like to sing. Protest songs are out."

Despite the controversy, folk-singers were still an accepted part of university life. There were often folk-singers in the university cafeteria and they usually had an appreciative audience.