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INTO TREASON ARRESTS URGED

Hollywood Spectacle, Says Senator

Cape Times Parliamentary Correspondent

THE SENATE.—Urging that a full inquiry should be undertaken into the manner and circumstances of the recent treason arrests, Senator Leslie Rubin (Lib., Natives' Representative) said yesterday that they had been carried out like "a Hollywood spectacle".

Senator Rubin alleged, too, that mothers had been separated at short notice from their children, some of the arrested people had not been allowed to see their legal advisers, and that all the arrests had been carried out in the early hours of the morning—some at three o'clock.

"Would the security of the State have been endangered if the arrests had been carried out at 7 a.m.?"

The country had been given no reason for the highly unusual manner in which the arrests were made and was entitled to an explanation from the Minister of Justice.

SWART'S ACCUSATION

Reacting angrily to Senator Rubin's request, the Minister, Mr. Swart, accused him of being part of an organized attempt to undermine the authority of the police, and to tell the non-Whites that the police were their enemies.

"No one has done more to undermine the authority of the police than he."

The Minister refused to give "the full reasons" for the manner of the arrests till the treason allegations had been disposed of.

He could say, however, that the arrests had had to be so timed that they would be all carried out simultaneously, and the arrested people would be brought together to be flown to Johannesburg and appear before the court on the same day.

ALLEGATIONS DENIED

He denied Senator Rubin's allegations that any of the arrested people had been inconsiderately treated by the police.

The Nationalist senators, led by Dr. Verwoerd, staged an ostentatious "walk-out" when Senator Rubin rose to speak, leaving only a handful of Government representatives in the back benches. They returned again in a body when he sat down.

After the Minister had spoken, Senator H. A. de Ridder, one of the Nationalist senators who had absented himself while Senator Rubin spoke, said that the debate was almost beneath the dignity of the House and he therefore proposed the adjournment of the debate.

4.40 a.m. The police searched their bedroom and they had to stand in their night clothes till the police had finished before they could dress.

His wife wanted to get the children off to school, but this was refused. Later she was allowed to call a neighbour to help with the children. The children, whose ages were 6, 8 and 10 years, were obviously upset.

The removals had taken place with a great deal of secrecy and the arrested people were rushed off in circumstances which made it extremely difficult for them to make arrangements about their affairs.

Some of the people arrested were denied the usual opportunities for obtaining legal aid.

KAHN'S LETTER

Senator Rubin quoted a letter from Mr. Sam Kahn, a Cape Town attorney who acted on behalf of Mr. Lionel Forman and Mrs. Brian Bunting.

Mr. Kahn said that on December 5 from 5 a.m. he received telephone calls about the arrested people and asked detectives what would happen about Mr. Forman.

The detectives told him to telephone the public prosecutor at Wynberg to make arrangements about the time of Mr. Forman's court appearance.

The public prosecutor's staff came on duty at 8.30 a.m. but at 8 a.m. he received information to the effect that Mr. Forman and others had already appeared before a magistrate at Wynberg and was detained at the police gymnasium at Cape Town, Mr. Kahn had said.

KAHN BALKED

Senator Rubin said this meant that Mr. Kahn had been prevented from seeing the accused.

Obviously there were circumstances where arrests in the manner adopted would be justified.

"But nothing has been said or done by the Minister of Justice to suggest for one moment to the public that there was any justification for this highly-unusual manner in which the arrests were carried out."

"NOT VERY SERIOUS"

Two things that gave rise to