

October 1977

Wed 15

Headline – *Officials 'subvert courts* – thus, according Mr Justice Didcott who is a senior member of the supreme court, as the government tries to initiate a new level of legal courts; between the entry level courts and the supreme court. In the view of the department of justice officials this new mid level court will have more authority than magistrates courts and still the supreme court with the greater respect of all the nations courts.

The long serving legal officer, whose arguments against this seemingly infiltration of the judicial system by the countries civil service, was published in the Rand Daily Mail, was that legal issues should be left with those trained in the law and not handed down to those who are appointed by the government of the day.

Another issue; the medical treatment deemed necessary by senior members of the police, for those detained is questioned by officials of the South African Medical and Dental Council. There has been a plea, to the minister of health, for an investigation.

The call was made after a council discussion of the police and security forces of Steve Biko who died over three years ago. The call for more thought over the issue was raised after the inquest on the anti apartheid campaigner heard that the doctors who eventually were able to treat Biko had subverted his medical needs to be less important than the needs of the state. However the South African Dental and Medical Council decided that there was not enough evidence to call for a public inquiry into his death. - **The Guardian** -