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EXAMINATION OF UNLAWFUL ORGANISATIONS' BILL.

It must be **clearly** understood that were this Bill designed to eliminate the Communist Party and Communist influence only, the bulk of the Bill would be superfluous. As it is, it is obviously designed in its purposely wide and vague form, so that the Minister, in whom all powers are vested, may interpret the provisions to cover ANY ORGANISATION OR INDIVIDUAL OPPOSED TO THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT. It is clear that should the Bill become law, the Government will be in a position to do as it pleases, and paralyse or punish any opposition.

Undemocratic.

The Minister has arrogated to himself powers of discretion and interpretation which rightly belongs to Parliament and the Courts of Law.

The Bill states that suspected persons or organisations are to be considered guilty unless they can prove themselves innocent. This is a complete negation of our system of law. Furthermore the ban may be imposed by the Minister without the organisation or person concerned having had prior opportunity to put their or his case before a court of justice.

The Minister has the power, at his discretion, to limit the freedom of movement and freedom of speech of any individual, and there is no provision for an appeal to law in such cases.

How the Powers can be Abused.

Clause 2(2)c is a clear threat to the Trade Union movement, since the basis of Collective Bargaining is the workers' right to withhold their labour. Under this clause any Trade Union which prepared to strike, could be banned.

Clause 2(2)d obviously indicates the activities of the Communist Party, but it is so widely and vaguely phrased, that it could be interpreted to include Smuts that "Arch Imperialist" and the United Party could be banned to prevent them working to impose on this country a system "similar" to that of Britain. "Similar" can be stretched to include anything.

Clause 2(2)e has been cleverly but misleadingly worded. The use of the words "Foreign government" "Foreign Institution" and "of a particular class" are intended to lead the people to believe that it is fifth column activities and the Marxist class struggle which are to be outlawed. In fact "class" in this sense is synonymous with "category". Any category or group such as Englishmen, Scots, Indians, or Jews may under this clause be prevented from organising. This provision may be used at will against such organisations as the Sons of England, the Caledonian society, the Zionist organisation, and even the international Churches.

The Dangers.

The Nationalist Party has set about a radical change in the life of South Africa. Through Bills such as the Citizenship Bill, the Registration Bill, the Group Areas Act and various other Apartheid measures it has steered South Africa onto a course fraught with dangers of race hatred and economic disaster. This Bill would consolidate them in power, and the population of South Africa, deprived of any possibility of organised opposition, will be committed in advance to anything they may do. What is left of the Constitution will be a shadow and mockery of Democracy. The reality will be a Nationalist Fascist State.

All consideration of the content of this Bill must be in the context of the record of the present government. The Minister, at whose discretion the provisions of the Bill will operate, is a member of the Government, which has shown no hesitation in the past in

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circumventing on legalistic grounds the spirit of the constitution and the Law.

WHAT TO DO.

The time is desperately short, and only rapid and concerted action can avert this evil. If you value your freedom and wish South Africa to hold a future for you and your children, you must act at once.

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