

## THE LAW

### Acquitted

Fortnight ago pale and tired artist Harold Rubin was acquitted on a charge of blasphemy. He had been alleged to have slandered "Jesus Christ and/or God" in his painting "My Jesus," and the trial that followed had illuminated, as few before, the conflict between much that is old and much that is new in Southafrica. The Magistrate found that "by the standards of the ordinary, average and reason-

able man," the State had failed to prove its case. This signified recognition by the Law of an important shift in Southafrican attitudes.

Coming amid the perturbations caused by the Censorship Bill, the verdict produced an audible sigh of relief among thinking Southafricans.