

# AN APOLOGY

We must apologise to our readers for the fact that our last issue appeared with only the two words ARTICLE BANNED on three of its pages.

The article concerned contained lengthy quotations from a recent Christian Institute report on detentions and political trials in South Africa. The Christian Institute report was banned just as REALITY was about to be posted out to subscribers. All we could do at that late stage was remove the article and leave the explanations to this issue. So, we apologise – not only for the blank pages, but also for the fact that we live in a country where detentions and political trials take place – and can't tell you about them.□

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Peter Rutsch's article *Divided We Stand, United We Fall* (May issue) neatly illustrates the largely unrecognised truth that a vote is a **protection** not a privilege. Left and Right, in all societies tend to talk of 'granting' the franchise, relating that to some or other attributes of the recipient which makes him/her **deserving** of it. The attributes we enumerate depend on our position on the political spectrum: the more Right-wing, the more qualifications we demand, like property, education and so on; while the populist demands universal suffrage on the basis that all men and women **possess** equal rights to express political preferences.

All of them miss the true value of the vote—the negative one that if you don't have it you will be exploited, because those who make laws must by the terms of their office represent the interests of **their** electorate. It is clear from this analysis that the poor and the ill-educated need the vote more than the rich and the educated because the exploitation of the weak is based on their weakness, and only the vote can help them escape from it.

Yours sincerely,

MARGARET LEGUM