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**Evening Post
COMMENT**

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ENTRENCHING PREJUDICE

A SINISTER aspect of the attack on the universities has been reported this week. Professor M. H. Giffen, Acting Principal of Fort Hare University College, has complained to the Police about the alleged activities of detectives among his students. A report from East London says some visiting detectives offered inducements to Fort Hare students to disclose whether there had been any "incitement" of them by university staff.

We do not know whether the latter report is substantiated. But Professor Giffen's complaint shows how fundamental freedoms are being undermined in our country. Present trends point to the possibility that later attempts will be made to regiment university classes by means of spies and inquisitions.

The 45 clauses of the Separate Universities Education Bill introduced by Mr. J. H. Viljoen will institute sweeping and damaging changes in university education. Separate "tribal" universities will be set up, controlled not by independent educationists but by state officials, their curricula decided by the Minister in charge, and the staffs strictly disciplined. Criticism of the Government is to be deemed "misconduct." Severe penalties are laid down.

Sacred right

All these provisions, ironically enough, are introduced to allow the non-White to "develop freely in his own sphere."

As Professor Winifred Maxwell, Professor of History at Rhodes University, has said, "no parallel piece of legislation can be found in the statute book of any country in the 20th Century."

Yet the most damaging aspect of this legislation has hardly been discussed. This Act makes possible the dissemination of falsehood. It creates the legal machinery to frustrate the pursuit of truth and replace it by indoctrination and tendentious teaching. It is, therefore, an attack on a civilisation right sacred to every single person.

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Professor De Kiewiet, in his important little book, "The Anatomy of South African Misery," observes that bias is already found in some of our universities. He goes on to say it is possible for an Afrikaner child to pass from primary school to university without ever hearing objective arguments for or against the system he is enjoined to defend and perpetuate.

Here are the seeds for similar indoctrination developments in other institutions of learning. In recent European history there are many instances of impressive scholarship being deluded or dragooned into the service of some cult or -ism. Hitler never lacked apologists at universities for his pernicious doctrine of a master-race or "herrenvolk."

One Hitler theorist, F. K. Gunther, described the Alpine type of European as a racial group characterised as "petty criminals, small-time swindlers, sneak-thieves and sexual perverts." The man, he said, was "fitted to end as the muddle-headed owner of a cottage and a patch of garden" and the woman fated to become "a faded creature growing old in a debased and narrow world."

Extension

This is not very far from Dr. Verwoerd's classic dicta on the Bantu Education Act: "There is no place in our society for the Native above certain forms of labour." And his latest reference to "the Native as a Black Englishman struggling against the Afrikaner" shows that Dr. Verwoerd intends to give their education a politically-inspired direction.

Thus in present Nationalist plans the creation of a special "university" system for Africans is logical. It is an extension of the special "educational" system erected by the Bantu Education Act. The prejudice which is the basis of "Bantu Education" will be elevated to dogma at the Bantu universities. In time this system must penetrate other universities as well, and the spirit of inquiry give way to prejudice.

When this stage is reached, the spiritual condition of our country will be desperate indeed. It is time to take heed of where we are going.