Don’t televise the Tate-Coetzee fight!

On October 20, 1979, NBC will televise the heavyweight boxing title fight between Black American John Tate and White South African Gerrie Coetzee. In the Denver area the fight will be carried by KOA-TV, Channel 4. The fight is being televised from Pretoria, the capital of South Africa. This fight is being used as a major propaganda tool by the racist regime which controls South Africa to make the world believe that there is no such thing as oppression of Blacks in that country.

The system of apartheid which exists in South Africa calls for the complete separation of Blacks and Whites. Many facilities and services are reserved for "Whites Only." Loftus Stadium, where the Tate-Coetzee fight is being held was a place which did not allow Blacks.

After the system of apartheid was condemned worldwide and many countries refused to let South African sports teams compete in their events, and the Black liberation movements rose and people of all colors in this country protested the system of apartheid, the South African regime began a big propaganda campaign to show the world that there wasn't that strict of a separation of the races and that things weren't all that bad under apartheid. In sports they claim that their teams are integrated. As part of this campaign the South African government has promised that Loftus Stadium will be fully integrated for the Tate-Coetzee fight, that Blacks will be allowed, not only to enter the stadium, but to sit among Whites.

The South African government is the only one who benefits from this sham "integration." When the fight is televised internationally people all over the world will see 90,000 Black and White South Africans enjoying a sports event as if nothing were wrong. Complete racial equality is the picture which South Africa wants to project all over the world. For the Black people of South Africa the integration of Loftus Stadium does not mean an end to apartheid or an end to their oppression. In fact, it might even help to intensify their oppression. If people all over the world are taken in by this propaganda the system of apartheid will continue without any fight from us.

We must expose this attempt to make apartheid look good. We must demand that Channel 4 quit helping the racist regime of South Africa prettify apartheid. We must protest the televising of the fight and expose the true nature of apartheid in South Africa.

Continue the fight against apartheid!

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