available, a situation not made easier by unhistorical claims dating from as far back as the fourth century about the apostle's tenure of the papacy. Indeed, Dean Lowe goes so far as to say that "agreement about his stature and status has been so bedevilled by ecclesiastical controversy that there is still the wildest discord as to the part he really played in the history of the primitive Church."

He concludes that the dominical authorisation, "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church," must certainly be taken to refer to Simon Peter personally. There would be some who, for reasons of Biblical exegesis or of psychology, would query that conclusion. May it not be that it was the rock-like quality, in Peter or in any other follower, which made possible the building of the Church?

But having made that assertion, Dean Lowe then deals with the power of the keys. There is no justification whatever, he claims, for the assumption that the commission given to St. Peter himself includes successors, "and a very limited line of successors at that." —G.D.

## THE WHITE PERIL

PASSIVE RESISTANCE IN SOUTH AFRICA, by Leo Kuper; Jonathan Cape, English price 21/-.

LEO KUPER is Professor of Sociology at the University of Natal (or perhaps I should say he was until last year). His book is a carefully documented account of moves and countermoves, by whites and non-whites, in the apartheid war. By its very nature it could be said to "incite." and no doubt by South African law could be regarded as "treasonable" and "Communistic." So much the worse for South African "law."

Kuper describes in detail the background of Passive Resistance, the 1952 campaign, and legislation brought down by the Nationalist Government to entrench its position in the face of growing hostility. He suggests that South Africa is evolving that curious political system, the "Sacred Police State."

Apartheid is, of course, only a logical extension of race views held by most white South Africans; and by many people in other parts of the world, including all those who subscribe to the notion of a Chosen People. There is Biblical justification in seeing the sons of Ham as hewers of wood and drawers of water. Indeed, the South African Church is an active protagonist of apartheid; just as the Catholic and Anglican Churches are active antagonists. To the existing confusions of race, apartheid as policy brings ethical, judicial and economic confusion. A high moral tone, accompanied by guaranteed inequality before the law, and a careful pruning of consistent attitudes when these affect the national economy, are inevitable outcomes of official racism in any country. South Africa is no exception; nor it is an exception to the rule that violence begets more violence.

In South Africa, where only white men are permitted firearms (or firewater), violence has in general been sporadic and unorganised. For obvious reasons, it has seldom been overtly directed at the whites. Yet the report made to me by a "tame" houseboy some 30 years ago is probably truer than ever: the black man's ambition is "to drive the whites into the sea..." Kuper names several underground organisations existing for just that purpose; but, though there is little doubt that they will continue to contribute to newspaper headlines, there is small (continued on next page)

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