

VICTIMISATION BY POLICE

IN THE THREE MONTH PERIOD since the last issue of Liberal Opinion was published the Liberal Party has suffered considerably from action taken against its members under the Suppression of Communism Act.

Jordan Ngubane, National Vice-President of the Party, one of South Africa's most distinguished critics of authoritarianism and staunchest opponents of all racialism, has been served with a series of banning orders, each effective for five years. Mr. Ngubane was away on a writing assignment in Swaziland at the time and his wife returned from work to find the notices pinned to the door of the house.

The effect of the bans is to confine Mr. Ngubane to the Inanda Magistracy, some miles from Durban; to prevent him from attending any kind of gathering for a period of five years; and to prevent him from publishing anything in South Africa. As Mr. Ngubane is a journalist and writer by profession, the effect of the ban would be to take away from him his means of earning a livelihood. Faced with this prospect he has decided to stay in Swaziland, where he can write and publish freely.

TERENCE BEARD

Terence Beard, Vice-Chairman of the Cape Division of the Party, has also received a 5-year banning order. Mr. Beard is a lecturer at Rhodes University, in Grahamstown. He was at Fort Hare as a lecturer at the time the Government took over that institution. He was sacked by the Government on the grounds that he was "sabotaging" the implementation of apartheid there. It was then that he obtained an appointment at Rhodes, where he has been since.

Although Mr. Beard is ostensibly banned for "furthering the aims of Communism" it is a

BLACKSPOTS

A "BLACKSPOT" is an African freehold area in "white" South Africa, an offence against apartheid and something which it is Government policy to remove ELSEWHERE. That this policy will cause great insecurity, heartbreak, and the uprooting of between a quarter and half a million people, seems to be a matter of complete indifference to the powers-that-be.

The Blackspot "problem" is centered on Natal, where there are some 250 of these condemned communities. An organisation called the Northern Natal African Landowners' Association has been established for some years and its object is to oppose the removals. On Sunday, September 1, 1,200 Blackspot residents attended a mass prayer meeting at Roosboom, one of the threatened areas. At this prayer meeting the following appeal was adopted:

We people of Natal, faced with the threat of losing our land and property which we have owned honourably and legally for more than half a century, are assembled here to pray to God to help us and give us courage, and to ask Him that we should be left in peace in our lands. We make this appeal to our White fellow Christians and fellow citizens:

- *Pray for us that we may be given courage and be left in peace on our lands.*
- *Speak for us who have no voice to speak for ourselves. Intercede for us with the Government and the Authorities.*
- *Work for us so that this terrible plan of removal may be abandoned.*

The Landowners' Association intends to go ahead with its plans to oppose and publicise the removals, some of which are imminent.