

DOP

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21. 3. 66

Dear Alan,

The enclosed may interest  
you. Public apathy is beyond  
understanding. It can only be  
explained by the "In all  
White attitude" of the average  
South Africa. But even when it  
affects Whites they don't seem  
to care. Love to Dorrie from  
both of us. All the best. Renee

# Who cares?

**PUNCH-DRUNK** after 18 years of having precious personal rights and liberties taken and whittled away on some pretext or other, the vast majority of White South Africans have long since ceased to be shocked by fresh evidence of the inroads made into individual freedom and of the extent to which the State comes first and the private citizen nowhere.

But the week-end raid on the home of Mr. Alan Paton, the author, should make even the most simple-minded and bamboozled think again and ask whether there is no limit to the intrusion of private rights by officialdom. If even a man whom Dr. Edgar Brookes rightly describes as "the soul of honour and integrity" who would "not have associated himself with any subversive activities" is not immune from police raids, then things have really reached a tragic pass and South Africa has moved much nearer to traditional Fascism than is generally realized.

What remains to be explained, of course, is why the police thought it necessary to go to such lengths and to such sources to look for further information about the Defence and Aid Fund after a three-member commission had already given the Government so many facts about the organization that it decided to outlaw it. And how does it come about that another respected citizen is searched whose association with the fund is said to have ceased four years ago?

But then of course the public has long since ceased to ask for or expect such explanations or justifications. Because it has come to tolerate interference with individual rights which no self-respecting civilized community anywhere in the world would tolerate for one single moment, the public meekly accepts invasion of privacy as normal. It is not that prominent people should be exempt, but that the invasion of the esteemed brings home how exposed we all are.

The Star 21/3/66



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23 Lynton Road,  
KLOOF,  
Natal.

10th May, 1966.

Dear Rene,

Many thanks for sending me the cutting entitled 'Your Guess'. I can understand very well how you feel and you certainly made the right points. It is now seven weeks since D & A was banned and since the Minister alleged that it had given money to the Communists and the banned A.N.C. Yet we find not one vestige of proof has been produced. I think it quite outrageous that a Minister should make a statement like this which undoubtedly defames anyone who has been outspoken in defence of D & A., and that nothing can be done about it. I was wrongly reported by the SUNDAY TRIBUNE that I would take steps against the Minister. His reply to this was that he would love me to do so. The truth is that I would not dare to risk ten thousand rand as things are at present.

Perhaps you know that Delius is thinking of suing DAGBREEK because under a headline - 'Breytenbach onder die Kommuniste' are published the photographs of Eddie Roux, myself, Breytenbach, and Delius. But the CAPE TIMES is reluctant to support him, because it reckons that DAGBREEK WILL SPEND any amount of money on the case, and if Delius should lose the case will be fantastic. It seems to me relatively easy today to defame people like myself, for example. I think one could say almost anything about Petrus Byleveld, and get away with it. On the contrary, people like myself must be extremely what they say about Nationalists, who in any defamation case would have odds of 6 to 4 on, or even better.

Maar ons lewe nog, dankies aan die rhenosterbos druppels.

Our love to you both.

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