

The Knock on the Door in the Night

AT the time of writing over 140 people have been arrested on charges of treason. By now the number may be considerably more. Many of these people were known to members of the Party, many of them belonged to organisations with which the Party has worked closely during the last year. The manner of the arrests was familiar.

The matter is before the courts and discussion about what has happened must be limited. But while we may not be able to say all that we would like to about what is happening at the moment that is no reason why we should not be doing a great deal of thinking and talking about what has to be done in the future.

With the removal from public life, even if only temporarily, of a large part of the leadership of non-white political organisations and of many people who have been outspoken opponents of the Government, the responsibility which devolves upon the Liberal Party is tremendous. More and more will the Party be called upon to be active and outspoken in order to fill the gap left by those who can no longer act and who may no longer speak. More and more will the Party have to call upon its members to work harder and longer in order to ensure that the ideas in which we believe are consistently and effectively advocated. More and more does it become of the greatest importance that we should stand uncompromisingly and steadfastly where we have decided to take up our stand. There can be no retreat. All there can be is more and more hard work.

We do not believe that members of the Liberal Party will shy away from the work or from the risks involved. For let no one deceive himself that there are no risks involved in membership of the Party. There are, and they will increase as time goes by. It is futile to pretend that the road to the Common Society involves an easy placid stroll. Nothing could be more wrong. The road which lies ahead is hard, rough and extremely dangerous. Let us hope that we are all ready for it.

WE BUILD TOGETHER . . .

WAR ON THE COLOUR BAR

by Jordan K. Ngubane

IN a recent issue of *Drum* somebody described Dr. Wilson Conco, a senior Congress leader in Natal, as reserving for the Liberal Party's pacifism the same degree of venom which he has for the advocates of violence. I was surprised by the reference to pacifism because I do not know that we are a pacifist party. But there was an important moral here. The fact that a responsible magazine like *Drum* could publish a statement of such obvious inaccuracy against a responsible political party merely showed that people have very wrong notions of what the Party stands for.

To call a man a Liberal, in the African community, is certainly not to pay him a compliment. This is very largely because the record of people who called themselves liberals in the past tends to confirm African suspicions that very many of them were conscious or unconscious agents of the race oppressor.

We, who call ourselves Liberals today, are heirs to this unfortunate reputation. To live it down we need to publicise what we really are—uncompromising enemies of the Colour Bar. To do that successfully we need, first, to state our ideals in the clearest manner possible. After that we need to give to Liberalism a meaning which will have practical validity in the day-to-day life of the humblest non-European. I cannot think of a more effective or more convincing way to start doing this than by declaring open warfare against the Colour Bar in every walk of the nation's life and carrying on this fight with a single-mindedness of purpose which South Africa has yet to see from the anti-apartheid side.

Such a campaign, sponsored by the Party, would also be an important contribution towards the creation of the atmosphere in which the united front proposed by the Bloemfontein conference of African leaders would be set in motion with the minimum of difficulty. It would