

EXPRESSSCOPE RACISTS' COMPLAINTS FORCED RESIDENTS



● National Front chairman Ray Hill — "We're good citizens."

Beware snooping

NATIONAL FRONT supporters have in the past few weeks snooped around blocks of Hillbrow and other Johannesburg flats in which Coloureds and Indians live — and as a result many residents have been charged with illegal occupation.

It was established in a Sunday Express investigation this week that prosecutions started soon after the NF reported their presence — although until then the authorities appeared to be turning a blind eye.

Scores of former tenants have now had to move to overcrowded accommodation in Eldorado Park or Lenasia — while flats stand empty throughout Johannesburg's White areas.

The National Front's deliberate campaign appears to have paid off.

The Minister of Community Development, Mr Marais Steyn, yesterday warned that stern action would be taken against illegal tenants and landlords.

His statement came soon after he had been visited by a delegation of Coloured and Indian flat-dwellers who faced eviction. They told Mr Steyn they had moved into the flats because they could not find accommodation in their own areas.

The National Front, in addition to "snooping" in

By JEAN LE MAY

flats, also claims responsibility for police action against multiracial nightclubs and for the bombing of the Van der Walt Theatre, Pretoria, during its first multiracial performance last year.

Moreover, the group is propagating a policy for controlling Black population growth that would result in the deaths of Black infants, which the chairman, Mr Ray Hill, says is "tough — but that's natural selection".

As a result of the group's activities several PFP politicians have called on the Minister of Justice, Mr Jimmy Kruger, to prosecute the NF for incitement of racial hatred.

The National Front is an extreme right-wing group, an off-shoot of the British neo-Nazi organisation, founded in Johannesburg less than a year ago by Mr Jack Noble, a British citizen who has lived in South Africa for 18 years without becoming naturalised.

It claims a membership of about 1 500 and has branches in several Transvaal and Natal towns.

Mr Noble, who returned to South Africa on Friday after a three-week visit to Britain, told the Sunday Express he proposed standing

in his home town of Grimsby, Yorkshire, as a candidate for the National Front in the coming British general election.

He would return to Britain to fight the election "at the appropriate time", he said.

Asked whether Mr Noble had brought money from Britain for the South African group, chairman Mr Ray Hill said: "No. We sent some to Britain instead."

During its investigation the Sunday Express spoke to Coloureds and Indians charged with living illegally in a White area.

"These White men came and talked to cleaners, night watchmen and caretakers," said a Coloured who asked not to be named. "They even called young children playing in the corridors and on the stairs and asked where the Coloureds and Indians were living."

"We found out they were members of the National Front."

"Then men came from GG (Group Areas inspectors) and started asking us questions. Soon after that the police and the summonses arrived."

"We have never clashed with Whites living in the flats and there have been no questions from other ten-

DO LEAVE

the NF



● Jack Noble
... NF founder

ants, but we suspect some Whites read the NF leaflets and telephoned them."

In most cases people suspected of informing the NF turned out to be recent immigrants to South Africa, we were told.

The Minister of Community Development, Mr Marais Steyn, said recently that the action had been taken against Coloureds in White areas because "Whites had complained".

This week the Johannesburg City Council unani-

mously adopted a motion asking that the department should suspend evictions pending a thorough investigation. The motion, proposed by the Progressive Federal Party councillor for Houghton, Dr Selma Browde, was supported by Nationalists and by Mr Francois Oberholzer's independent group.

The implication of this is that the Nationalist-dominated city council had been prepared to turn a blind eye on Coloureds and Indians in White-area flats —until the NF intervened.

Mr Ray Hill, chairman of the NF, asked to comment on the group's claims that it was responsible for the recent spate of legal actions and evictions, at first denied that such claims had been made.

Confronted with a report to that effect in a NF publication he said: "It's probably true — it's against the law for them to live there and so we reported it to the authorities.

"We're good citizens."