

profession, time spent in bars, and other non-productive behaviour useful facades for their problems.

The task therefore that must begin in 1975, declared "International Women's Year" by the United Nations, is the task of helping our men on the African continent to

NUSAS

by Edgar Brookes

Few groups of South African citizens have been so ruthlessly and persistently persecuted as NUSAS. It is remarkable that the English-speaking population of the country has protested so little against the persecution of its own courageous sons. For whatever else NUSAS has been and done its members have never lacked courage.

As one who believes neither in the infallibility of the Pope nor in the infallibility of Karl Marx, I am not prepared to argue for infallibility of NUSAS. NUSAS has made many mistakes. It has done the right thing at the wrong time, it has expressed right views in a wrong way. At times it seems as if it has gone out of its way to provoke the authorities. But surely these are characteristics of young people in politics, whether they be the young members of the Afrikaanse Studente Bond or the Young Liberals of England.

Let us get down to ultimate realities. NUSAS is persecuted not because it is provocative or dangerous or unwise, but simply because it is opposed to apartheid. It sees in apartheid a process which is wholly wrong and is dangerous to South Africa. And here we who call ourselves Liberals must examine ourselves and see whether we are really opposed to apartheid in principle. One of my reasons for signing a minority report in the Spro-cas Report on Politics was that there seemed to be too much toenadering with homelands and other forms of apartheid in it. Even if the Homelands were much more viable than they actually are, true liberalism must regard as wrong a system built up on racial separation. The fundamental faith of liberalism has been faith in the individual human being as a person and not as a member of a particular race. To this NUSAS has been loyal and we should be loyal. True, we are all marching forward. The supporters of apartheid have shown themselves much more teachable than one would at one time have expected. The way out may well be found. But that capable and courageous young people should be persecuted for

define their role in a meaningful relationship with women. The training of our sons, an opportunity often forgotten, is an area of great potential. As for our husbands and fathers of our children, the battle seems impossible, but to win it would certainly be worth the effort. □

saying that apartheid is not the ultimate remedy for our ills is something quite indefensible, and that liberals should condone this persecution is even less defensible.

Another point which should be made is that NUSAS has been actuated by motives of genuine South African patriotism, they have loved South Africa as a whole and they have been actuated by a sense of doing the best for our country. Anyone who has known NUSAS leaders and members will certainly subscribe to this picture of them. Their patriotism has been to South Africa as a whole and not to any one section of it, but it has been a very real thing. From the beginning NUSAS aimed at an inclusive South African patriotism. Delegates from the then unilingual University of Natal were surprised and dismayed at the first NUSAS Conference that Afrikaans was freely spoken and they had to be helped out by friendly bilingual members. (This was in the days when Afrikaans had not risen to its present position of dignity).

In the course of the years the Afrikaans-speaking Universities withdrew from NUSAS because of its acceptance of African members, and African students withdrew from it because it was not completely acceptable to "Black Power" theorists. It left the majority of NUSAS English-speaking South Africans, although right up to the present day there have been others in its membership.

It is not part of the plan of NUSAS to stand for only English-speaking South Africa. It has been forced into something like this position, but never of its own free will.

But it certainly represents the best of English-speaking South Africa in wonderful contrast to the apathy and the concentration on profits of so much of the English-speaking population. If English-speaking South Africa were to wish to justify itself, one of its greatest assets would be the work of NUSAS. □