

Tells of Briton Hit by Laws Against Public Display of Affection in Sudan

By SISTER CHRISTINE

In the Sudan one will not find couples holding hands, kissing and making a display of emotions publicly in the streets as one does here.

THE SUDANESE government has laws governing such conduct and if a couple is found making such a display of emotions they are fined and the matter is made public. They will then have the scorn of the people and they will be dishonored by their families.

One day my English professor (a red-headed Englishman) came into the class room, angry. He was murmuring words in a low voice. After putting down his brief case, he began cursing the Sudanese and their government. The students were angry at this white man's manner, but kept silent.

The professor said that the Sudanese had some of the "most ridiculous laws" that he had ever heard, and that they "act like a bunch of silly immature children," and that they "should mature and grow up." He also implied that they were in much need of being civilized. By civilizing, he meant that they should be educated to his way—the white man's way—of doing things.

HE EXPLAINED that the previous evening he and his wife (they were newlyweds) went to the cinema, and afterwards called a private taxi to take them home. He said that he had one of his arms around his wife, and he held his wife's hand, and kissed her lightly on the forehead while riding in the cab.

The driver saw all of this through his rear-view mirror, and drove them to the police station instead of to their homes. The driver told the police that they had acted indecently in his car and reported their actions of kissing, holding hands, etc. They had to pay a fine, for a charge similar to indecent exposure, before they could leave the police station.

This is what made the professor angry. In all clear reasoning, this did not show the immaturity of the Sudanese people, but showed that they

did not like the habitudes of the Europeans, with their open expressions of love play. If they had allowed the Europeans to act in their indecent manner, perhaps some of their people would follow in the way of the white devil.

THE SUDANESE consider it filthy, ugly, low grading and disrespectful for males and females to express their emotions publicly.

Man, being of higher intelligence, should not follow the example of the lower animals.

The students present in my English class found this Englishman's experience quite amusing, and were happy

that he'd been caught.

The Europeans, and white men in general, feel that it is for them to tell the black man what to do and when to do it. They do not feel it is a necessity to conform to and obey any laws which they did not make or approve.

THIS INCIDENT brought that white man down from his imaginary pedestal, to bow before the black man, for he was on black soil, and had to submit to black law.

It is disrespectful for man to make expressions of love publicly. Banning these disrespectful actions helps to make and uphold a clean society.

To be continued

Discuss Greater Rights for Tenants of Slum Housing

WASHINGTON, D.C.—There was some talk here about giving the tenants of slum housing greater authority, as outlined in a report by the recent National Conference on Legal Rights of Tenants, but a Federal panel discussing the proposals broke out into a rash of equivocation about being "fair to the landlords" and that tenants should be encouraged to respect the rights of landlords.

THE PANEL noted that present laws governing private property dated back to feudal England and were tipped heavily in favor of the landlord. They hindered slum rehabilitation and tenants who complained usually found themselves evicted.

Suggested for giving tenants greater rights were proposals that would:

- Permit tenants to pay rent to a court in cases where serious violations of building codes existed.

- Suspend entirely tenants' obligations to pay rent "if serious violations are permitted to continue for an extended period."

- **ALLOW THE** tenant to sue the landlord and collect damages in cases of willful disregard of building mainte-

nance — unless the tenant also was at fault.

- Give tenants, acting as a group, the right to have their building placed in the hands of a court-appointed receiver.

- Grant tenants the right to make repairs directly and deduct the cost from the rent.

ASST. ATTY. Gen. Frank Wozencraft said that most of the laws would have to be made at the state and local levels—although the Federal government could be a strong participant.

Robert C. Wood, under secretary of Housing and Urban Development, said his department expects to have ready by September 2 tighter standards that communities must meet to qualify for Federal grants for public housing and urban development.

But Mr. Wozencraft also declared the problem of slums "was not created by any one villain" and insisted that any new legislation "must also be fair to the landlords."

THE NATIONAL Conference on Legal Rights of Tenants was sponsored by the Department of Justice, Department of Housing and Urban development and the Office of Economic Opportunity.